



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 26, 2025 | 10:30am

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

The prelude signals a time of silent prayer and reflection.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as
ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

**that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Holy Name.**

Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus, Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE AND GLORIA

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

NEHEMIAH 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from Nehemiah.

ALL The people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book

in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 19

Sung by the choir. Music by Sarah MacDonald and Margaret Woodley (contemporary)

1The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth his handy-work.

2One day telleth another : and one night certifieth another.

3There is neither speech nor language : but their voices are heard among them.

4Their sound is gone out into all lands : and their words into the ends of the world.

5In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun : which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course.

6It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven, and runneth about unto the end of it again : and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

7The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul : he testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.

8The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart : the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.

9The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever : the judgements of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

10More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold : sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb.

11 Moreover, by them is thy servant taught :and in keeping of them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how oft he offendeth :O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.

13 Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over me :so shall I be undefiled, and innocent from the great offence.

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart :be always acceptable in thy sight,

15 O Lord :my strength, and my redeemer.

SECOND READING

I CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

A reading from I Corinthians.

FOR just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 3.



1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
 2 In ev - 'ry test, in tri - als man - i - fold,
 3 To - day, as then, Christ sum - mons us to dare
 4 In cit - y street, in town, or on the soil,
 5 Wher - e'er we find our wit - ness should be made,



shared hu - man life and toiled through - out the day;
 these ser - vants wit - nessed, by their faith made bold;
 to fol - low bold - ly and his work to share,
 may each serve Christ in faith - ful dai - ly toil,
 what - e'er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,



from com - mon folk he called the twelve to be
 and with the gifts and tal - ents which they brought
 to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
 and in each thought and kind - ly word and deed,
 that we may glad - ly give for thee our best



co - work - ers in his sa - cred min - is - try.
the church was found - ed and God's mes - sage taught.
de - clar - ing to the world his ho - ly name.
o - bey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.
and find each task di - vine - ly sent and blest.

GOSPEL

LUKE 4:14-21

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

WHEN he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 5.

We sit.

SERMON

PASTOR GRORUD

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When the poor ones

HYMN 725

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

We kneel or sit.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

We sit.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Like the murmur of the dove's song* SMITH(*contemporary*)

We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION


MERTON

**Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son
With the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run!**


GREAT THANKSGIVING




The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding: we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available if requested.

We sit.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

MOTET

Teach me, O Lord

ATTWOOD

We stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal, we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *O God of every nation*

HYMN 713

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003253. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev ^d Mark A. Grorud
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Peter Bartels
Reader	Jen Leffers
Communion Assistant	Jen Leffers
Acolyte	Max Leffers
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Janet Segerdell
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, and Pat Fisher

Coffee/Fellowship Time

We thank Kathy Caraballo, Lois Coffin, and Janet Segerdell for hosting coffee hour after worship today in the Welcome Room.



The Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church will take place on **Sunday, February 2**, in the Sanctuary following a single 9:30 am service of worship. All voting members of St. John's are encouraged to attend to ensure a quorum for electing leaders and approving the budget.

Little Free Pantry

The pantry is in need of peanut butter, jelly, shampoo, bar soaps, toothpaste, Parmalat milk and liquid dish soap (small containers).

To volunteer to maintain the Little Free Pantry - clean, organize, and restock – for the period of one week, contact Janet Segerdell - janet.segerdell@gmail.com.

The LFP can always use cash contributions, which can be used to purchase food at the Food Bank for pennies on the dollar. Your contribution will go much further through the Food Bank than purchasing food at a grocery store.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 28

Choristers - 5:15 pm Choir Room

Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 29

Bell Rehearsal - 6:00 pm Reformation Room

Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm Choir Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 2

Single Worship service 9:30 am

Annual Meeting 11:00 am

Sunday, February 16

9:30 am Sunday School

Pastor Grorud's last Sunday

Pot luck to follow 10:30 worship

Sunday, March 2

9:30 am Single Worship - Pastor Martha McCreight



Worship Leaders & Acolytes Needed

We need worship leaders in all areas, including readers, worship assistants, communion assistants, and fellowship hour volunteers. Over the upcoming months, there will be many empty spots to fill. Please look at where you can help out and sign up. If you require assistance in signing up, please contact the office. 203.322.0066 or ParishOffice@sjlcstamford.com.

MISSION STATEMENT

All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church Stamford CT is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, Mohican, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Sunday, February 2, 5pm



CANDLEMAS
Choral Evensong

St. John's Lutheran Church, Stamford, CT

