

HOLY EUCHARIST
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 8, 2026 | 10:30AM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**



Parish Office:

parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com

Pastor Martha:

MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com

Cantor Nathan:

NLivelyGreyling@sjlcstamford.com

Finance:

finance@sjlcstamford.com

203.322.0066

www.stjohnelca.org

884 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT

We are delighted to have you with us today! To help us keep track of our cherished visitors, we kindly ask that you sign the visitor book located in the Narthex. This small gesture allows us to connect with you and offer any assistance you may need. Additionally, our ushers are more than happy to provide guidance and answer any questions you might have during worship. Whether you're here for the first time or returning, we hope you feel welcomed.



Join us for
Godly Play
Every Sunday at 10:30

Busy bags are in the Narthex for your little ones to enjoy. These bags are thoughtfully prepared to keep children engaged during the service. Additionally, we invite you to explore and make use of the Godly Play area at the back of the Nave, designed to provide a welcoming and enriching environment for our young attendees. We hope these resources help create a meaningful and enjoyable experience for your family.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

We stand.

CONFSSION 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **☩** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Lord of light

HYMN 688

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.

GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All



Lord God, heavenly 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.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 58:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

SHOUT out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast

that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? 'Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 'Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

'Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. 'Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Here ends the reading.

PSALM

PSALM 112:1-10

Sung by the choir. Music by David Hurd (contemporary).

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;

they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

10 The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

A reading from I Corinthians.

WHEN I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand and face the center aisle to welcome the Gospel.

SEQUENCE

Sing verses 1 & 2.

1 Light shone in dark - ness at the world's cre - a - tion,
 2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;
 3 Light shines in dark - ness till the full cre - a - tion;



bath - ing in beau - ty na - ture's rev - e - la - tion. All that has be - ing,
Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,
Christ's bod - y, groan-ing, suf - fers trib - u - la - tion, longs for God's jus - tice,



cry in ad - o - ra - tion, "Praise for the light. A - men!"
hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!
glob - al trans - for - ma - tion, prays for the light. A - men!

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 5:13-20

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 3.

We sit.

SERMON

We stand.

PASTOR MARTHA

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, the Light of the World

FROM TFF



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing,
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise,
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored,
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

Je-sus, the Light of the world;
Je-sus, the Light of the world;
Je-sus, the Light of the world;
Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born King,”
join the tri - umph of the skies;
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788; addl. text "J.V.C."; adapt. George Elderkin
Music: JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, traditional; arr. George Elderkin

We sit.

INSTALLATION OF ELECTED PARISH OFFICERS

The following persons, having been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership, are asked to come forward as their offices and names are read.

In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament, you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we are baptized.

We stand.

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 sit, and the minister continues with the service.

We kneel or sit for the prayers.

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.

We sit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us
and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM *For the beauty of the earth*
RUTTER (*contemporary*)

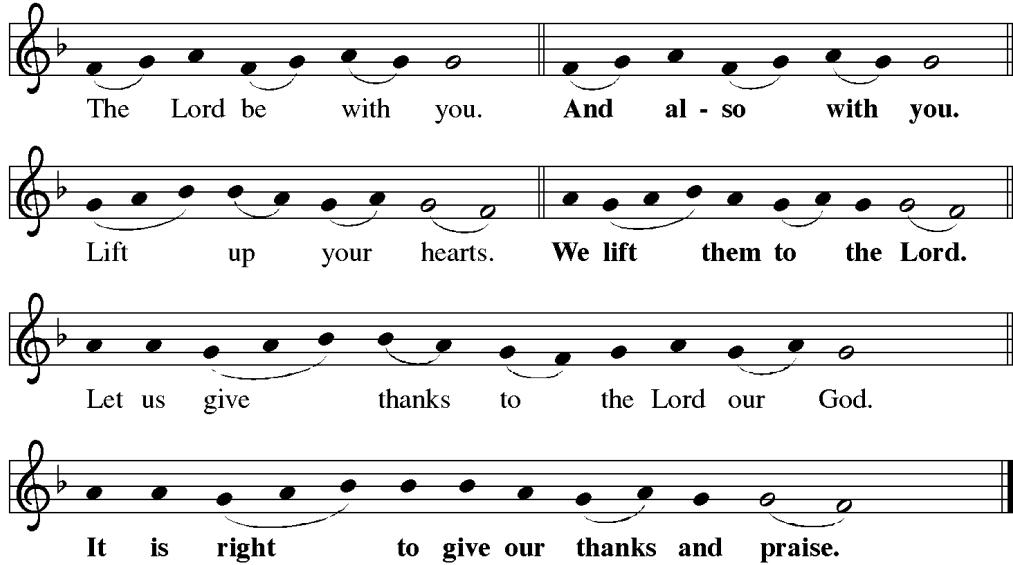
We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

KING'S LYNN

Give praise to God Al - might - y, and wor - ship God the Son,
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,
till all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - - ry as - ccribe to God a - lone.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



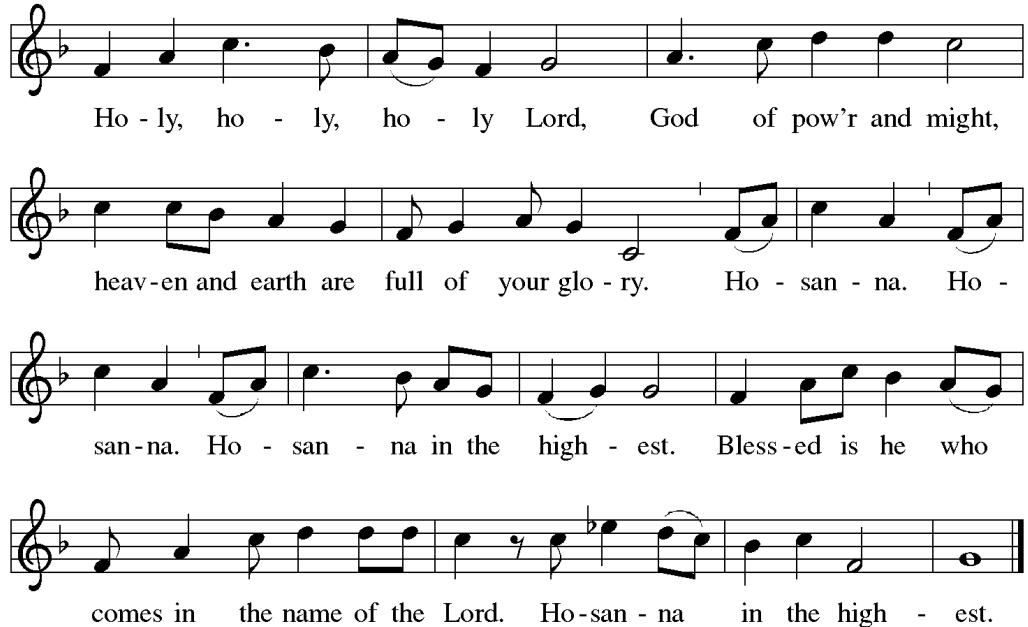
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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:
You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.
We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Fa - ther who art in hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;

Thy king-dom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.

Give us this day our dai ly bread. And for - give us our tres-pass-es as

we for-give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us

not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the

king-dom, the po - wer and the glo - ry, for e - ver and e - ver.

A - men. For e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

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.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

If ye love me

NIEDMANN (CONTEMPORARY)

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

Christ, whose glory

HYMN 553

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Copyright © 2025 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.

The Lord's Prayer, trad. Afrikaans, arr./translated by Marnus Lively-Greyling

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight, Pastor
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	
Communion Assistants	
Acolytes	
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Eva Jakubek, Cheryl Milukas

Counters Noel Bartels, David Hendrickson
Coffee Hour
Little Free Pantry Cathy & Mike Mahler

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 10

Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 11

12:00 noon - Midweek Eucharist - Chapel

4:30 pm - Confirmation Class - Sweden Room

6:00 pm - Bells - Reformation Room

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Thursday, February 12

12:00 noon – OWLS – Welcome Room

FEBRUARY

- 15** Transfiguration Sunday, burying the Alleluia by the Children
- 17** Shrove Tuesday Youth Pancake dinner
- 18** 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday service in Chapel
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday at SJLC
- 22** First Sunday in Lent
- 25** 11:30 am First Weekly Lenten Lunch and Bible Study
12:00 pm First Weekly Lenten Eucharist in the Nave
12:15 pm First Weekly Lenten Organ Meditation

-AROUND THE PARISH-

Liz and Emily, members of the Youth Advisory Council at Camp Washington, Connecticut's Episcopal church-run camp, will make a presentation today. Liz and Emily will share their unique experiences and insights from their time at camp.

If you're **interested in joining St. John's**, reaching out to the church office is a great first step. The church office can provide information on membership, upcoming events, and the various ministries and programs you can get involved with. Whether you're looking to deepen your faith, find a spiritual community, or volunteer, the church office is there to support and



guide you. Don't hesitate to contact them with questions or to schedule a visit to learn more about what St. John's offers.

Join us for our **First Holy Communion classes** for children in grades 1-5. Classes will begin in February, offering thorough and engaging preparation for this important sacrament. The First Communion is scheduled for Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 PM. This marks a significant milestone in your child's spiritual journey, and we are excited to be part of it. For more information or to enroll your child, please contact our office. We look forward to guiding your child through this sacred experience.

Baptisms will take place at the Easter Vigil this year on April 4 at 7 PM. This sacrament marks a new beginning and a spiritual rebirth. Those interested in being baptized, or parents wishing to have their child baptized, are encouraged to reach out to Pr. Martha for more information and to make necessary arrangements.

Large Print Bulletins Available!

Large print bulletins are now available for anyone who needs them. If you or someone else needs a copy, please visit the narthex and ask an usher for help. Thank you for helping us ensure everyone can fully participate in our service!

We are updating our **church photo directory**! To ensure it accurately reflects our vibrant community, we kindly ask you to contact the parish office with your updated photo, phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses. This update will help us stay connected and support each other better. Please reach out at your earliest convenience to share your information.

WE NEED YOU!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, READERS, USHERS, COFFEE HOUR, AND LFP SIGN-UP



PRAYER LIST



Pastor Emeritus Dennis Albrecht, Beryl, Charlotte, Diane, Robert, Ron, and Valerie, Dom and family and friends of Pr Nick, Sue Sachs and family on the loss of her mother, Joe, unspoken, Gary, Br. Ian, Pr Harv Weitzel, Trish

If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office.
Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs.



saying 'farewell' to the
Alleluia

Join Pr. McCreight and the
St. John's youth in
BURYING THE 'ALLELUIA'
during worship.

**Transfiguration
Sunday**

FEBRUARY 15, AT 10:30AM



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.