



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 4, 2026 | 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

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.

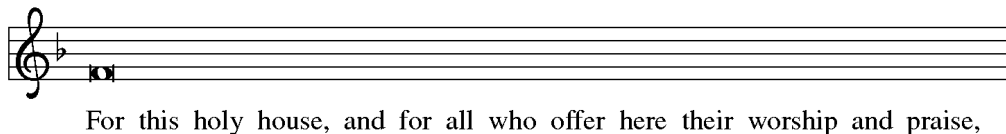
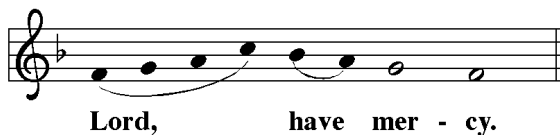
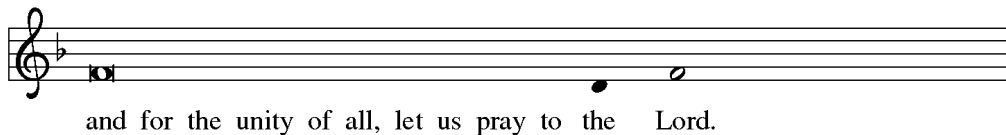
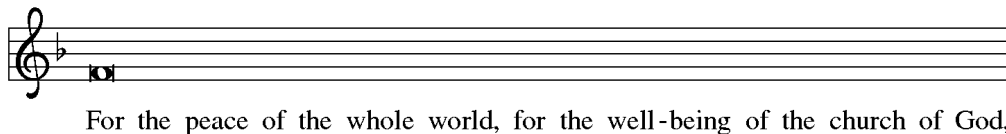
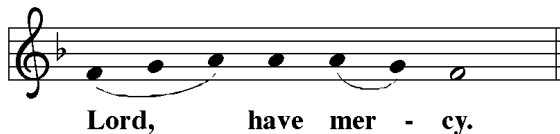
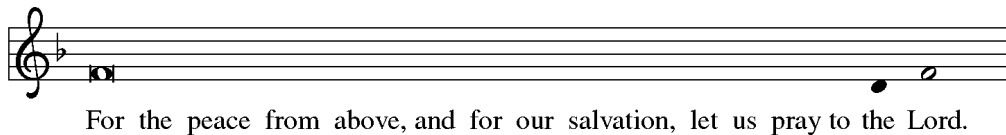
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

Amen.

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



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



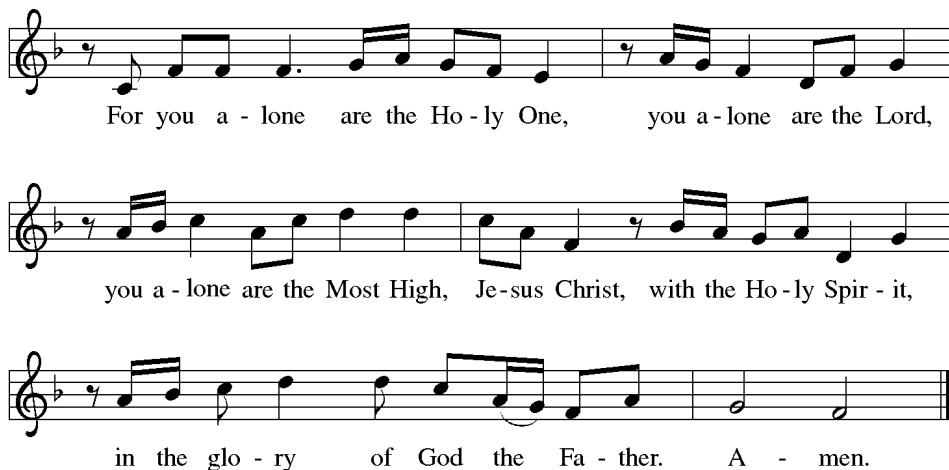
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther,

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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

ARISE, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. 3Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. 5Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of

the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 6A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

72: 1-7, 10-14

Sung by the choir.

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall
be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

A reading from Ephesians.

THIS is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— 2for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, 3and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 6that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 7Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. 8Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, 9and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 1.



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

MATTHEW 2:1-12

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

IN the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" 7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to

Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 5.

We sit.

SERMON

PASTOR MARTHA

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Brightest and best

HYMN 303

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 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

A Present for the Future L'ESTRANGE (Contemporary)

We stand.

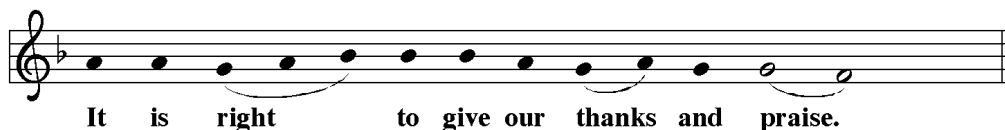
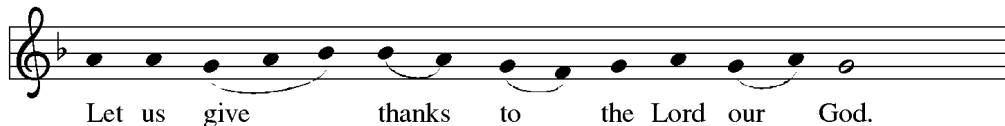
HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

MERTON

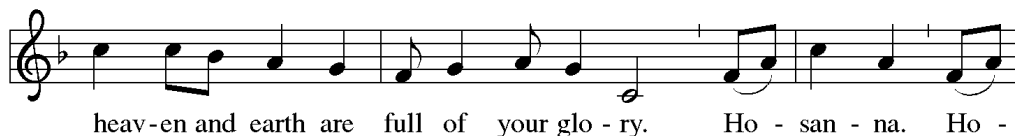
Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son
With the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run!



GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

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

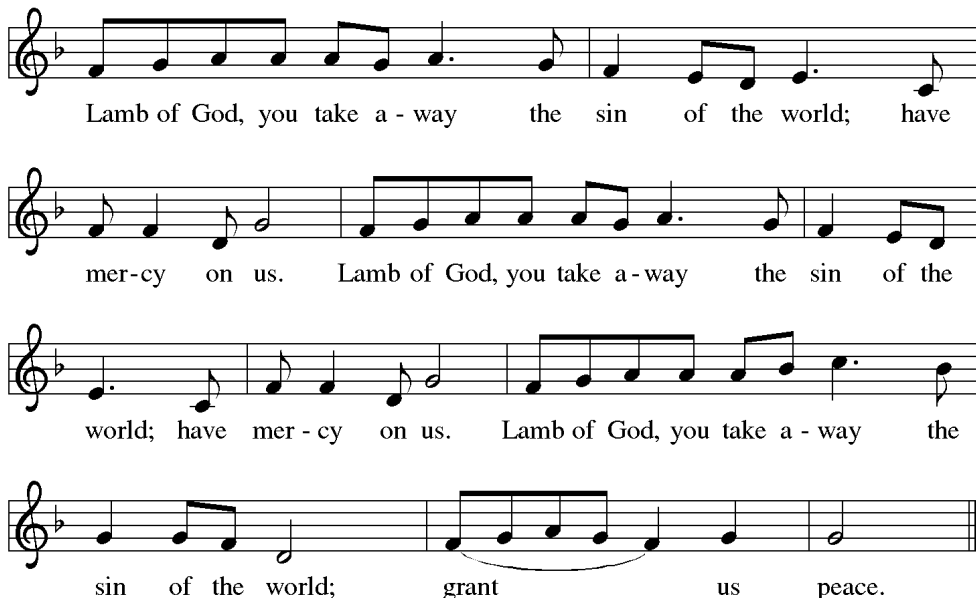
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Thanks be to 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

ANTHEM

Here is the little door

HOWELLS

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 *Cold December flies away*

HYMN 299

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Peter Bartels
Reader	Melissa Bartels
Communion Assistant	Michele Effren, Cathy Mahler
Acolytes	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Janet Segerdell
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Pat Fisher
Fellowship Time	



Wednesday, January 7

12:00 noon - Midweek Eucharist - Chapel
4:30 pm - Confirmation Class - Sweden Room
6:00 pm - Bells | 7:00 Choir

Sunday, January 11

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship | 9:30 am Sunday
School

PRAYER REQUESTS

This week we pray for: Pastor Emeritus Dennis Albrecht, Beryl, Diane, Ron, and Valerie.

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

EMAILS

Parish Office: parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com

Pr. Martha: MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com

Nathan: NLivelyGreyling@sjlcstamford.com

Finance: finance@sjlcstamford.com



JANUARY 2026

- 5** Deadline for annual reports
- 11** Baptism of the Lord 5:00 pm Evensong

FEBRUARY

- 1** 10:30am single service worship
Annual Meeting to follow
5:00 pm Evensong for Presentation of the Lord
- 8** Super Bowl of Caring Chili Cook-Off after 10:30 worship
Bring your best chili to be judged by the congregation!
- 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
12:30 pm First Weekly Lenten Organ Meditation

MARCH

- 8** 5:00 pm Beckie Davy, Bruton Parish, Historic Colonial Williamsburg, VA, organ concert
- 15** 5:00 pm Joint Evensong at St. Francis
- 25** Last Lenten Wednesday
- 29** 10:30 am single service Palm Sunday with Passion Reading
Blessing of Quilts

APRIL

- 2** 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday at SJLC
8:00 pm Altar of Repose at SJLC and Passion Reading at
12:00 midnight
- 3** 12:00 pm Good Friday Stations of the Cross at SJLC
7:30 pm “Crucifixion” by John Stainer @ the Fish Church
- 4** 7:00 pm Easter Vigil at SJLC
- 5** Easter Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30 am
9:30 am coffee hour and Easter Egg Scramble
- 26** 5:00 pm Evensong for Good Shepherd Sunday

MAY

- 10** 10:30 am Mothers’ Day- Children Sing in Church
- 17** 10:30 am Confirmation
- 24** 9:30 am worship begins (Pentecost)

THANK YOU

On behalf of the St. John’s staff, thank you all for the gifts, cards, and many Christmas wishes.

THERE’S ROOM FOR YOU!

Worship assistants, readers, communion assistants, acolytes, coffee hour hosts

If you would like to find a way to contribute your time to St. John’s in one of these roles, please speak to Pr Martha or Nathan. There’s room for you to help, and training is provided.

St. John's Lutheran Church

CHORAL EVENSONG *FOR* BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 11 | 5pm



All are welcome!

THE ANNUAL MEETING



Sunday, February 1

Immediately following
a single 10:30am worship service



**St. John's Lutheran Church
Stamford, CT**