

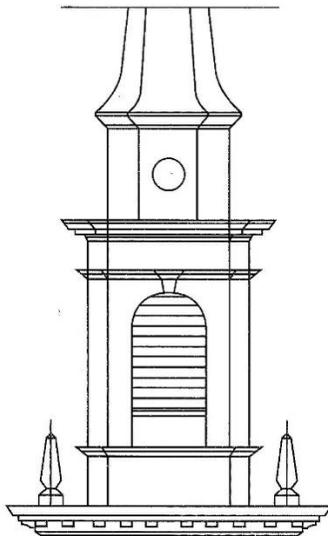


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St. John's  
Lutheran Church

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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

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HOLY EUCHARIST  
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 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:

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☎ 203.322.0066

🌐 [www.stjohnelca.org](http://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.



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.*

PRELUDE ***THE PRELUDE SIGNALS A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION.***

*We stand.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be God: ✚ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking him, in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**O most merciful God, who has given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to you Word, that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Open now thy gates*

HYMN 533

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

SOTHO

*mp* 1. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.  
*mf* 2. Kri - sti, re hau - he - le.  
*p* 3. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.  
 Kri - sti, re hau - he - le.  
 Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.  
 Kri - sti, re hau - he - le.  
 Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

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### OLD TESTAMENT READING

EXODUS 17:1-7

A reading from Exodus.

**F**ROM the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Here ends the readings.

### GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 95

*Sung by the choir. Music by Sarah MacDonald(contemporary)*

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

7 For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!  
8 Harden not your hearts,  
as your forebears did in the wilderness, \*  
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,  
when they tempted me.  
9 They put me to the test, \*  
though they had seen my works.  
10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said, \*  
“This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways.”  
11 So I swore in my wrath, \*  
“They shall not enter into my rest.”

#### NEW TESTAMENT READING

ROMANS 5:1-11

A reading from Romans.

**T**HEREFORE, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.  
<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

SEQUENCE

SING VERSE 1

HYMN 326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;  
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.  
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,  
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be-side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
to - geth-er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

GOSPEL

JOHN 4:5-42

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**S**o he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is

saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." <sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him. <sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." <sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup>So when the

Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SEQUENCE**

SING VERSE 2

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

THE REV<sup>D</sup> MARTHA MCCREIGHT

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*For all the faithful women*  
*Sung to KING’S LYNN*

**HYMN 419**

- 1 For all the faithful women  
who served in days of old,  
to you shall thanks be given;  
to all, their story told.  
They served with strength and  
gladness  
in tasks your wisdom gave.  
To you their lives bore witness,  
proclaimed your pow'r to save.
- 2 Recall the outcast woman  
with whom our Lord conversed:  
Christ gave her living water  
to quench her deepest thirst.  
Like hers, our hearts are yearning;  
Christ offers us his word.  
Then may our lips be burning  
to witness to our Lord.
- 3 All praise to God the Father!  
All praise to Christ the Son!  
All praise to God the Spirit,  
who binds the church as one!  
With saints who went before us,  
with saints who witness still,  
we sing glad songs of praises  
and strive to do your will.

## 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

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.*

## GREETINGS

# MEAL

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Let nothing ever grieve thee* BRAHMS



*We stand.*

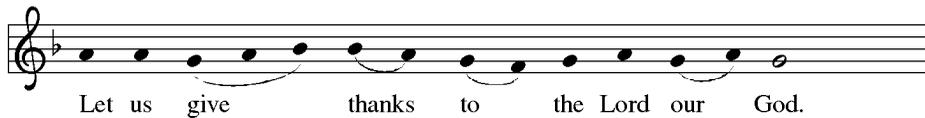
## HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION CREATE IN ME

HYMN 188

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

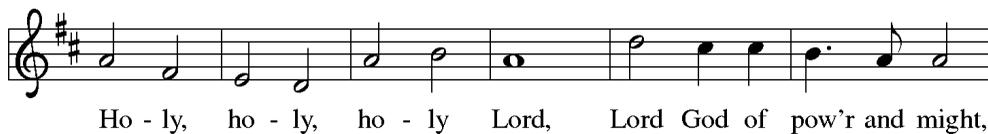


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed salutary . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:*  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



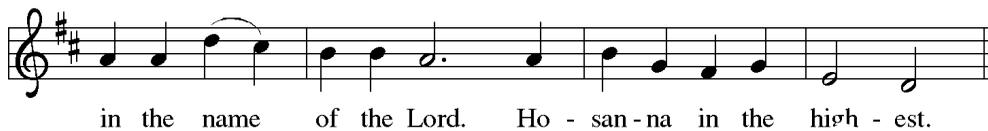
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

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.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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 upon request.*

### LAMB OF GOD

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take  
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

*We sit.*

### MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM  
HYMN

*Like as the hart  
When our song says*

HOWELLS  
HYMN 709

*We stand.*

## POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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### BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

**HYMN AT THE PROCESSION**     *I heard the voice*

**HYMN 332**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

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

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## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight, Pastor
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling and Beckie Davy
Worship Assistant	
Reader	Eric Lane
Communion Assistants	
Acolytes	
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	Cheryl & Joe Milukas, Shirley Schulz, Michele Taylor
Coffee Hour	Steve Eno & Irene Hendricks
Little Free Pantry	

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Monday, March 9

4:30 pm First Communion Instruction - Sweden Room

### Tuesday, March 10

7:00 pm Sneak Peek Bible Study

### Wednesday, March 11

11:15 am Weekly Lenten Lunch and Bible Study

12:00 pm Weekly Lenten Eucharist in the Nave

12:15 pm Weekly Lenten Organ Meditation

4:30 pm Confirmation Class

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, March 15

9:30 am Sunday School

5:00 pm Joint Evensong at St. Francis

(livestreamed for those who do not wish to make the drive)

### Sunday, March 22

11:30am - Worship and Hospitality Guest: Eden Refaelovich



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## -AROUND THE PARISH-

**First Communion classes** are set to commence on March 9 at 4:30 PM in the Sweden Room. **First Communion is scheduled for Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 PM.**

Join us for our upcoming service by accessing the **livestream link** on our website—please note that this link is available for live viewing only. To watch the service after it airs, check your Sunday morning email for the link, or wait for our Tuesday newsletter, which provides access to the previous Sunday's service. We are currently updating our church's website to make it even easier to find the livestream link. **Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to enhance your viewing experience.**

**Get ready for an exciting adventure! We're organizing a** youth trip to upstate New York for skiing, snowboarding, or snowtubing on March 14th. If you're interested in joining, please reach out to Pastor Martha. Additionally, let us know if you have an EPIC pass or any other ski pass, as this information will help us plan accordingly. Don't miss out on this fun-filled day in the snow!

**ACOLYTE SIGN-UP**



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



**PRAYER  
LIST**



Beryl, Charlotte, Diane, Robert, Valerie, Dom and family and friends of Pr Nick, unspoken, Gary, Br. Ian, Pr Harv Weitzel, Trish, Pam, Robert, Charlotte, Paul, Becky, Margaret, Jack

If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office. Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs at 406-565-3592.

# LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN  
STAMFORD, CT

FEBRUARY 25  
MARNUS LIVELY-GREYLING

MARCH 4  
JAN LUCIE

MARCH 11  
LIYA PETRIDES

MARCH 18  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA ORGAN DEPT

MARCH 25  
NATHAN LIVELY-GREYLING



Join us each  
Wednesday for  
30-minute  
meditations from  
12:15pm-12:45pm



## Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2026 @ St. John's

### Lenten Wednesdays at St. John's

11:15 AM Book study ("Lent" by Esau McCaulley) and brown bag lunch  
12 PM Noon Eucharist  
12:15 PM to 12:45 PM Lenten Organ Meditations

### Mid-lent choral evensong | *March 15*

5pm at St. Francis Episcopal  
Father Andrew Kryzak from St. John's Episcopal is preaching.  
Combined choirs from St. John's Lutheran, St. John's Episcopal, and St. Francis.

*\*This service will be livestreamed for those who don't wish to travel to St. Francis.*

### Palm-Passion Sunday | *Sunday, March 29*

10:30am single service in St. John's Lutheran Nave

### Maundy Thursday | *April 2*

First Holy Communion | 7pm  
Altar of Repose | 8pm to Midnight in St. John's Lutheran Chapel  
Reading of the St. John Passion | midnight in St. John's Lutheran Chapel

### Good Friday | *April 3*

Stations of the Cross | 12:15 PM  
Good Friday Concert | 7:30pm at Fish Church, Stamford

### Great Easter Vigil | *Saturday, April 4*

First Mass of Easter at 7 PM | with a combined choir and brass

### Easter | *Sunday, April 5*

Holy Communion | 8:30am & 10:30am  
9:30am Easter Egg Hunt

# Melodies of Renewal

A Springtime Organ Celebration



REBECCA DAVY

Organist at the historical Bruton Parish Church  
Colonial Williamsburg, VA

Sunday, March 8 | 5PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

Stamford, CT



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church of America

