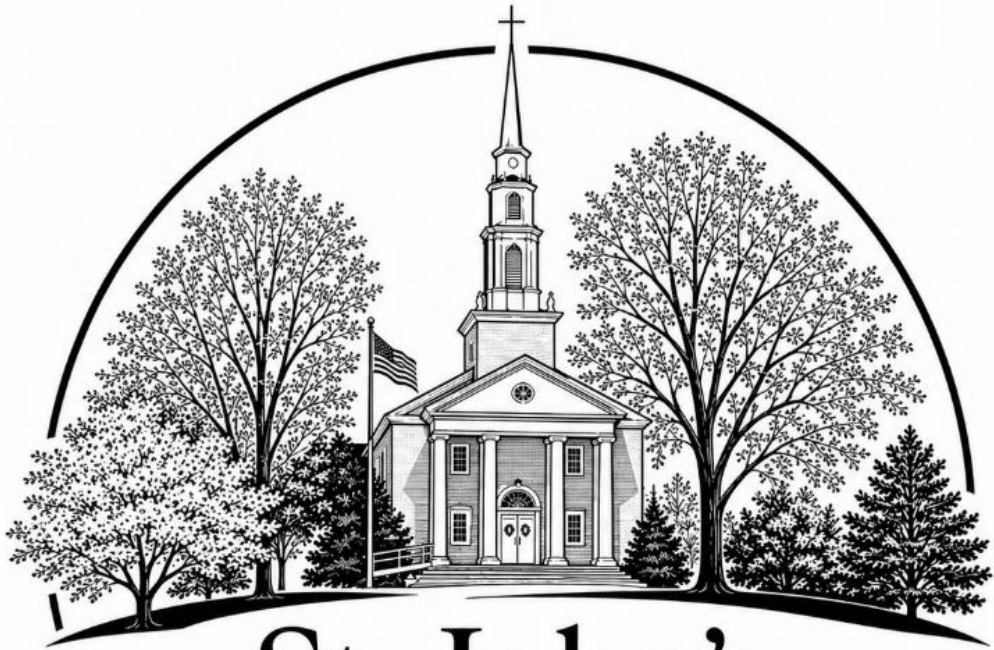




St. John's Lutheran Church

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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2026 | 10:30am

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

PRELUDE *Dearest Jesus We Are Here* Johann Sebastian Bach & Max Drischner

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.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

We kneel or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

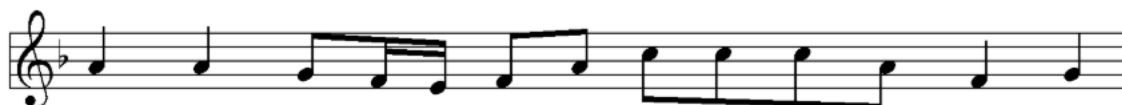
GREETING

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



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B 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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

GENESIS 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants

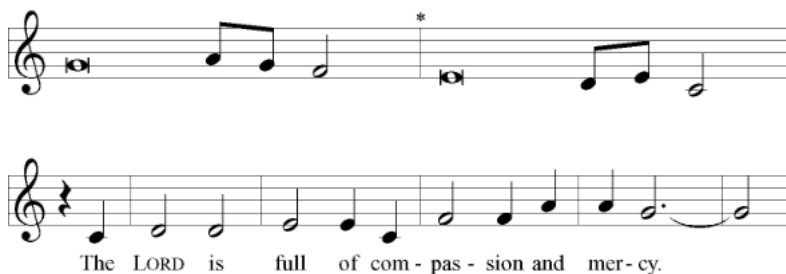
of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 103: (1-7) 8-13



1 [Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

**2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.**

3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;

**4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**6 The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.]

**8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

**10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

**12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.**

13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 14:1-12

A reading from Romans

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The holy gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

We sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

We stand.

REV. MARTHA MCCREIGHT

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

***Or,** He descended to the dead.

We kneel or sit for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We sit.

GREETINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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



To support the mission and ministry of St. John's, you can give online at www.stjohnelca.org or scan the QR code above.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL MIKAIL IPOLITOV-IVANOV

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.
He is full of compassion and mercy, long suffering and great in goodness.
He will not always chide, nor keep his wrath forever.

We stand.

MEAL

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

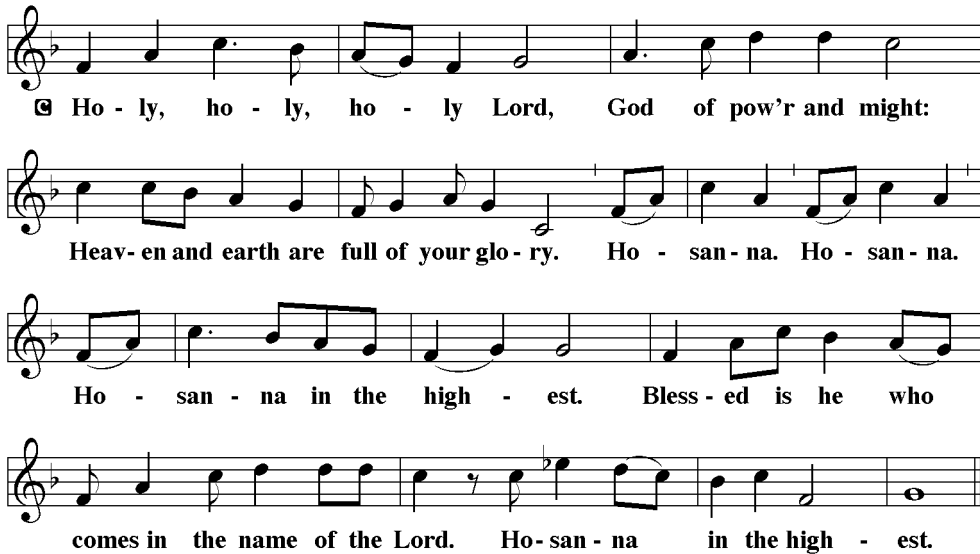
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. A And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts. A We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
A It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Here the minister continues with 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.

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,
that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will
and accomplished 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 his promise to come again,
we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought, but as we are able;
and we implore 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;
that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son
may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body,
and have our portion with all your saints.
All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, now and forever.
Amen

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

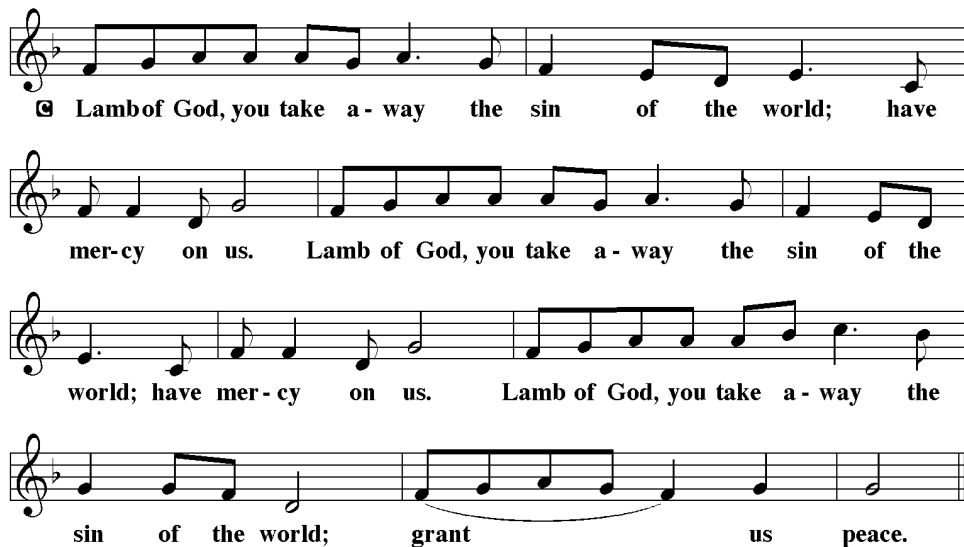
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sins, and promising eternal life, are welcome at the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

NOW WE JOIN IN CELEBRATION

ELW 462

We stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Praeludium in g

Franz Tunder

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight
Organist	Stephen Rapp
Worship Assistant	
Reader	Lois Coffin
Communion Assistant	Lois Coffin
Acolyte	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Eva Jakubek, Cheryl Milukas
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Barbara Gleckler
Little Free Pantry	Shirley Schulz
Coffee Hour	Greta & Mark Schneider

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, September 14

11:00 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, September 15

7:00 pm Sneak Peak via Zoom

Wednesday, September 16

12:00 noon Weekly Eucharist - Chapel

4:30pm Confirmation | 6:00 pm

Handbells | 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 20

8:30 & 10:30 am Worship

Friday, September 25

6:00 pm Beer & Hymns at St. Francis

Saturday, September 26

9:00 am Pumpkins Arrive



WE NEED YOU!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP



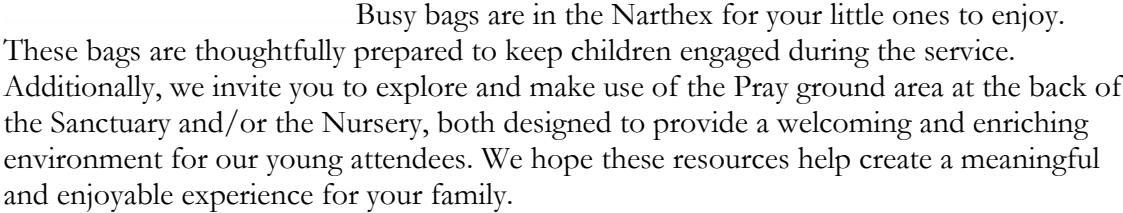
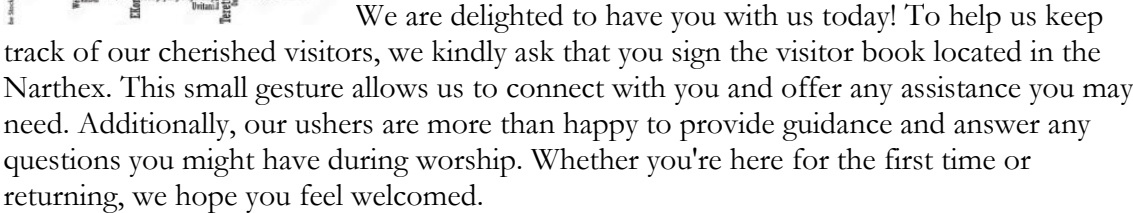
**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS,
READERS, USHERS, COFFEE HOUR, AND LFP SIGN-UP**



This week we pray for . . . Aiden, Andrew, Beryl, Cat, Cody, Gary, Gerald, James, Julie, Marie, Sandra, Shirley, Toby, and Valerie. 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.

Parish Office: parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com
Pastor Martha: MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com
Finance: finance@sjlcstamford.com



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

BEER & HYMNS

SEPTEMBER 25 - 6:00 PM

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2810 LONG RIDGE ROAD - STAMFORD, CT

THIS YEAR, WE WILL JOIN ST. FRANCIS FOR A FUN FELLOWSHIP EVENT

- **BRING FOOD AND BEVERAGE OF YOUR CHOICE.**
- **ENJOY THE CONVERSATION AND MUSIC!**
- **THE EVENT IS FREE.**

BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS!





GIVING WITH LOVE

Our 2026 Giving Intention Campaign

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 12:31

This fall, St. John’s will begin a six-week journey of faith, gratitude, generosity, and love.

How do we love our neighbors through St. John’s?

Our gifts help make possible the worship, care, fellowship, outreach, and ministry we share together.

♥ **Why St. John’s matters**

♥ **Giving with ease and consistency**

♥ **Why Giving Intentions matter**

♥ **Making faithful commitments**

Giving with Intention. Giving with Gratitude. Giving with Love.