



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 16, 2025 | 10:30am

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

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.

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.

GREETING

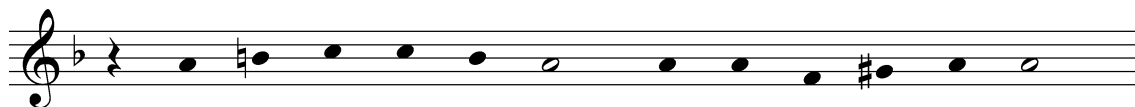
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE & GLORIA

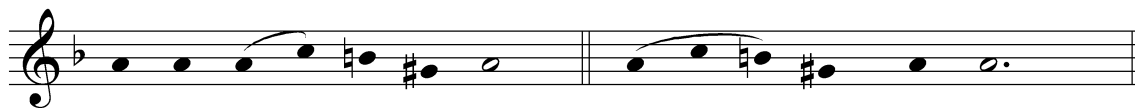


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion,

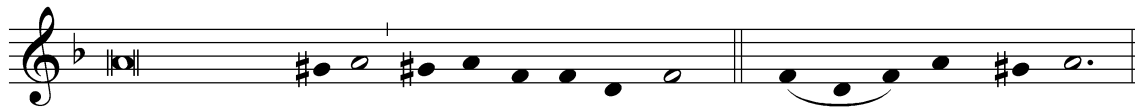


let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.



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.
Ky - ri - e e - lei-son.

For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**
Ky - ri - e e - lei-son.

Help, save, comfort and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - - - men.**

Organ *Assembly*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and

peace to God's peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al -

might - y God and Fath-er, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fath - er, 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 Fath-er. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

MALACHI 4:1-2

A reading from Job.

SEE, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM

Sung by the choir. Ann Mounsey (contemporary).

PSALM 98

O sing unto the Lord a new song;
for he hath done marvellous things.
With his own right hand, and with his holy arm, hath he gotten himself the victory.
The Lord declared his salvation;
his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight of the heathen.
He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel;
and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
Show yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands;
sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
Praise the Lord upon the harp;
sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
With trumpets also and shawms,
O show yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.
Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is,
the round world, and they that dwell therein.
Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord;
for he is come to judge the earth.
With righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

A reading from Second Thessalonians.

NOW to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here.

³Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

¹³But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

HYMN 507

O God of light, your word, a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way
And show your grace, your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day.

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

WHEN some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” ⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.” ⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

HYMN 507

Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing
To sinful hearts your justice and your grace;
And questing spirits, longing for your healing,
See your compassion in the Savior's face.

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

REV. NICK SOLLUM

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, of every nation

HYMN 713

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

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

MEAL

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Jesu, joy

BACH

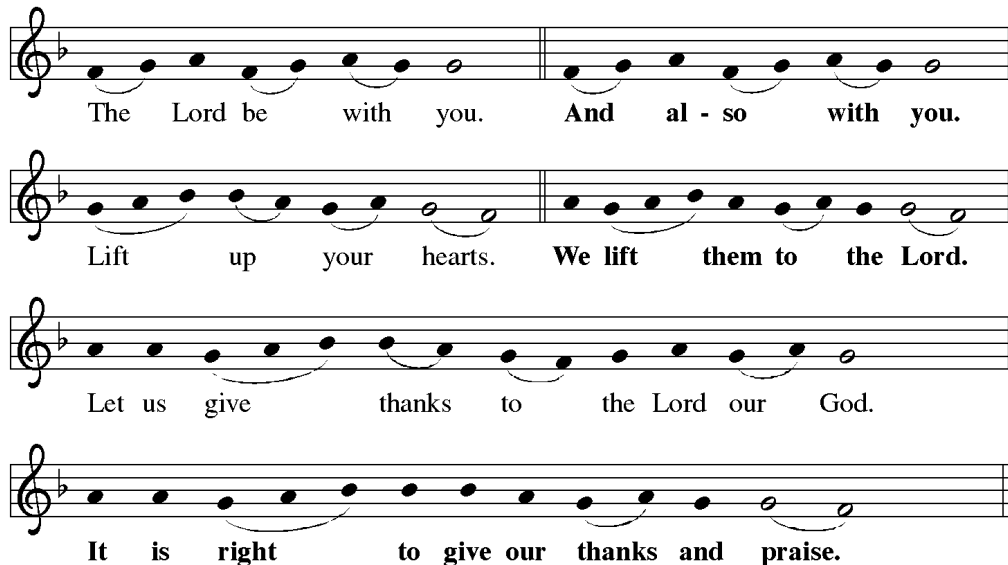
We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

HYMN 188

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

<i>Organ</i> 	<i>Assembly</i> 
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,	
	
God of pow'r and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -	
	
san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.	
	
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the <i>Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.</i>	
	
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.	

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in
this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death,
resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the
Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new
and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully
receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy,
and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints
into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and
with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor
And glory is yours, Almighty Father, 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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

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.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

And I saw a new Heaven

BAINTON

We stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life.

Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

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

Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

O Lord, how shall I meet you

HYMN 241

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.



POSTLUDE

Copyright © 2024 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.

Holy Feast Mass by Larry Long

Lord's Prayer, Traditional Afrikaans, arr. Marnus Lively-Greyling

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Nick Sollom
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Peter Bartels
Reader	Melissa Bartels
Communion Assistants	
Acolyte	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	Cheryl & Joe Milukas, Michele Taylor, Shirley Schulz
Little Free Pantry	Shirley Schulz
Coffee Hour	Karen Weinseiss

This week we pray for . . . Pr Emeritus Dennis Albrecht, Pr Martha, Andrew, Beryl, Irene, Brita, Cat, Diane, Gerald, James, Lee, Marie, Ron, Sandra, Shirley, Toby, and Valerie.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 19

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 23

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship | 11:30 am – Pie Sunday for Coffee Hour
Put up Christmas Tree & Advent Wreath

Wednesday, November 26

12:00 noon - Midweek Eucharist - Chapel
6:00 pm - Bells | 7:00 pm Choir

STEWARDSHIP 2026

If you were unable to submit your pledge card on Stewardship Sunday, please email the church office at finance@sjlcstamford.com with your pledge, mail your pledge card to the church, or place it in the offering plate next week. This will help us plan and set our budget for the upcoming year. Thank you for your faithful support of St. John's.

Kids Toy/Gift Collection:

We are once again teaming up with Person to Person to help them collect toys and books for their annual Toy store! Parents who frequent the food pantry and clothing closet shop for their kids at the Toy store free of charge. Please see Mary at the gift table in the Narthex to pick up a gift tag and brighten a child's holiday! Gifts should be returned by Nov. 30th to the Welcome room. Alternatively, Amazon wish list QR code is available—email marysullivan1999@gmail.com with any questions.

Thanksgiving Meals:

With the help of interfaith community volunteers, St. John's Episcopal Church, the First Congregational Church, and St. John's Lutheran Church of Stamford will assemble and distribute the annual Stamford Community Thanksgiving meals on the morning of Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2025, to those in need of food assistance. Individuals will receive take-home Thanksgiving meals in bags.

We are asking for the following support:

1. Financial contributions (St. John's share is \$1,500) to cover 75 meals at \$20 each. Make your donations out to St. John's Lutheran Church and designate them as "Thanksgiving Meals" by November 23. (Any additional funds will be donated either to the Food Bank or used for the Little Free Pantry.)
2. Volunteers on Thanksgiving morning, either drivers to deliver meals or work in the kitchen assembling meals with drinks and dessert. Please let Michele Effren know if you can help (meffren0703@gmail.com).

If you or someone you know needs a meal, call St. John's Episcopal Church (203-348-2619) to reserve a meal or request a homebound delivery; leave a message with your name, phone number, and the number of meals needed.

Thank you for providing a financial gift or volunteering to make someone else's Thanksgiving Day special!

NOVEMBER

- 16** 5pm 30th Organ Anniversary by Stephen Rapp
23 Christ the King Sunday
 11:30 Pie Sunday for Coffee Hour
 Put up the Chrismon Tree and the Advent Wreath
30 First Sunday of Advent
 5-7pm Advent Night in the Welcome Room

DECEMBER

- 13** 5pm Caroling
14 5pm Sancta Lucia
21 10:30 Children's program in worship, followed by Chili Lunch in the Welcome Room
 Decorate for Christmas (candles in windows, wreaths, bows, Creches, etc.)
 Take down the Advent wreath.
24 5pm Family Eucharist and Blessing of the Creche
 9pm Choral Eucharist
25 10am Christmas Mass in Chapel
28 10:30am single service Congregational Lessons & Carols

WE NEED YOU!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP



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

