



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

February 2, 2025 | 9:30am

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in
eternal life.

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.

GLORIA

Fast and lively

Org. *f*
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

5
peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord — God, hea - ven - ly King, al -

9
- migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

13
mp
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

18
Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

22
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

27

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

32 *f*

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

35

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

40

with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

44 *ff* *rit.*

A - - men, a - - men, a - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

MALACHI 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

SEE, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 84

Sung by the choir. Music by Janet Yieh (b. 1992)

- 1 O how amiable are thy dwellings *
thou Lord of hosts!
- 2 My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord *
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 3 Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young *
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house *
they will be always praising thee.
- 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee *
in whose heart are thy ways.
- 6 Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well *
and the pools are filled with water.
- 7 They will go from strength to strength *
and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.
- 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

9 Behold, O God our defender *
 and look upon the face of thine Anointed.
 10 For one day in thy courts *
 is better than a thousand.
 11 I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God *
 than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
 12 For the Lord God is a light and defence *
 the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he withhold from them that
 live a godly life.
 13 O Lord God of hosts *
 blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 2:14-18

A reading from I Corinthians.

SINCE, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

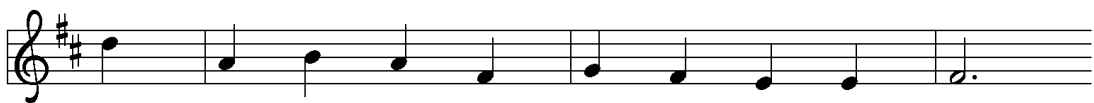
Sing verse 3.



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

LUKE 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

WHEN the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came

into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 5.

We sit.

SERMON

PASTOR GRORUD

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord, now let your servant

HYMN 313

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

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.

MEAL

We sit.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Song of Simeon

GEORGE DYSON

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



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



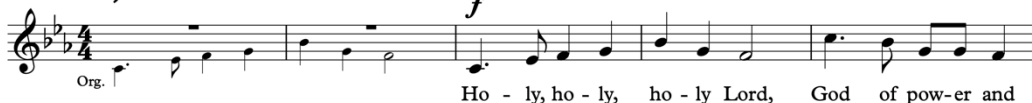
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



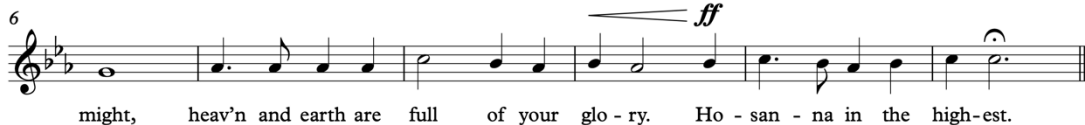
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed 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:

Majestic



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and



might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Slower

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 4/4 time signature. It features a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes the instruction 'Org.' under the first few notes. The lyrics 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the' are written below the staff. The second staff starts with a '4' above the first measure, indicating a fourth measure rest. It features a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic and the lyrics 'Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' below the staff.

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.

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.

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

The Gifts of God for the People of 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

Slowly and gently

Org. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

7 world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

13 sin of the world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

19 take a-way the sin of the world, grant us peace.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

How lovely is Thy dwelling place (from 'Requiem')

BRAHMS

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.

We sit.

ANNUAL MEETING

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev ^d Mark A. Grorud
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	Irene Hendricks
Communion Assistant	Irene Hendricks
Acolyte	Gino D'Orta
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Eva Jakubek, Cheryl Milukas
Counters	Noel Bartels, David Hendrickson

Coffee/Fellowship Time

We extend our gratitude to The Congregational Council for hosting coffee hour after worship today in the Welcome Room.

The Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church will be held **today** in the Nave following a single 9:30 am worship service. All voting members of St. John's are encouraged to be present to ensure a quorum to elect leaders and approve a budget.

SJLC YOUTH All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to Game Night at the Ylitalos' house on Saturday, February 22, from 6 pm to 9 pm. We will play board games, dice games, and card games. Please RSVP to ylitalo@gmail.com with your favorite pizza toppings. See you there!

Little Free Pantry

The pantry is in need of peanut butter, jelly, shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, Parmalat milk, and liquid dish soap (small containers).

To volunteer to maintain the Little Free Pantry—cleaning, organizing, and restocking—for one week, contact Janet Segerdell at janet.segerdell@gmail.com.

The LFP can always use cash contributions, which are utilized to purchase food at the Food Bank for pennies on the dollar. Your contribution will stretch much further through the Food Bank than if purchased at a grocery store.

Worship Leaders & Acolytes Needed

We are in need of worship leaders in all areas; reader, worship assistant, communion assistant, and fellowship hour volunteers. Over the upcoming months, there are many empty spots to fill. Please look at where you can help out and sign up. If you require assistance in signing up, please contact the office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 4

Choristers - 5:15 pm Choir Room

Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 5

Handbells - 6:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm Choir Room

Friday, February 7

Quilting - 5:30 pm Welcome Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 16

Pastor Grorud's last Sunday

Pot luck to follow 10:30 worship

9:30 am Sunday School

Sunday, March 2

9:30 am Single Worship - Pastor McCreight

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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.



Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnelca

We are beginning to transition to Outlook. Please note our new email addresses. Thank you.

Emails

Office (Nancy): ParishOffice@sjlcstamford.com

Finance (Jody): Finance@sjlcstamford.com

Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling: NLivelyGreyling@sjlcstamford.com

Pastor McCreight: MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com

Sunday, February 2, 5pm



CANDLEMAS
Choral Evensong

St. John's Lutheran Church, Stamford, CT

