



# SERVICE OF THE WORD

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 8, 2020 † 9:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

# *Welcome to worship at St. John's!*

*We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!*

*During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances. We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.*

*Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.*



*St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.*

*While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.*

*We warmly welcome you here.*

# GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

**Prelude** — “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

Emma Lou Diemer

*“The bridegroom comes! Awake; your lamps with gladness take!  
Alleluia! Rise and prepare the feast to share;  
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.”*

—Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

## Welcome and Announcements

**\*Hymn** — “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” (#241)

WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN



O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, tr. composite; Music: Johann Crüger

## **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

**P** Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity, one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**G Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Holy One,

**G we confess that we are not awake for you.**

**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**

**We forget the least of our siblings.**

**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**

**We carry sin that divides your beloved community.**

**Open our hearts to your coming,**

**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**

**open our hands to serve your creation.**

**P** Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus,  
our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.

**G Amen.**

## **\*Greeting**

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

**A And also with you.**

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

**P** O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the  
words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs  
of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**G Amen.**

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

## Children's Message

## First Reading — Amos 5:18-24

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. <sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. <sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. <sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

- L** The word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalmody — Psalm 70

Antiphon: David Lee

*Antiphon: God, make speed to save me. Lord, make haste to help me.*



<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;  
O LORD, make | haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back  
and | be disgraced.

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat | over me  
turn back because | of their shame.

**<sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great | is the LORD!”**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.  
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry. *Antiphon*

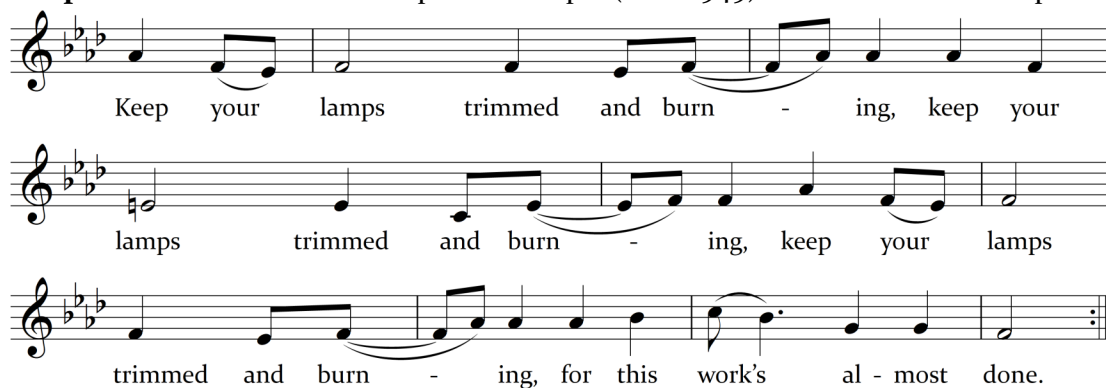
## Second Reading — 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## \*Gospel Acclamation — “Keep Your Lamps” (ACS #949) African American Spiritual



## \*Gospel — Matthew 25:1-12

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the

bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — "Christ, Be Our Light" (#715)

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

### **\*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.**

### **\*Prayers of Intercession**

*After each petition:*

- ℣** Lord, in your mercy,
- ℣** hear our prayer.

### **\*Peace**

- ℣** The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ℣** And also with you.

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.*

### **Offering of Our Gifts**

*Music at the Offering:*

ON THAXTED

Lyle Neff



### **\*Prayer for Anxious Times**

☞ O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted,  
grant courage and hope.  
Where anxiety is present and widening,  
grant peace and reassurance.  
Where impossibilities close every door,  
grant imagination and resistance.  
Where distrust twists our thinking,  
grant healing and illumination.  
Where spirits are daunted and weakened,  
grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.  
All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
☞ Amen.

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## **DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD**

### **\*Blessing**

*Response:*

☞ Amen.

**\*Sending Hymn — “O Spirit All-Embracing” (ACS #944)**


THAXTED



O Beau - ty ev - er blaz - ing in flow - er, field and face,  
Come, pas - sion's pow - er ho - ly, your in - sight here im - part,  
you show your - self a - maz - ing in un - ex - pect - ed place.  
and give your ser - vants low - ly an un - der - stand - ing heart  
We see you and re - mem - ber what once our dreams had been;  
to know your care more clear - ly when faith and love are tried,  
you fan the glow - ing em - ber and kin - dle hope with - in.  
to seek you more sin - cere - ly when false i - deals have died:  
Come, fire of glo - ry gra - cious, bless all who trust in you;  
for vi - sion we im - plore you, for wis - dom's pure de - light;  
un - dy - ing flame te - na - cious, burn in your church a - new.  
in prayer we come be - fore you to wait up - on your light.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, © 1995, 2003 GIA Publications; Music: Gustav Holst

**\*Dismissal**

 Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

 Thanks be to God.

**Postlude — “Cornet Processional”**

David Dahl



## **SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:**

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Michaela Polley
Organist	Nathan Proctor

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Cover art by John Maakestad.

Confirmation banner by Judy Swanson

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**On Wednesday, November 11,  
St. John's will toll its bells 11 times at 11:00 a.m. in remembrance of Veterans Day.  
The tolling of bells on 11/11 is a practice dating back to Armistice Day  
that ended World War One as a prayer for peace.**

# **Announcements**

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is given by Rick and Nancy Moe. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Next available dates: January 31 and February 21 & 28. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

## **Worship with Us on Sundays via Livestream**

Worship at 9:00 a.m. is now livestreamed via our website. We hope you'll join us via livestream or radio on KYMN. **Video of the service will still be available on the website later in the week.**

## **Our Stewardship Appeal for 2021 is Underway**

Please let us know your intention for giving next year **by Sunday, November 15**. If you need a physical pledge card mailed to you, please contact Leah Garlie at the church office. You can now view the Stewardship "Words of Witness" from previous Sundays on the church website.

## **Virtual Pub Theology via Zoom**

**Mondays, November 9 & 23, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Pub Theology is a conversation led by Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

## **November Courageous Conversations: Todd Lippert, MN House of Representatives District 20B Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom**

Representative Lippert will speak on the November elections, Race, and where do we go from here? Registration required. Register at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous).

## **Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, & Chocolates and Thistle Farms Hand Soaps**

Contact [dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com) to place your order for contactless delivery.

## **Message from St. John's Stephen Ministers**

There are many losses we are all feeling with COVID-19 such as the death of loved ones, separation from family and friends, suspended worshipping at St. John's, and loss of income. St. John's Stephen Ministers are available to meet with you one-on-one or in small group sessions via Zoom where we can talk about these changes in our lives. If this would be helpful to you, contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

## **St. John's Website**

Please check out our website at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org).

# **Announcements (continued)**

## **ELCA World Hunger**

- Hunger Facts: 821 million people around the world—that's more than 1 in 10—can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives. According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population. At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from. 39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094.
- As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond to these staggering needs. Since the onset of Covid-19, these conditions have only worsened.
- Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Each November we focus special giving on world hunger. Please consider a donation to ELCA World Hunger by mailing a check to the church (note ELCA World Hunger on the memo line of your check) or through online giving. Visit <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger> to learn more about how the ELCA has made positive differences in peoples' lives around the world. Thank you.

## **Can you help remote learners?**

Northfield Healthy Communities Initiative is seeking volunteers who will offer remote support to kids doing distance learning this winter. Once established with a student and teacher, volunteers would offer 15-30 minutes 2-4 days a week to help students stay on track. Contact [Laura@northfieldhci.org](mailto:Laura@northfieldhci.org) if you are interested.

## **Operation Joy, the CAC's Annual Christmas Gift Drive**

Operation Joy will be happening this year with a different approach. Along with the pajamas and quilts, the plan is to provide a \$50 gift card for each of the 850 children CAC works with throughout the year. Monetary donations are being requested this year so that Lisa Percy, Director of Operation Joy, can make the purchase of the gift cards in bulk. Donations can be made in 2 ways:

- visit <http://communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy> and make an online donation
- send a check directly to Operation Joy, c/o Community Action Center, 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Suite HS-200, Northfield, MN 55057

## **Prayer Requests**

*We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.*

### **Healing and Support**

*Those in the hospital or in need of healing*

David and Genevieve Quarberg

*Those mourning the loss of a loved one*

Family of Kathryn Haugen

*Those with ongoing health concerns*

Marlene Engstrom, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Gene and Delores Nelson,  
Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam, Gordon Smith, Joanne Sommers,  
Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

*All who are homebound, including*

Elaine Feroe, Tom Fjelde, Lois Pearson

*Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's*

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;

Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania;

Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

### **Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests**

*Stephen Ministry Requests*

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

*Prayer Chain Requests*

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or [macisar@gmail.com](mailto:macisar@gmail.com), or contact a pastor.

## **Lectionary Readings for Next Week (November 15):**

*Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

**Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 + Psalm 90 + 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 + Matthew 25:14-30**

# **This Week At-a-Glance**

*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed  
on our website at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org).*

**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts  
on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. ([www.kymnradio.net](http://www.kymnradio.net)).**

<b>Monday, Nov. 9</b>	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Virtual Pub Theology via Zoom
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Foundation via Zoom
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 10</b>	8:30 a.m.	Quilting, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom
	5:30 p.m.	Six Ways of Reading the Bible via Zoom
	7:00 p.m.	Church Board Meetings via Zoom
<b>Wednesday, Nov. 11</b>	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
<b>Thursday, Nov. 12</b>	1:30 p.m.	Elizabeth Circle Meeting via Zoom
	7:00 p.m.	Courageous Conversations with Rep. Todd Lippert via Zoom
<b>Friday, Nov. 13</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Saturday, Nov. 14</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Sunday, Nov. 15</b>	9:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream
	10:00 a.m.	Virtual Sunday School via Zoom
		Virtual Youth Group via Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour via Zoom



St. John's  
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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**Northfield, MN 55057**

**507-645-4429**

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**www.StJohnsNorthfield.org**

*Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor*

*Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor*

*Carol Benson, Director of Jubilate Choir*

*Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry*

*Tim Byers, Facility Manager*

*Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager*

*Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator*

*Christy Hall-Holt, Welcome Ministry Coordinator*

*Emmanuel Kaghondi, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*

*Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse*

*Arielle Loy, Director of Alleluia Choir*

*Zachery Pelletier, Director of Rejoice Ringers*

*Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants*

*Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.