

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Christ the King Sunday
November 26, 2023 † 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church † Northfield, Minnesota

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning!

All are invited to **sign the welcome sheets** in the black folders at the end of the pews. Please pass them to the center and then back so you can greet those worshipping around you. Ushers will gather these following worship.

In the red hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship), or purple hymnal (All Creation Sings), hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section, and page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section.

> An asterisk (*) invites you to stand as you are able. P Pastor, L Leader (Assisting Minister), C Congregation

Children are welcome to participate throughout our worship service, including at Holy Communion. Parents, please assist children when they come forward for communion to extend their hands if they are to receive the bread and wine.

Children's Bibles and activity bags

are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary and scribble cards are available in the pews.

Hearing assistance devices are available outside the Sanctuary or from an usher. For those with hearing aids, the Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop.

Large print bulletins and hymns are available for worship services.

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 — Who Is This?

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Alfred Fedak

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

F. Melius Christiansen

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Philip Moore

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — ELW No. 634

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

*Greeting

- P 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.**

*Prayer of the Day

- P O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **G** Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

"Thus says the Lord GoD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GoD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

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

Psalmody — Psalm 95:1-7a from ELW Morning Prayer; setting by Carolyn Jennings *Refrain* — *all*



Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms. For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

Refrain — all

In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours. The sea is yours, for you made it; and your hands have molded the dry land.

Refrain — all

Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

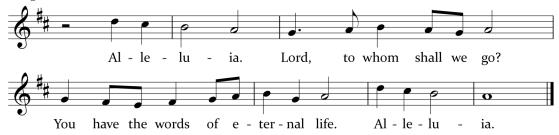
Refrain — all

Second Reading — Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



***Gospel** — Matthew 25:31-46

Spark Story Bible, page 318

- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.
- **G** Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹⁴When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and

gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 679

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

*The 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:

- L Lord, in your mercy,
- **©** hear our prayer.

*Peace

- **P** 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

(8:30) "Rhapsody on AR HYD Y NOS"

John Ferguson

(10:45) "Who Is This"

John Ferguson

Who is this? Who is this who walks among us? Who is this who speaks such words? Is it Moses, or Elijah, or some prophet of the Lord? Can we name this suffering servant? Can we name the promised sun? Can we name the heir of David? Jesus, hidden, holy one. You are Christ, from God eternal! Living God, from human womb, our deliverer and redeemer, known by cross and empty tomb. Jesus, hidden, holy one.

- Sylvia Dunstan

St. John's Chorale

*Offering Hymn — "Of the Father's Love Begotten" stanza 1 DIVINUM MYSTERIUM Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,

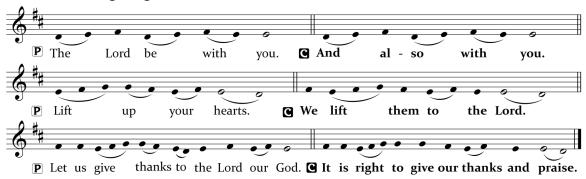
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

*Offering Prayer

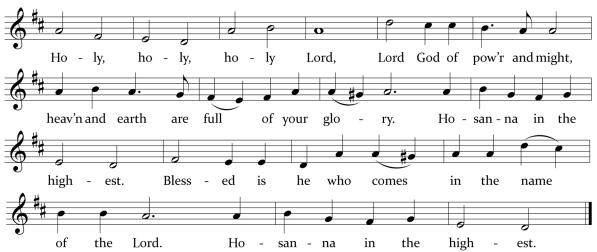
- **L** Let us pray.
- ☑ God of all goodness, generations have gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. As we gather these gifts and give thanks, we remember and care for all you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving



P It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*Words of Institution

*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.

Communion will be received standing at stations in the front of sanctuary; ushers will direct you forward. Gluten-free wafers are available in the center. After you have been served the bread you will be offered wine or grape juice. The grape juice is white and is located in the center of the tray. If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to you.

On the fourth Sunday of the month during communion, we offer the practice of anointing your brow with oil and receiving a blessing. If you want, you may ask for a specific prayer blessing from the anointer.

Music during Communion





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, grant us peace.

(10:45) **Solo** — Meditation from *Thaïs*

Jules Massenet

Hymn — ACS No. 954

"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd"

^{*}Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

- Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.
- **G** Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:

Amen.

*Sending Hymn — ELW No. 826

"Thine the Amen"

*Dismissal

- **L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God!

Postlude — "Reflections on 'E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come' " Paul Manz

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

— Revelation 22, adapted Ruth Manz

+ + +

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 3):

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 + Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 + 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 + Mark 13:24-37

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching and Presiding Pastor Jonathan Davis

Assisting Minister Karl Hella

Organist Nathan Proctor

Choir (10:45) St. John's Chorale Viola (10:45) Charles Gray

Healing Prayers (8:30) Jane and Dennis Rinehart

(10:45) Jennifer Edwins

Communion Prep TBD
Communion Cleanup TBD

Greeters (8:30) TBD

(10:45) Susan Canon and Mike Bull

Coffee Service TBD

Counters Sue Brockman, Jim Loe, David Nitz

Ushers (8:30) Barry Becker, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert

(10:45) Mark Rydberg, Todd Menssen, Eric Sponheim

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (November 26)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall Advent Book Study (9:45–10:30 a.m., Fireside Room)

Next Week (December 3)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons

Sunday School: Preschool–Grade 5 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

Sunday Youth Gathering: Grades 6–12 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Youth Room)

St. John's Forum (9:45–10:30 a.m., Sanctuary)

Advent Book Study (9:45–10:30 a.m., Fireside Room)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art created by Nicholas Markel for Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

The 2023 confirmation banner is by Jill Enestvedt.

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Announcements

Additional announcements can be found in the weekly E-Voice.

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Bruce and Audrey Moe in memory of their daughter, Carolyn Moe Buzza. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Available Dates: December 10, 17, 24, 25 & 31.

Stewardship 2024 Appeal

We at St. John's have so much to be thankful for and to celebrate. If you have already made your financial pledge to St. John's for 2024, thank you. It's not too late to submit your 2024 giving intention. You can return a card to the church office or the offering plate, scan the QR code to the right, complete the online pledge form on our website, or email your intent to Leah Garlie. If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2024 intent, even if it is to remain the same. Your generosity is heart-warming and assures continuation and growth of the missions of St. John's.



Advent Fair

Wednesday, November 29, St. John's Hall

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, November 29, in St. John's Hall. Come enjoy our Wednesday Night Meal and Advent activities for all ages. We encourage you to bring friends. The more the merrier!

- 5:15-6:15 p.m.: Wednesday Meal
- 5:45-7:00 p.m.: Advent Fair Activities

Can you help with the Advent Fair?

- Help with Crafts/Activities
- Food Demonstration—show us how to make your favorite Christmas treat!

Sign up in the Commons or email Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org to help.

November Special Offering: ELCA World Hunger

This month there is a special envelope for contributions to ELCA World Hunger. Realize that ELCA World Hunger works with and through ELCA congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, overseas Lutheran churches, and other partners to reach communities in need. They provide health clinics, microloans, water wells, animal husbandry, community meals, and advocacy, etc. Your contributions to ELCA World Hunger help provide sustainable solutions that get to the root causes of hunger and poverty. Your support makes a difference. Please consider a gift to ELCA World Hunger during the November appeal. Use the specially marked envelope in your packet or use the St. John's online donation system. Make checks payable to St. John's, noting ELCA Hunger Appeal on the memo line. Thank you.

Announcements (continued)

Financial Update to the Congregation

- Offering received through the end of October is 78% of the \$966,000 budgeted amount. This is very close to target for this time of year, but we will rely on receiving the remaining 22% to cover our total expenses.
- Expenses through October are 81% of budget; we forecast we will end the year either on budget or slightly underspent.
- Pledges for 2024 giving will help to inform the Budget Committee as they begin their work on a proposed budget for 2024. Please consider increasing your pledge from 2023 so that the congregation can keep pace with rising costs. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and continued support of the church.

Poinsettia Orders

The Chancel Guild will be taking orders for poinsettias again this year. The flowers will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or in celebration of Christmas, the order form will be available in the Commons starting Wednesday, November 29, and on the church website. The last day to place your order is Sunday, December 10.

St. John's Forum: Kelli Podracky, Executive Director of the Northfield Union of Youth Sunday, December 3, 9:45–10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Come hear Kelli Podracky, Executive Director of the Northfield Union of Youth, provide detailed information about the vital youth services provided for our Northfield youth, and answer questions about The Key. The Key is the longest running youth-run youth center in the nation! It is a life-giving community and a safe place for youth to connect with each other, caring adults, and their community. Free meals and access to resources are available every day on a self-referral basis for all youth.

WELCA Thank Offerings may be delivered to the church office through November 30. Envelopes are available at the St. John's Women's bulletin board. Make your check out to WELCA, with "Thank Offering" on the memo line.

Women of St. John's: Join us for the Great Lutheran Cookie Bake & Christmas Card Making Saturday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.–Noon, Fellowship Hall

Bring or drop off a couple dozen cookies. If you can, stay and box up cookies and make Christmas cards for St. John's members who are shut-ins and/or living in local retirement homes.

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

Shirley Anderson, Jo Dahlin, John Ferguson, Darlene Hand, Roberta Morse, Kent Rommereim, Wendy Scholz, Judith Stoutland, Gail Nemy (mother of Lori Skoglund), George Schneider (father of Betsy Gasior)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Jo Chambers, Billi Faillettaz, Bob Flaten, Jane Gelle, Greta Matzner-Gore, Donna James, Carolyn Jennings, Dolores Nelson, Becky Ness, Paul Peterson, Scott Quinnell, Alice Rickert, Laila Burns Hedstrom, Bruce Hella, Karl Jacobson (son of Pastor Del Jacobson)

All who are homebound, including

David and Pat Halsor, Elouise Quinnell

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; Katie Larson, ELCA missionary in Colombia

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, or contact a pastor.



Served from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall

Menu for Wednesday, November 29: Pulled Pork

All are welcome!

Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.

Dessert contributions are always welcome and needed!

This Week At-a-Glance

The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Monday, Nov. 27	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Nov. 28	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Church Council, Undercroft Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room
Wednesday, Nov. 29	3:45 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Advent Book Study, Fireside Room Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Advent Fair, St. John's Hall Where Politics and Faith Meet Conversation, Fireside Room St. John's Chorale
Thursday, Nov. 30	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilters, Fellowship Hall Book Buddies, St. John's Library Funeral - Betty Stromseth, Sanctuary Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
Friday, Dec. 1	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Dec. 2	8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	Sons of Norway Breakfast, St. John's Hall Chancel Guild, Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec. 3	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary (For the schedule between services, please see page 11) Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary



500 Third Street West Northfield, MN 55057 507-645-4429 office@StJohnsNorthfield.org www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor
Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor
Green Bouzard, Jubilate Choir Director
Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry
Steve Harner, Facility Manager
Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager
Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator
Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse
Arielle Loy, Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist
Kristin Partlo, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families
Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts
David Sims and Will Fecko, Directors of Rejoice Ringers

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