



SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 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 — “Proclamation on WACHET AUF”

Aaron David Miller

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be God, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C Amen.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Loving and forgiving God,

C we confess that we are held captive by sin.
Even with our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us, turn us from our sins,
and renew us each day in the light of Christ.

P People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven and you are free—
free from all that holds you back,
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
† comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***Gathering Hymn — “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” (#436)**

WACHET AUF



Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men on the heights are
 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her heart with joy is
 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and an - gels sing be -

cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last. Mid - night hears the
 spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom. Her dear friend comes
 fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone. Gates of pearl, twelve

wel - come voic - es, and at the thrill-ing cry re - joic - es:
 down, all glo - rious, the strong in grace, in truth vic - to - rious:
 por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to bliss be-yond all dream - ing,

“Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past. The bride - groom comes! A - wake;
 her star is ris'n; her light is come. Now come, O Bless - ed One,
 with an - gel choirs a - round your throne. No eye has caught the light,

your lamps with glad - ness take!” Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre-pare
 Lord Je - sus, God's own Son. Sing ho-san - na! Oh, hear the call!
 no ear the thun-d'ring might of such glo - ry. There we will go:

the feast to share; go, meet the bride-groom who draws near.
 Come one, come all, and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 what joy we'll know! There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, tr. composite © 1999 Augsburg Fortress; Music: Philipp Nicolai

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

- 📖 We light candles during Advent,
 praying that our preparation for Christmas
 may help us look outward in love
 and look forward in hope.

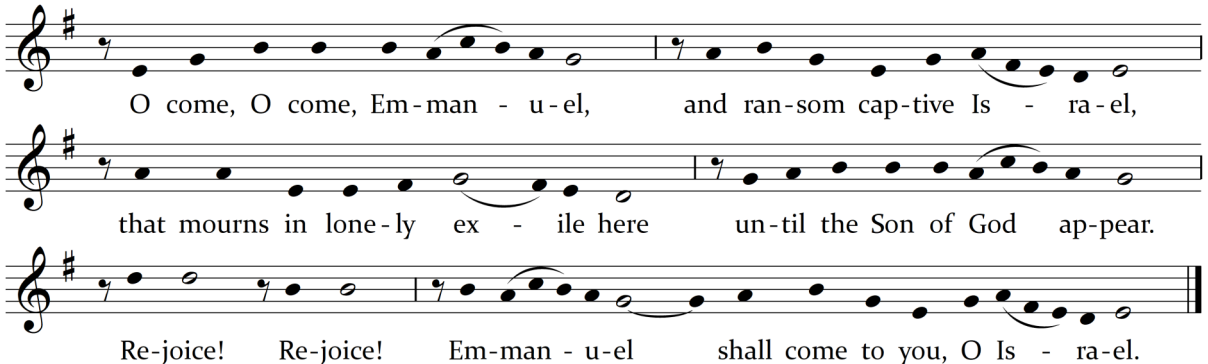
The prophet Isaiah cried out to God,
“Oh, that you would tear open the heavens and come down.
You have hidden your face from us; make your name known.
You are our potter, and we are your clay;
we are all the work of your hand.”

Like Isaiah we too cry out,
knowing God has already come and is still coming.
We light our first candle as a prayer for our suffering world,
that God, who is often hidden, may be revealed to us and to all.

- ☐ **Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

***Response Hymn — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (#257)**

VENI, EMMANUEL



O come, O come, Em-man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra - el,
that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un-til the Son of God ap-pear.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicum*, 1710, tr. composite; Music: French processional, 15th cent.

***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.**

***Prayer of the Day**

- ☐ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
☐ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalmody — Psalm 80:1-6, 18-19

Tone: Kevin Vogt



¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
 give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
¹⁹Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

***Gospel Acclamation — “Wait for the Lord” (#262)**

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier © 1994 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications

***Gospel — Mark 13:24-37**

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the

Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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 — “Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory” (#561)

JOYOUS LIGHT



Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own face,
In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of dawn,
You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry danc - ing star of night,

you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race.
in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song.
make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light.

Now as eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to you.
Love that fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul,
Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way,

God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen; Music: Marty Haugen; © 1987 GIA Publications

***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:

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme” BWV 645

J. S. Bach

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

- Ⓐ Holy God, the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait,
we praise you for joining us to your people of old.
We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness
and promise a new earth with peace for all.
For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God.
Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word.
Nurture our faith with your grace, accompany us with your might,
and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.
For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God.

- ☛ **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 — “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (#244)

HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG



Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,
Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, tr. Sarah B. Findlater; Music: Swedish folk tune

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

Postlude — on HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG

Margrethe Hokanson



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	Andrea and Elsa Hoff
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantor	David Sims

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover photograph of the St. John's Advent wreath, designed by Ed Sovik

Confirmation banner by Judy Swanson

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Bev Mahachek in loving memory of her husband Roger and son Lee Mahachek. 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: February 28 and March 7, 14, 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.

Virtual Sunday School for Grades K-5 and Virtual Youth Group Take a Break Today

We'll be back on Sunday, December 6 from 10:00-10:30 a.m. If you would like the Zoom links for either Sunday School or Youth Group, contact Julie Brehmer (children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or Emmanuel Kaghondi (youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

Our Stewardship Appeal for 2021

Knowing members' intentions helps us plan next year's ministry. Please submit your giving intention for next year via the online form on our website. If you need a physical pledge card mailed to you, please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863.

Poinsettia Orders for 2020

There are a limited number of poinsettias available for purchase to decorate the sanctuary for 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, please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863.

St. John's Courageous Conversations via Zoom

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

December's Courageous Conversation will feature Dayna Norvald, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity in Rice County, and Sandi Gerdes, Executive Director of Laura Baker Services Association. Norvald and Gerdes will present December's program on affordable housing in Northfield, "Is There Room at the Inn." Register at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/courageous. Sponsored by St. John's Women and St. John's Adult Ministry & Education Board.

Holden Village in 2021?

With a hopeful stance toward next summer, we are pondering a St. John's trip to Holden Village in 2021. If pandemic-possible, Holden would be open to cohorts for 5 night stays. An all-inclusive price would include the boat ticket meals, room, and programming. Guests would be responsible for their own travels to and from Chelan Washington (Field's Point). If you are interested in being part of a group that could gather at Holden please contact Pastor Pam Fickenscher. Registration has not been opened, but we want to be ready when it is.

Announcements (continued)

Advent Fair Drive-Thru at St. John's

Wednesday, December 2, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Celebrate the start of the Advent Season by joining us for St. John's Advent Fair Drive-Thru! From your car, enjoy the beautiful Christmas lights and luminaries placed around the church building, while stopping at different stations along the way. The event starts at the corner of Popular and Third Streets with a Welcome Greeting. Stops along the way:

- BINGO Hunt - On your drive find all the items on your BINGO card.
- Winter Clothing Drive for the CAC - Donate new or clean, gently used winter outerwear for children and adults - winter coats, mittens, scarfs, gloves, snow boots, snow pants. No holes or stains and all items should have working zippers, snaps, and buttons.
- Christmas Music
- Children's Nativity Craft - A wooden nativity craft project including paint and instructions. One per household. Please let Julie Brehmer know if you'd like one by emailing her at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.
- Christmas Card Project - Send a Christmas card to a St. John's member who would enjoy knowing they are in someone's thoughts and prayers. Stop by and receive an addressed envelope, card, and instructions.
- CAC Food Drive Donations - Drop off items for the CAC/St. John's Blessing Box. Check out what items are needed most at: <https://communityactioncenter.org/files/CAC-5-Most-Wanted-Flyer.pdf>
- Take-home Christmas craft
- Treat Bags
- Christmas Eve Service Candles/Glow Stick—Pick up a candle/glow stick for the Christmas Eve Eucharist via Zoom.
- Blessing and Sending / Advent Devotions

Extended! Sons of Norway Nordic Frokost Drive-Thru Scholarship Fundraiser

Saturday, December 12, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, St. John's Southwest Parking Lot

- \$25 donation = gift package of Jessica Page's home made lefse (12 rounds)
- \$30 donation = gift package of same (6 rounds) plus lingonberry jam and Daim chocolates

Order deadline is today, Sunday, November 29. Advance orders only: rob.quanbeck@gmail.com.

ELCA World Hunger

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.

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

Sam Lotegeluaki, Donna Paulsen

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Gertrud Johannsen

Those with ongoing health concerns

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

All who are homebound, including

Arlene Sivanich, Joan Carlson, Richard Olson

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, or contact a pastor.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 6):

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 † Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 † 2 Peter 3:8-15a † Mark 1:1-8

This Week At-a-Glance

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

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

Monday, Nov. 30	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Dec. 1	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom
Wednesday, Dec. 2	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
	6:00 p.m.	Advent Fair Drive-Thru, St. John's Parking Lot
Thursday, Dec. 3	7:00 p.m.	Courageous Conversations via Zoom
Friday, Dec. 4		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, Dec. 5	10:00 a.m.	Sons of Norway Drive Thru Fundraiser, St. John's Parking Lot
Sunday, Dec. 6	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

Worship with Us on Sundays via Livestream

Worship at 9:00 a.m. is 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.



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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Pam Fickenschner, 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.