



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2019 † 8:30 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 pew hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship),
page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section,
and hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn 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 — Prelude in F Major

Vincent Lübeck, Junior

Welcome and Announcements

*Advent Affirmation of Hope

- P** Let us affirm our hope in Christ, who came,
who comes, and who is to come:
When violence reigns,
and war seems never-ending,
Christ is our hope,
C **born among us, crucified and risen.**
- P** When despair lies in wait
and life loses meaning,
Christ is our hope,
C **born among us, crucified and risen.**
- P** When people claim to know what God alone knows,
and say the end is near,
Christ is our hope,
C **born among us, crucified and risen.**
- P** When life on earth is extinguished this year, next year,
or in a hundred million years,
Christ is our hope,
C **born among us, crucified and risen.**
- P** In sorrow and joy, today and tomorrow,
in life and in death,
Christ is our hope,
C **born among us, crucified and risen.**
- A** **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn — No. 239

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

Let us pray that waiting for Christmas may show us how to be patient when things take time, how to live for Christ day by day, and how to wait for promises not yet fulfilled.

- Ⓒ **Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives and shine among us now.**
- Ⓐ In Isaiah, chapter 35, the prophet declares that when God comes among us, the deaf shall hear, the blind shall see, and the tongue of the speechless shall sing for joy. We light this candle as a sign of our hope that God's love in Christ brings healing to us, and to the whole world.
- Ⓒ **Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

*Response Hymn — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI, EMMANUEL

O come, now, liv-ing wa-ter, pour your grace, And bring new life to ev-'ry with-ered place;
Speak com-fort to each trem-bling heart: “Be strong! Fear not, for I will ne'er de-part.”
Re-joice, re-joice! Take heart and do not fear, God's cho-sen one, Em-man-u-el, draws near

Text: Barbara Lundblad, 2013. Used with permission.

*Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that transformed by grace we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Ⓒ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 35:1-10

Pew Bible, page 578

After the reading:

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

Second Reading — James 5:7-10

Pew Bible, page 982

After the reading:

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

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

Music: Jacques Berthier, © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin GIA Publications, reprinted under OneLicense A-708009

***Gospel** — Matthew 11:2-15

Spark Story Bible, page 234; Pew Bible, page 792

Before the reading:

- The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

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

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — No. 737

“He Comes to Us as One Unknown”

*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:

“Brightest and Best of the Stars”

MORNING STAR, arr. Bruce Tippette

Rejoice Ringers

*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

- Ⓐ Let us pray.
- Ⓐ **Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new
and our lives reveal your light.
Amen.**

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P** It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus

PICARDY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign-ing God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, all cre - a-tion seeks your light!
Bless-ed is the one who comes in your name. Bless-ed be the Lord most high!

Text: Trad. liturgical, arr. Kimberly Bracken Long

*Eucharistic Prayer

- P** Holy One, the beginning and the end...Do this for the remembrance of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** With this bread and cup...we look with hope for his coming.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P** All praise and glory are yours...one God, now and forever.
- C** **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.

*All God's children are welcome at the table. Communion will be received standing at the front of the sanctuary; ushers will direct you forward. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the middle. 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.*

Music during Communion

"Lamb of God"



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; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn — No. 266

"All Earth Is Hopeful"

Hymn — No. 249

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

*Post-Communion Blessing

***Prayer after Communion**

℣ Let us pray.

℟ **God of abundance, we give you thanks in this holy meal.
May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words
and our work in your name invite others into your grace.
Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we
await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

℣ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — No. 248

“People, Look East”

***Dismissal**

℣ Go in peace. Christ is with you.

℟ Thanks be to God.

Postlude — on BESANÇON

Kristina Langlois



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Dave Zdenek
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	Rejoice Ringers, Zachery Pelletier, director
Advent Wreath Lighter	Dave Zdenek
Acolytes	John Malecha, Marshall Nelson
Communion Preparer	Anne Klinefelter
Communion Servers	TBD
Communion Cleanup	Angie Gehring, Cynthia Neubecker
Greeters / Welcome Desk	Ruth Dahl, Carolyn Jennings
Coffee and Refreshments	Bruce and Alice Rickert, Kristi Wermager
Nursery	Anne France
Counters	Ruth Dahl, Jim Enestvedt, Bill and Jane Rizzo
Ushers	Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Peace”- Advent bulletin art series by Ricardo Levins Morales. www.rlmartstudio.com

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14028-LIT. Other liturgical aids are from *Sundays and Seasons* © 2011 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission.

Advent Liturgy by Brian Wren from *Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship*, © 2007 Brian Wren.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 22):

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 † Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 † Romans 1:1-7 † Matthew 1:18-25

Advent and Christmas Worship & Events

Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship at 10:45 a.m.

Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 18, at 6:15 p.m.

Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Between Services: Intergenerational Event - Christmas Dinner Workshop

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Vespers at 3:00 p.m. (especially for families and children)

Christmas Vespers with Candlelight at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Candlelight and Holy Communion at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Dinner for All from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 29

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night



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

Menu for Wednesday, December 18:
Pizza Burgers

All are welcome!

Consider this Amazing Fact:

*Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.
Dessert contributions are always welcome and needed!*

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Bob Matta by his loving family. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV) - cable channel 187, Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Stewardship Campaign Update

Thank you to all who have already submitted their 2020 pledge card. If you have not yet indicated your intent, please do so as soon as possible to help facilitate our work on next year's budget. You can return a card to the church office, in the offering plate, or you can email your intent to Bernie Renander at finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org. If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2020 intent, even if it is to remain the same.

St. John's Children's Christmas Program

Today, 10:45 a.m. Worship Service, St. John's Hall

St. John's Children's Christmas Program will be held today at the 10:45 a.m. service.

The program, "Christmas Everywhere", is performed by children in preschool-grade 5.

St. John's Forum

Today, 9:45 a.m., Sanctuary

Topic: *Daniel Rift and the ELCA Mission Fund*

St. John's is one of the leading congregations in support of mission, especially the work of ELCA World Hunger. Rev. Daniel Rift, who has worked with hunger, health, and disaster programs of the church for over 30 years, has come from the ELCA offices in Chicago to say thanks and bring good news of what is occurring in our work together. Our Gospel lesson for today includes this promise: "the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." Dan will bring stories of how these words have guided the service of the church. He will tell about ways in which these promises have become real through the efforts we support, sharing in God's work.

Christmas on Copper Street

Today, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

There's no better time for brass than the holidays! Join the Copper Street Brass, a professional brass quintet from Minneapolis, for a concert this afternoon. Their popular holiday concert celebrates the stories and sounds of the season performed with passion, humor, and virtuosity. Hear music ranging from classical to carols, childhood movies to rock and pop, and much more. Join us for a concert the whole family will love! Tickets \$25 advance/\$30 door. Kids 17 and under are free!

Announcements (continued)

Volunteers Needed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Everyone is invited to consider serving at the special services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please sign up in the Commons or online.

- Greet and Attend the Welcome Desk
- Prepare and Cleanup from Communion

Please Note: The opportunity to serve in these roles is **open to the whole congregation**. The December Hospitality group is responsible for only the Sundays in December.

Community Christmas Day Dinner Sign-Ups Continue

Sign-ups continue today in the Commons between services for contributions of food and for volunteer help in setting up on Monday, and in the kitchen and dining room on Christmas Day. Come see us and sign-up!

Poinsettia Orders

Today is the last day to order a poinsettia. If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or in celebration of Christmas, stop in the Commons between services. The flowers will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Your Year End Gifts are Needed

St. John's depends on robust December giving to make our budget. If you have not fulfilled your pledge, or if you can make an additional gift, we will receive 2019 financial offerings in the following ways:

- given online by December 27 (processing takes time to clear)
- delivered in person by noon, December 31, to the church office
- mailed and postmarked by midnight December 31

THANK YOU!

Annual Meeting Reports

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report - please turn your report in as soon as possible (the deadline is Friday, December 20) and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 26.

Mark your calendars for an Intergenerational Event: Christmas Dinner Workshop

Sunday, December 22, 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Elves of all ages are needed to decorate placemats, make table decorations, and roll napkins for our St. John's Community Christmas Day Dinner. Come join in the Christmas spirit of helping others while enjoying some carols, cookies, and camaraderie.

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

Donna James, John Ruhk

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Mary Ingbritsen, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, Betty Schuette,
Joanne Sommers, Tom Sorenson, 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, or contact a pastor.

Children and Youth Ministry

2020 Summer Youth Trips Registration due by January 15

This year we are working with CSM and Serve Boldly mission partners to plan for two mission experiences in Denver. For more information, pick up a brochure in the Commons. The signup sheet is posted in the Commons and on the bulletin board by the Youth Room. For additional information contact Emmanuel Kaghondi.

Sunday Morning Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

Sunday, 9:45-10:30 a.m., Youth Room

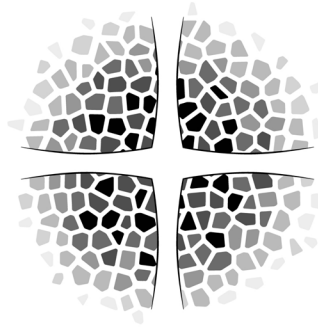
Today's Topic: *"If Jesus was God, why did he die?"*

On Sunday mornings, during the school year, all youth are invited to meet for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion! Other young adults and church members are encouraged to attend for intra and inter-generational connections.

This Week At-a-Glance

*The calendar below contains only St. John's events.
The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

Monday, Dec. 16	8:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Quilting, Fellowship Hall Manna and Mercy Mondays, Fireside Room
Tuesday, Dec. 17	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life), Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room Church Council, Undercroft
Wed., Dec. 18	3:45 p.m. 4:15 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Wednesday After School Programming (Grades K-5) Alleluia Choir (Grades K-2), Room 205 Jubilate Choir (Grades 3-5), Room 209 Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Laudate Choir (Grades 6-12), Room 205 Advent Vespers, Sanctuary St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Dec. 19	8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Quilting, Fellowship Hall Rejoice Ringers Rehearsal, Balcony
Friday, Dec. 20	8:45 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life), Fellowship Hall Tai Chi Chih, Fireside Room
Saturday, Dec. 21		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, Dec. 22	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Worship / Nursery Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall Intergenerational Event, St. John's Hall Worship / Nursery (Baptism - August Traaseth) Copper Street Brass Band, Sanctuary



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

500 Third Street West
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-4429
office@StJohnsNorthfield.org
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*
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*
Jaída Gehring / Marvin Perez, *Security and Custodial Assistants*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music, & Arts*