



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2017

10:00 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 red books at the end of the pews.
Please pass them down 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.*

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.*

Hearing assistance devices are available outside the sanctuary or from an usher.

*Large print bulletins are available for Sunday worship services.
Please ask an usher if you would like one.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover photography by John Walters.

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GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — “Noël X”

Louis-Claude Daquin

Welcome and Announcements

- P** It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—
- A** **This is true: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”** (John 3:16)
- P** It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—
- A** **This is true: “I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”** (John 10:10b)
- P** It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—
- A** **This is true: “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders, his name shall be called Wonderful Councilor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”** (Isaiah 9:6)
- P** It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—
- A** **This is true: “To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and, lo, I am with you always, even until the end of the world.”** (Matthew 18:20)
- P** It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—
- A** **This is true: “I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young shall see visions and your old shall have dreams.”** (Acts 2:17)
- P** It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—
- A** **This is true: “The hour comes, and it is now, that the worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.”** (John 4:23)
- P** So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope.
Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.
Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:
Jesus Christ—the life of the world.
- A** **Amen.**

Stanzas 1-3

***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.

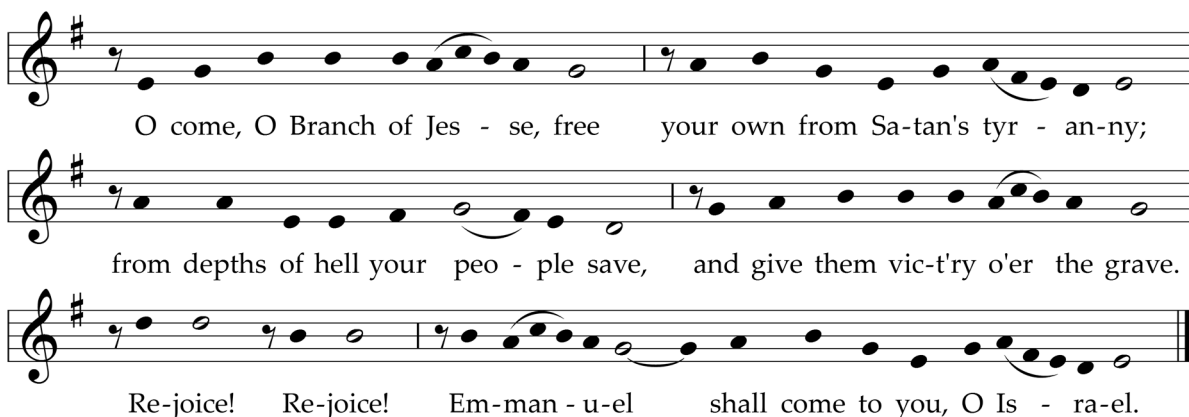
***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

L Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
In your Son, Emmanuel,
you have shown us your light
and saved us from the power of sin.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Increase our longing for your presence,
that at the celebration of your Son's birth
his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,
for he is our light and our salvation.

G Amen.

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

VENI, EMMANUEL



O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa-tan's tyr - an-ny;
from depths of hell your peo - ple save, and give them vic-t'ry o'er the grave.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u-el shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

***Prayer of the Day**

☐ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you light and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Poem — “Magnificat”

Fernando Pessoa, Portugal

*When will this inner night - the universe - end
And I - my soul - have my day?
When will I wake up from being awake?
I don't know. The sun shines on high
And cannot be looked at.
The stars coldly blink
And cannot be counted.
The heart beat aloofly
And cannot be heard.
When will the drama without theater
- Or this theater without drama - end
So that I can go home?
Where? How? When?
O cat staring at me with eyes of life, Who lurks in your depths?
It's Him! It's him!
Like Joshua he'll order the sun to stop, and I'll wake up,
And it will be day.
Smile, my soul, in your slumber! Smile, my soul: it will be day!*

Translation: Richard Zenith, 2006

Hymn — No. 243

“Lost in the Night”

Stanzas 1 and 3

First Lesson — Luke 1: 26-38

Pew Bible, page 831

After the reading:

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Poem — “Anunciation”

Marie Howe

Anthem — “A New Magnificat”

Carolyn Jennings

Hannah: My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in the Lord.
My mouth derides my enemies;
I rejoice in God’s salvation.

Mary: My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior,
who looks upon a lowly handmaid with favor.
All generations shall call me blessed.

Refrain — All singing



Hannah: There is none holy like the Lord;
there is no rock like our God.
Let not your mouth be arrogant,
for the Lord is a God of all knowledge.

Mary: For God who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is God’s name.
And God’s mercy is giv’n to God’s people
from generation to generation.

Refrain — All singing

Hannah: The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble put on strength.
Those who were full are hungry,
and those who were hungry are filled.

Mary: Strong is the arm of the Lord,
who has scattered the proud in their hearts;
God has put down the mighty
and lifted those of low degree.

Hannah: The Lord kills and brings to life;
God brings low and also exalts.
God lifts up the poor from the dust
to sit with rulers and inherit a seat of honor

Mary: Strong in the arm of the Lord,
who has scattered the proud in their hearts.
God has filled the hungry,
and the rich have been sent empty away.

Refrain — All singing

Hannah: God will guard the faithful flock,
and human might shall not prevail.
The Lord will judge the earth;
and will exalt the pow’r of God’s anointed

Mary: For the Lord has helped the servant Israel
in remembrance of God’s love and mercy,

Refrain — All singing

Hannah: Alleluia!

Mary: Alleluia!

Choir: Amen.

Second Lesson — Luke 1:39-45

Pew Bible, page 831

After the reading:

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn — No. 251

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

Stanzas 1 and 2

Poem — “Descending Theology: Nativity”

Mary Karr

Third Lesson — Titus 3:4-7

Pew Bible, page 969

After the reading:

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Reading — Excerpt from a story by Brian Doyle

Hymn — No. 251

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

Stanza 3

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***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:

“We Do Not Know”

Words and Music, John Bell
arr., Tony Alonso

*Offering Prayer

- L** Let us pray.
- All** Savior of the nations, come.
Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love,
that our faith shines 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:



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!

*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.

*All God's children are welcome at the table. This morning we commune by means of **intinction** (dipping the wafer into the chalice). You will be given a wafer and offered a choice of two chalices. The **wine** is red; the **grape juice** is white. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the center, and there is a chalice of grape juice in the center for the gluten-free wafers only. If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to you.*

Music during Communion

"Lamb of God"



The musical notation for "Lamb of God" is presented in three parts, each on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes.

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. 263

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

*Post Communion Litany and Benediction

P God for whom we wait:

A **Make us ready.**

P To see you at every hungry table,

A **Make us ready.**

P To receive you joyfully into our hearts and lives,

A **Make us ready.**

P May Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you
and lighten your path. Now, and forever.

A **Amen.**

*Sending Hymn — No. 723

“Canticle of the Turning”

Verse 1 and Refrain

*Dismissal

L Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

A **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude — “Grand Chœur” (Sortie pour Noël)

César Franck



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis and Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	Chuck Hellie
Advent Wreath Lighters	Jenn Welbaum
Organists	Andy Jacob, Church Music Intern and Nathan Proctor
Choir	St. John's Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director
Soloists	Ruth Legvold and Kristin Partlo
Communion Service	Anita Hellie
Greeters / Welcome Desk	Shirley Keltto, Elden and Solveig Zempel
Nursery	Amy and Cora McBroom
Counters	Merilyn Calcutt, Brent Mueller, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	Shelley DeBernardi, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, John McBroom



Photograph by John Walters

WELCOME STATEMENT

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.*

Christmas Worship & Events at St. John's

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Vespers at 3:00 p.m. (Especially for Children and Families)

Christmas Vespers at 5:00 p.m. (Service Broadcast on KYMN 1080AM)

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

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25

Christmas Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. (Service Broadcast on KYMN 1080AM)

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

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

(Please note there is only one worship service this day.)

(Service Broadcast on KYMN 1080AM)

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Tony Becker and Rebecca Judge. 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. Dates available: January 28 and February 4, 11, 18 & 25. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television – cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Dinner for All!

Dinner will be served tomorrow, December 25, beginning at 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time in helping with this important community event. Merry Christmas!

The Church building will be closed on Tuesday, December 26.

Next week church office hours will be limited.

There will be one worship service on Sunday, December 31, at 10:00 a.m.

The Church Building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 29, and will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018.

Women of St. John's Annual Christmas & Carols Luncheon

Thursday, January 4, 11:30 a.m., King's Room at St. Olaf

Delightful music and delicious food are always the fare at our annual Christmas luncheon. Reserve your place by signing up at the St. John's Women bulletin board in the Commons. Cost is \$15.

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 14. This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music. A reception in honor of the choir will be held between services in St. John's Hall.

Our financial contributions are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2017 can be submitted online until midnight December 31, postmarked by 12/30 by mail, or dropped off in person through noon on January 5. Thank you!!

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More

If anyone would like Fair Trade Coffee or Thistle Farms products prior to January 7, 2018, please contact Dawn Tommerdahl at dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com.

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 celebrating the baptism of

Quinn Michael Traaseth, son of Stephanie and Nathaniel Traaseth

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Edward Lindell

Family of Diane Roth (Stepmother of Mike Roth)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Fred Gonnerman, Elvin Heiberg, Mary Ingbritsen, Elaine Kringen, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, Margaret O'Leary, Bette Quinnell, Joanne Sommers, Dick Werdahl, Laila Burns Hedstrom, Earl Hoffbeck, Timothy Johnson, George Schneider, Carol Stubbs, Paul Wolff

All who are homebound, including

Bob Noreen, Elouise Quinnell, Elizabeth Trangsrud

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; Randy and Carol Stubbs & Family,

ELCA missionaries in Tanzania; Curtis and Katie Kline, ELCA missionaries in Colombia

Members of St. John's studying at seminary, including

Henry Burt, Hayden Kvamme

Refugees from Ethiopia being sponsored by St. John's

Paul, Ariat, and their family

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call Joan Halvorson at 507-645-8445 or 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 31):

First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 + Psalm 148 + Galatians 4:4-7 + Luke 2:22-40

This Week At-a-Glance

Monday, Dec. 25 10:00 a.m. Worship - Festive Christmas Eucharist, Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. Community Christmas Dinner (served until 1:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, Dec. 26 *Church Office and Building Closed*

Wed., Dec. 27 No Scheduled Activities

Thursday, Dec. 28 6:00 p.m. Rejoice Ringers, Balcony

Friday, Dec. 29 No Scheduled Activities

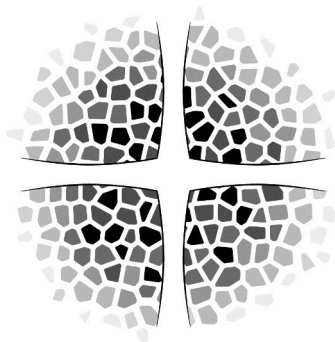
Saturday, Dec. 30 No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed

Sunday, Dec. 31 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

Monday, Jan. 1 *New Year's Day - Church Office and Building Closed*

(For Christmas Worship and Events, please see page 12)

 The logo features the text "Wednesday Night" in a large, black, handwritten-style font at the top. Below it, the word "MEALS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within a circular graphic that resembles a plate. To the left of the plate is a black silhouette of a fork, and to the right is a black silhouette of a knife and a spoon.	<p>Served from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall</p> <p>No Meal on December 27 Meals will resume on January 3, 2018</p> <p>All are welcome!</p>
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St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

500 Third Street West

Northfield, MN 55057

507-645-4429

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher and Jonathan Davis, *Pastors*

Carol Benson, *Director of Alleluia and Jubilate Choirs*

Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*

Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager*

Angie Gehring / Rebekah Thomas, *Youth Support Staff*

Christy Hall-Holt / Mary Kelvie, *Shared Ministry Coordinators*

Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

Marvin Perez, *Security and Custodial Assistant*

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

Bernie Renander, *Financial Manager*

Melissa Berthelsen, *Parish Nurse*

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