

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD + CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2023 † 5:00 P.M.



Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this evening.

*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.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD — CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2023 † 5:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — *Music for a Holy Night:*

“All My Heart this Night Rejoices”	Roberta Rowland-Raybold
“Silent Night”	David Schelat
“Lullaby on Christmas Eve”	F. Melius Christiansen, arr. G. Winston Cassler
“Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies”	Marilyn Biery
“On Christmas Night”	Noel Rawsthorne

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 283 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Stanzas 1, 2 & 3

*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

- ☐ Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ☑ **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

☐ Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

☑ Amen.

Response Hymn — “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

JEG ER SÅ GLAD

I am so glad each Christ - mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
And so I love each Christ - mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;

Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, tr. Peter Sveeggen © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House; Music: Peder Knudsen

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Anthem — “Lift Up Your Heads”

arr. Olaf C. Christiansen

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates. Behold the King of glory waits! The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here. O blest the land, the city blest. Where Christ the ruler is confessed! O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes! Fling wide the portals of your heart, make it a temple set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy. Redeemer, come! With us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide. Let us thy inner presence feel, thy grace and love in us reveal. O King of glory, come! — Georg Weissel

St. John's Chorale

Second Reading — Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

***Gospel Acclamation** — “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *stanza 3*

ST. LOUIS

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

***Gospel Reading** — Luke 2:1-20

Spark Story Bible, page 212

Before the reading:

- Ⓔ The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.
- ☛ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

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

Homily

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 274

“On Christmas Night”

*Prayers of the People

After each petition:

- Ⓐ On this holy night,
- Ⓒ hear our prayer.

*Peace

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

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

Offering our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“O Yule, Full of Gladness”

Norwegian carol, arr. Carolyn Jennings

*O Yule, full of gladness and cheer and delight, we welcome you now with our singing.
Our hearts open wide to the brilliance of light from heaven to earth you are bringing.
We merrily clap and sing, a happy welcome bring, so glad are we, so glad are we, for joy
and love are born now at Christmas! Clap and sing, welcome bring! With shepherds and
wisemen your star we behold, its brightness over Bethlehem beaming. And we too would
follow, as prophets foretold, where light everlasting is streaming. Now join hand in
hand, and together we'll welcome the Yule, and pledge love and faith to each other,
for we all are bound by the love that we share; rejoice, every sister and brother!*

*Offering Hymn — “Of the Father's Love Begotten” stanza 2 DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

M **God with us:** you came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.




P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

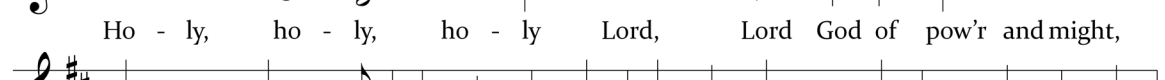


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

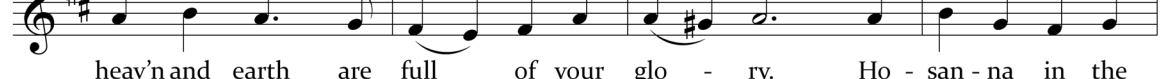
P It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



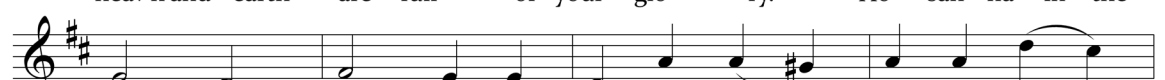
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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.

*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.***

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.

Anthem — "What Child"

Paul Lohman

For anthem text, please see ELW No. 296.

Hymn — ELW No. 289

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Hymn — ELW No. 276

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

☒ Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

☒ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Sharing the Light of Christ

As the light comes to you, please dip your unlit candle towards the flame.

*Carol — “Night of Silence” and “Silent Night”

Daniel Kantor
arr. John Ferguson

Choir: Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night, frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise, fire of hope is our only warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light, gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing, breathless love awaits darkened souls, soon will we know of the morning.

All singing:

Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight;
round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten-der and
glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav'n-ly hosts . . sing, al - le - lu -
mild, sleep in heav-en-ly peace, sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Text: Joseph Mohr, tr. John Young; Music: Franz Gruber

*Prayer for Peace

P Let us pray.

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace.

Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

*Blessing

Response:

C Amen.

*As the lights come up, please carefully extinguish your candle.
At the conclusion of the service, please leave your candle
in baskets outside the sanctuary.*

*Hymn — “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain
be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text and Music: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr.

*Dismissal

☒ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God!**

*Postlude — “Joy to the World”

Kristina Langlois



SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S THIS EVENING:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor
Assisting Ministers	Bash/Goodrich Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor, Director of Worship, Music & Arts
Choir	St. John’s Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director
Piano	Jane Turpin Moore
Flute	Ruth Bretheim Aaseng and Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Communion Service	Angie Gehring, Kristin Partlo
Greeters	Judy Karlson
Ushers	Angie Gehring, Doug Johnson, Gordon Moore

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art: *Nativity* © 2008 John August Swanson (1938–2021) | Eyekons

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Liturgy setting: Setting Four by Ronald A. Nelson; Festival Setting by John Ferguson.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon's Radio Broadcast is given by Marie Benson and family in memory of Duane Benson and Pastor Paul Wolff. 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 645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Available Dates: January 21 & 28.

The Church Office and Building will be closed Tuesday, December 26.

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

The Church Office and Building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 29, and will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024.

Our financial contributions are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2023 can be received in the following ways:

- given online by December 27 (processing takes time to clear)
- delivered in person by noon, December 29, to the church office
- mailed and postmarked by midnight, December 30

Thank you!



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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

(Please note there is only one worship service.)

**JOIN US TOMORROW, DECEMBER 25:
CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**

10:00 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR ALL

Join us for a free Christmas dinner in St. John's Hall.
Served from 11:15 a.m.–1:30 p.m.



**Christmas Day Dinner
Sunday, December 25
11:15 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.**

Christmas Poinsettias 2023

Given in Memory of:

Carroll & Oscar Palrud by John Bremer

Mary Beth Bremer by John Bremer

Jon Rondestvedt by Jeanette Rondestvedt

Duane Benson and Pastor Paul Wolff by Marie Benson and Family

Dale Gehring by Angie Gehring

Beloved Parents and Spouses by Jon & Alison Kavanaugh

Merle & Idella Clauson by Cindy Clauson

Michael Clauson by Cindy Clauson

Marlene Engstrom by Duane Engstrom

Sawyer Grant Garlie by Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie

Ed Lindell by Herb & Pat Fick

Our Parents: Leonard & Marie DeWolfe and Orwin & Doris Marks by Alan & Lynette Marks

Leonard Anderson by Phil & Barb Eaves

Our Parents: Don & Lorene Hastings and Wayne & Ila Mae Christensen by Rod & Deb Christensen

Tim Twito and Michelle Garrity by Rod & Deb Christensen

Fred J. Gaggioli Jr. by Pam Groves-Gaggioli

Carl & Marie Johnson and Russell & Florence Turnacliiff by Doug Johnson

Doris Ellingboe (Karen's Mother) by Dale & Karen Schuette

Gerald Elg and Tina Elg by Lorene Elg

Lawrence Martin Carlson and Ron Hebensperger Sr. by Andi Carlson and Ron Hebensperger

Marlene Engstrom by Chris Engstrom & Irv Fosaaen

Our Parents by Dave & Ruth Legvold

Charles Jacobson by Marilyn Jacobson

Bob Matta by his Family

Jim Johnson by Beverly Johnson

Tom Fjelde by Sonja, Kristin & Grandchildren

Ruth Hansen by her Family

Christmas Poinsettias 2023

Given in Honor of:

The Grandparents in Our Lives by Dave & Cheryl Buck

Bill Carlson's 85th Birthday by Char Carlson & Family

St. John's Chancel Guild by Herb & Pat Fick

Our Family by Dave & Ruth Legvold

St. John's Chancel Guild by Dennis & Jane Rinehart

Given in Celebration of Christmas:

Dave & Debby Becker

Rick Hillard

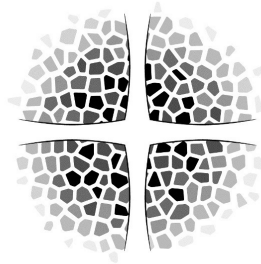
Thank you to all who have given these plants which bring God's beauty into our worship space. Plants may be taken home after worship on Sunday, December 25.



The blessings of God, who has come to be with us, be with you all at this season and throughout the new year.

Thank you for the joy and privilege of sharing the ministry of Christ with you, and for all your support and kindness!

—The Pastors and Staff of St. John's



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD MN

500 Third Street West
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-4429

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenschner, *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.

*St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the
ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation.
We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.*