



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023 † 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 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 — “Savior of the Nations, Come”

Jacob Weber

- I. Fanfare
- II. Bicinium
- III. Ornamentation
- IV. Trio
- V. Fugue

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 257

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Stanzas 1-4

***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.
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 live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

☐ 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.

☐ Amen.

Response Hymn — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *stanza 6*

VENI, EMMANUEL

O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer; O Sun of jus-tice, now draw near.
Dis-perse the gloom-y clouds of night, and death's dark shad-ow put to flight.
Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u-el shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

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

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut

off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evil-doers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

Hymn of Praise — ELW No. 251

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

This hymn is based on Mary’s Magnificat from Luke 1:46b-55.

Second Reading — Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

***Gospel Acclamation** — “Wait for the Lord”

WAIT FOR THE LORD

The image shows a musical score for the Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

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

Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications

📖 The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

🎤 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎤 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Kristin Partlo

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 263

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Stanzas 1 & 2 — all singing

Stanza 3 — treble voices

Stanza 4 — bass voices

Stanzas 5 & 6 — all singing

*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:

- Ⓔ 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

"Canticle of the Turning"

Anne Krentz Organ

*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.**

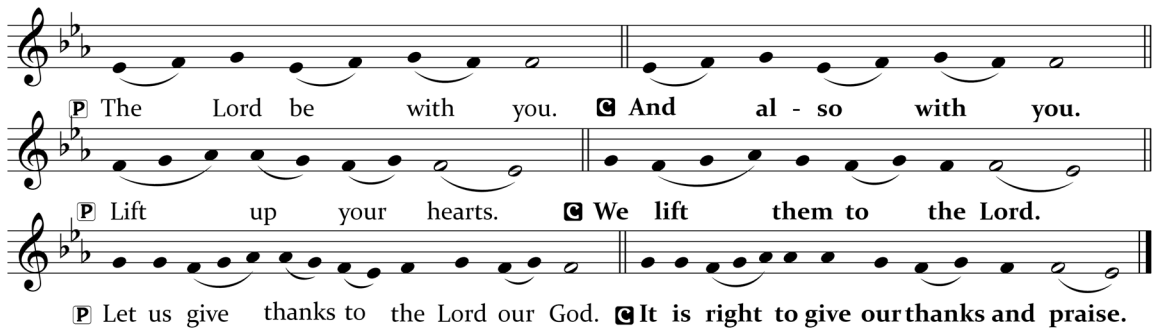
*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

C **Savior of the nations, come, and make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love, that our faith shines ever new
and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

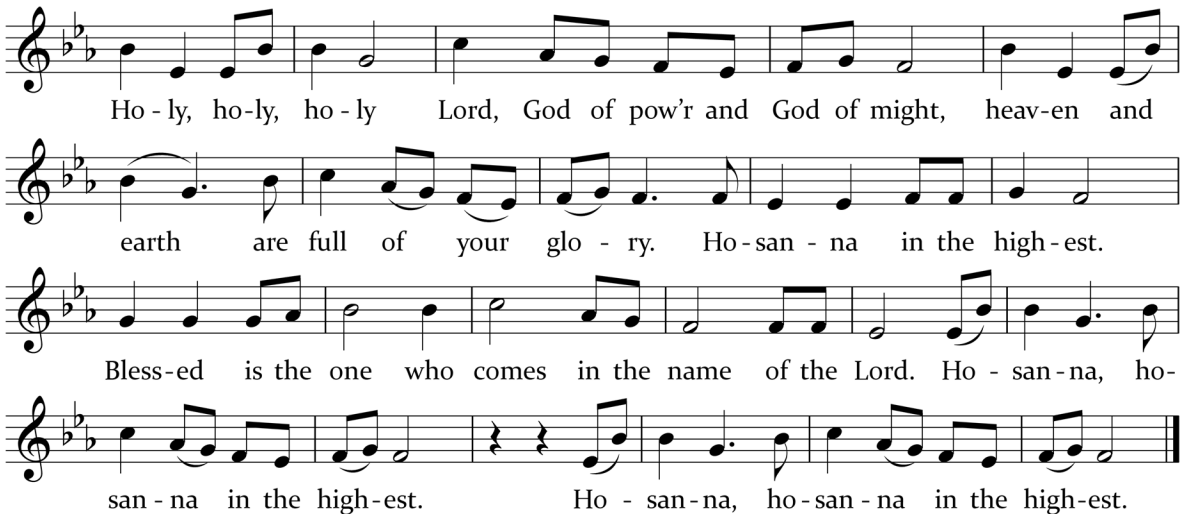
SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving



P The Lord be with you. **C** And 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, God of pow'r and God of might, heav-en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, 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.**

*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.

Hymn — ELW No. 265

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

*Post-Communion Blessing

***Prayer after Communion**

- ℒ Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- ☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

- ☞ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 239

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — “Fanfare”

Michael Helman



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Kristin Partlo
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Gordon Moore
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Communion Prep	TBD
Communion Cleanup	TBD
Greeters	TBD
Ushers	Rob Quanbeck, Dawn Tommerdahl, Mark Rydberg, Eric Sponheim

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover image by Mark Ulmer, Black Beach (near Silver Bay) on Lake Superior, 2021.

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JOIN US FOR

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Dec. 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent	10:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Vespers:	3:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight:	5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day:	10:00 a.m.
December 31:	10:00 a.m.

Livestream at
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org
or on KYMN 1080AM/95.1FM



Announcements

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

Today'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 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Available Dates: January 21 & 28.

Christmas Dinner for All—Tomorrow!

Dinner will be served tomorrow, December 25, beginning at 11:15 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.

Church office hours will be limited next week.

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, 2024.

St. John's Women Annual Holiday Luncheon and Carols

Saturday, January 6, 2024, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Ruth's On Stafford

Please join us for a time of fellowship, delicious food with a Norwegian theme to honor the heritage of our church, and festive holiday music presented by Carol Benson and others! All women of St. John's are invited! Cost is \$25 paid in advance. Watch for a registration table between services in December, or mail/bring a check to the church office, or you may email your reservation to womenstjohns500@gmail.com, and pay with PayPal—www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/women.

Year-End Giving

Year-end giving typically provides an outsize portion of St. John's annual budget. If you have not yet been able to contribute in 2023 and can at this time, your gifts to our operating funds will be much appreciated! Mailed checks need to be postmarked by December 30. Online gifts can be given by December 27 at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

The Northfield ELCA congregations are considering a coordinated visit to Holden Village in early August of 2024. Households must still register individually, but a coordinated visit gives us opportunities to share travel plans and wisdom in planning a Holden journey. If you are interested, contact Pastor Pam and explore Holden's website at holdenvillage.org. Registration for summer 2024 will open in January.

Announcements (continued)

Stewardship 2024 Appeal

Thanks to those who have returned their 2024 pledge card. We still need to hear from more of you in the next few weeks in order for leadership to craft a budget. You can scan the QR Code on the right, [complete the online pledge form](#) on our website, return a card to the church office or in the offering plate, or email your intent to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. 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.



The Solar Panel Project approved by the congregation in August 2023 has been fast-tracked!

We expect installation in spring of 2024. If you would like to donate in 2023 to this capital appeal, please mark your donation “capital projects” or “solar panels.” Online donations need to be made by December 27 in order to be credited in the 2023 tax year.

The Adult Ministry & Education Board encourages you to save the evening of Tuesday, January 9, to hear Amy Jill Levine’s 2024 Fretheim Lecture at Luther Seminary.

Amy Jill Levine is the author of the books we are reading for the Advent and Lenten Book reads (*Light of the World; The Misunderstood Jew*). We will organize carpooling for those who want to attend in person, and live-streaming at St. John’s who prefer this option. Send an email to rob.quanbeck@gmail.com if you are interested in either option. More details to come!

Mindful Walk

Saturday, December 30, 10:30–11:5 a.m., St. Olaf Natural Lands

During this busy season, you are invited to spend a little time slowing down in the natural environment. Join us on a mindful walk at St. Olaf Natural Lands. Please dress warmly and with comfortable shoes to walk about one mile. Please let Debra Ehret Miller know if you plan to attend so she can confirm and share the meet-up point. Debra.ehret@gmail.com or 507-213-7866.

Children and Youth

Christmas and New Year’s Break

No Wednesday Programming on December 27 and January 3, or Sunday School and Sunday Youth Gathering on December 24 & 31.

Contact information for Children and Youth

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children’s Ministry at childrens@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Kristin Partlo, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

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, Wendy Scholz, Jean Wakely, Gail Nemy (mother of Lori Skoglund), George Schneider (father of Betsy Gasior)

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Rose Youngquist

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

Lois Pearson, Janice Helgeson, Carol Johnson

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.

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

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

Monday, Dec. 25	10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Worship ~ Festive Christmas Eucharist, Sanctuary Christmas Day Dinner, St. John's Hall
Tuesday, Dec. 26		<i>Church Office and Building Closed</i>
Wednesday, Dec. 27		No Scheduled Activities
Thursday, Dec. 28	7:45 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Book Buddies, St. John's Library
Friday, Dec. 29	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Dec. 30		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Dec. 31	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
Monday, Jan. 1		<i>Church Office and Building Closed</i>

Wednesday Night

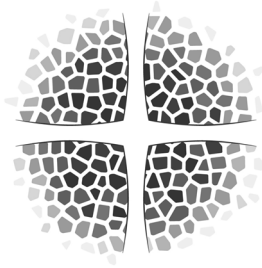


**Served from 5:15–6:15 p.m.
in St. John's Hall**

Wednesday Night Meals Take a Break
Meals Resume January 10

All are welcome!

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



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*
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.*