

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD + CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2023 † 10:00 A.M.



Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We 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.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD — CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2023 † 10:00 A.M.
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — *Three Carols for Clarinet and Organ*

Michael Burkhardt

I. "Oh, Come, Little Children"

II. "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

III. "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Jo Ann Polley, clarinet

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 270

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

***Litany and Greeting**

P In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,

C **and the Word was God.**

P The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,

C **the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.**

P The grace, truth, and light of Christ be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

***Hymn of Praise** — ELW No. 279

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Stanzas 1 & 2

***Prayer of the Day**

☐ Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Psalmody — Psalm 98

Hymn — ELW No. 267

“Joy to the World”

Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *stanza 4*

ADESTE FIDELES

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

***Gospel** — John 1:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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 — ELW No. 292

“Love Has Come”

*The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 Christ's peace with those around you.

Offering our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“Ding Dong! Past Three O’Clock”

English carols, arr. Evelyn Larter

*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.

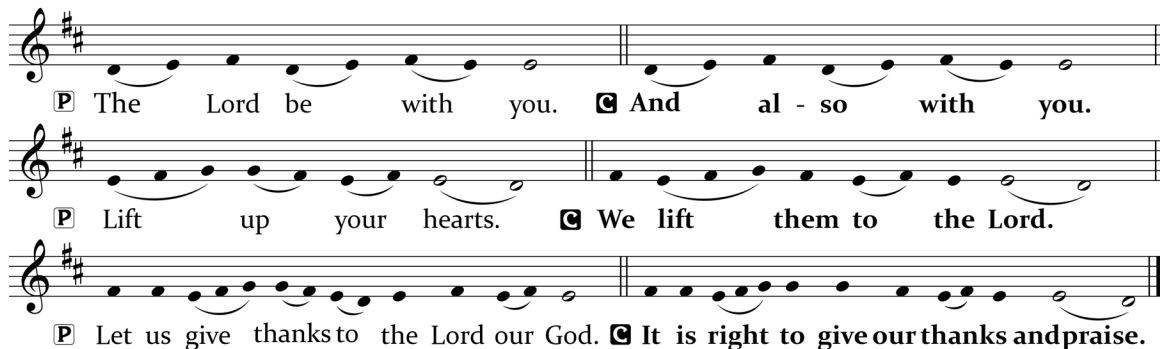
*Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray.

☑ 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

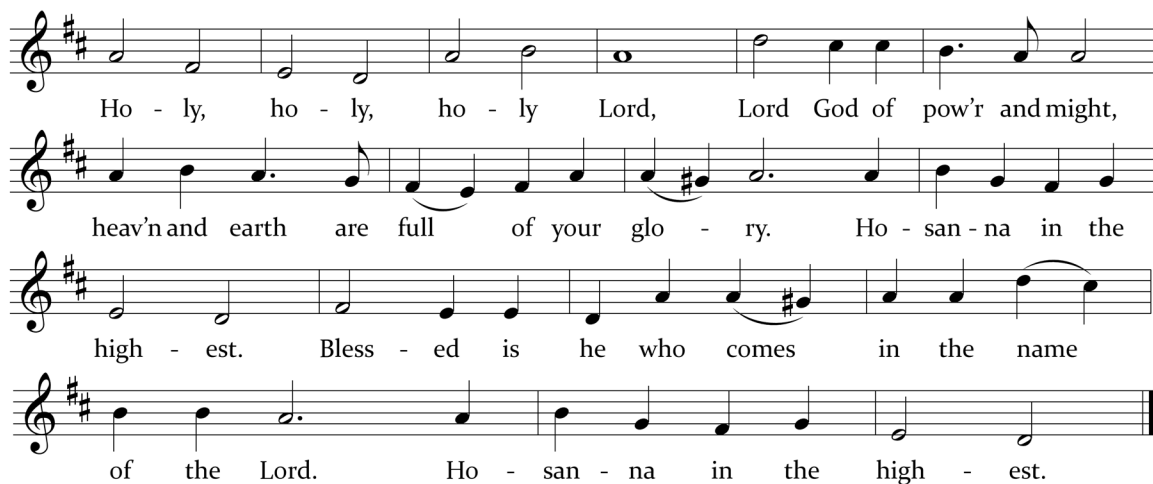


☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ☑ 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.

*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.**

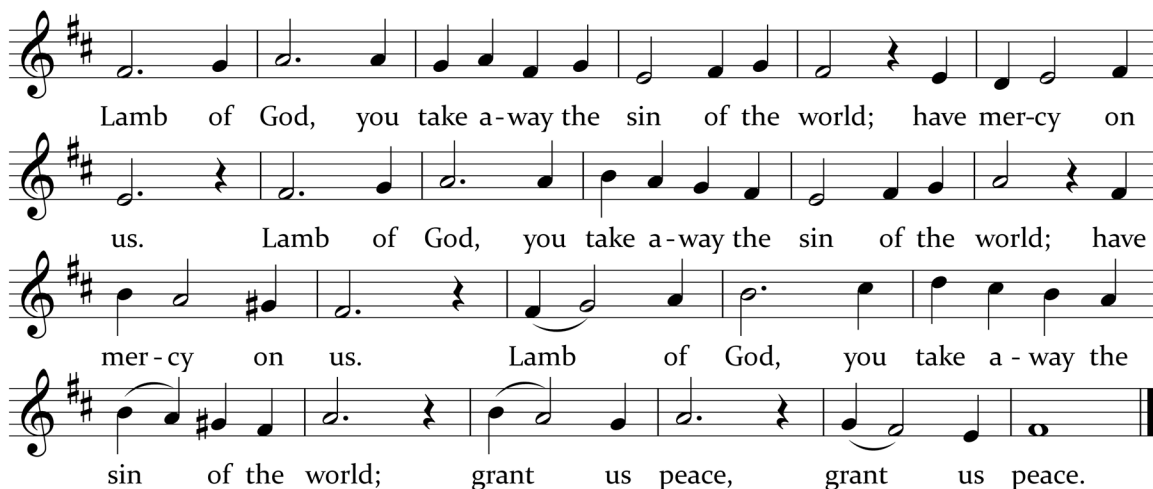
*The Lord's Prayer

**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 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.

Solo — "Still, Still, Still"

Austrian carol, arr. Evelyn Larter

Hymn — ELW No. 282

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

- L 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.
- C Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:

C Amen.

*Sending Hymn — ELW No. 288

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*Dismissal

L Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God!

*Postlude — on IN DULCI JUBILO

Eleanor Whitsett



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY

Preaching

Pastor Jonathan Davis

Presiding

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

Assisting Ministers

Schroeer/Fickenscher Family

Organ

Nathan Proctor

Clarinet

Jo Ann Polley

Communion Service

Jill Enestvedt

Greeters

Jim Ellickson, Judy Karlson

Ushers

*Ellen Ellickson, Rick Hillard,
Leif Knecht, John Ophaug*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Elizabeth and Doug Trangsrud by Julian Trangsrud. 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 Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Available Dates: January 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.

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

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

There will be one worship service next 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 Tuesday, 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 St. John's Hall.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

(Please note there is only one worship service that morning.)



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

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 Turnacliff 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
this morning.**



St. John's

ELCA · NORTHFIELD · MN

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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.*