

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD † CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2025 † 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, 2025 † 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

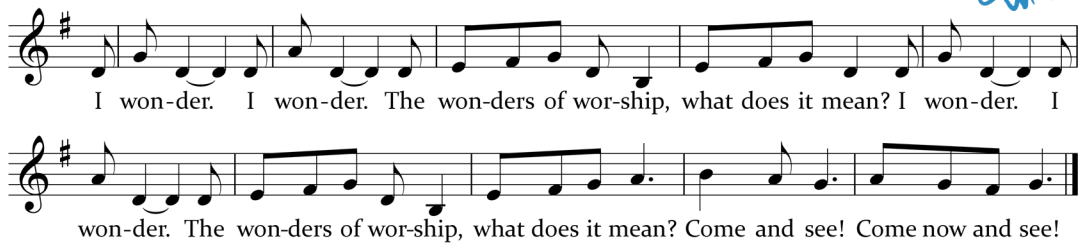
*Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C Amen.

Children's Message

"Wonders of Worship"



Text and Music: Anne Krentz Organ



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.

L The word of the Lord.

C 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

Spark Story Bible, page 240

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. 273

“All My Heart Again Rejoices”

***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.

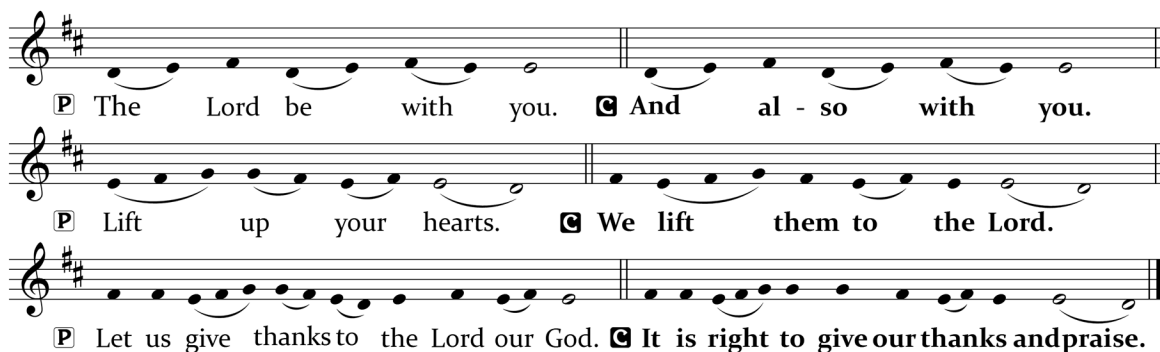
*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

A 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

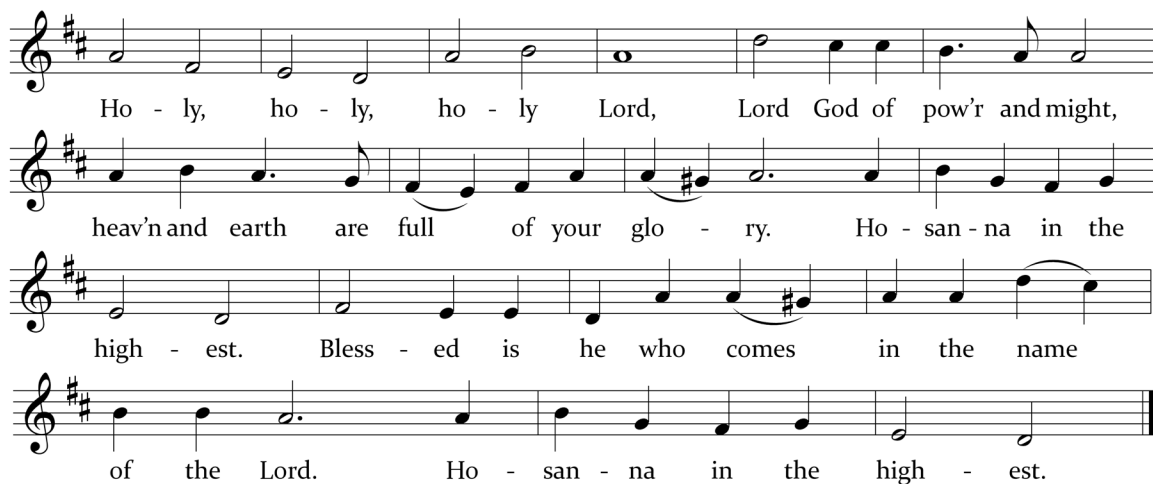


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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:



*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 — "The Wexford Carol"

Irish 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.
- ☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

☞ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 288

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

***Dismissal**

- ℒ Go in peace. Christ is with you.
- ☞ 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 Minister

Rosie Cook

Organists

Nathan Proctor

David Sims

Clarinet

Jo Ann Polley

Communion Service

Angie Gehring, Craig Schultz

Greeters

Rod & Deb Christensen

Pam Groves-Gaggioli

Ushers

Rick Hillard, Leif Knecht,

Mark Polzin, Rob Nutt

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 Ruth Legvold's father, Gustav Odegaard on the anniversary of his birthday. 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: December 28 and February 1, 8, 15 & 29.

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 Friday, December 26.

There will be one worship service next Sunday, December 28, at 10:00 a.m.

The Church Office and Building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31, and will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026.

Our financial contributions are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2025 can be received in the following ways:

- given online by Friday, December 26 (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!



We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on **Sunday, January 18**. 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 28

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

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

THANK YOU!

St. John's staff wishes to thank everyone who makes this Advent and Christmas season special, beautiful, meaningful, and welcoming to all:

- To Leif and Debra Knecht for the donation of the Christmas tree
- To Deb Christensen and all the members of St. John's Chancel Guild for their work displaying our paraments and hanging the greens
- To Scott Swanson for hanging our largest banners
- To Pat and Herb Fick for our Christmas Eve candle display
- To our Advent Fair planners, especially Jill Enestvedt and Katherine Norrie
- To our Advent Fair meal provider Peggy Dell, who shopped for and prepared the food, and to the Wednesday Meal Team who prepped, served, and cleaned up the meal
- To Marilyn Jacobson for the Thrivent Community Impact gift card to help with the meal cost
- To the Children's Christmas program volunteers: Sue Brockman and Kristy Harms
- To all the members of the St. John's Chorale, Rejoice Ringers, Alleluia Choir, and Jubilate Choir, and many others who provided special music
- To Dave Zdenek, Mark Gleason, Jon Kavanaugh, and members of the A/V team for their work livestreaming our Advent and Christmas services to those who cannot be with us physically
- To Rhonda Reece and Julie Zdenek for providing music during the Christmas Dinner
- To the Christmas Dinner Team leads: Jean Wakely, Jane Rinehart, and Kirsten Gunn, and to all of the many dinner volunteers and food donators who make this community meal possible

Christmas Poinsettias 2025

Given in Memory of:

John Ferguson by Nathan Proctor

David Garlie Sr. and Sawyer Garlie by Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie

Matt Sackmaster by Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie

Dennis & Carol Ziemba (Amanda's parents) by Mason, Amanda, August & Isaac Randall

Carroll & Oscar Palrud by their family

Mary Beth Bremer by her family

Scott Quinnell, Milo & Elouise Quinnell by Sandy Bouiliez

Larry Carlson and Ron Hebensperger Sr. by Andi Carlson & Ron Hebensperger

Marlene Engstrom by Chris Engstrom & Irv Fosaaen

Fred J. Gaggioli Jr. by Pamela Goves-Gaggioli

Bob Quanbeck and Joyce & Dewey Tommerdahl by Rob Quanbeck & Dawn Tommerdahl

Jon Nicholson by the Nicholson Family

Muckey Family by Pete and Charleen Volkert

My parents, George & Harriet LaPier, and sister Karen Uphoff by Gerri Licke

Art, Polly, and Patrice Nordstrand by Gerri Licke

Richard & Carol Schaefer by Emily Westerback

Andrew Westerback by Emily Westerback

David Larson (Marcia's brother) by Ralph & Marcia Yernberg

Cora Koester by Gracie & Justin Koester

Tom & Marj Fjelde by Kristin Kasten

Joan Halvorson by Dave & Cheryl Buck

Steve Edwins by Jennifer Edwins

Dr. R. Harold Terry by Glenn Terry

Barbara Terry by Glenn Terry

Renard & Mary Cassar by Glenn Terry

Ed Lindell by Herb & Pat Fick

James T. Johnson by Bev Johnson

Our dear departed loved ones by Gordon & Jane Moore

Christmas Poinsettias 2025

Given in Honor of:

Our Family by Bill & Char Carlson

Kai and Junia by Dennis & Jane Rinehart

Bill & Char Carlson by Andi Carlson & Ron Hebensperger

Maggie Gaggioli-Prichard by Pamela Groves-Gaggioli

Lydia Quanbeck & Dagfinn Moe by Rob Quanbeck & Dawn Tommerdahl

Our Children and Grandchildren by Steve & Rhonda Reece

The Grands—Herb & Pat Fick, Frank & Karen Brust, Jon & Grace Buck by Dave & Cheryl Buck

Our Children by Zack & Jenny Pelletier

Given in Celebration of Christmas:

Phil & Barbara Eaves

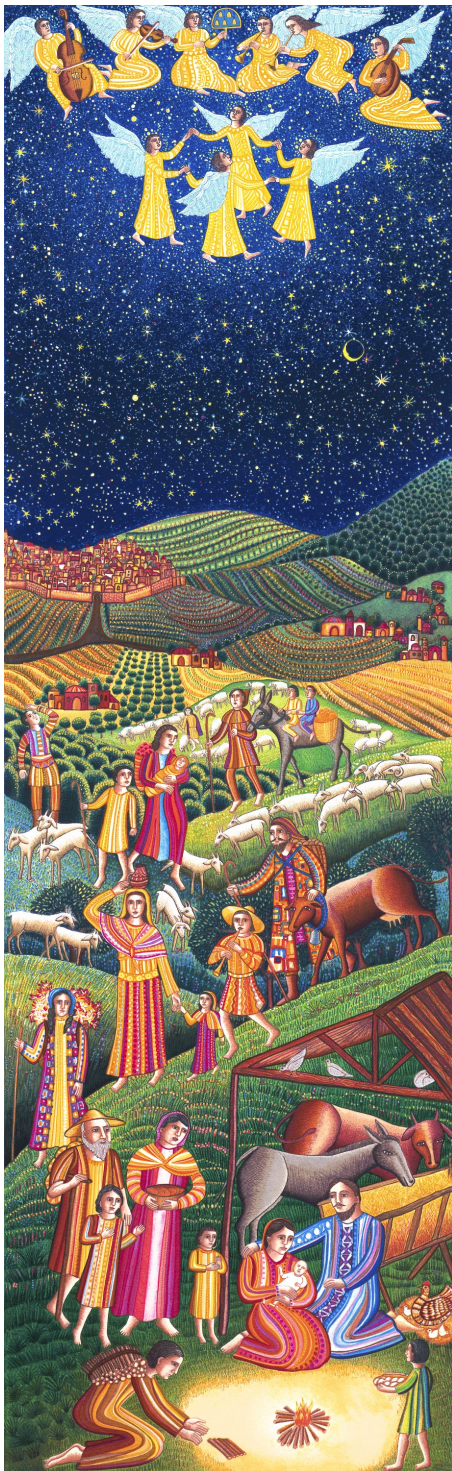
Doug Johnson

Ruth Smestad Anglin & Ronnie Anglin

Marty, Katherine & Valerie McGuire

Bev Johnson

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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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

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, Faith Community 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*

Arturo Rosas, Custodial Associate

David Sims, Director of Rejoice Ringers

*St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the
 ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the
 Dakota nation.*