



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 28, 2025 † 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 — “Variations on The Holly and the Ivy”

David Sims

- I. Theme
- II. “A blossom, as white as the lily flower”
- III. “A berry, as red as any blood”
- IV. “A bark, as bitter as any gall”
- V. “Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day”
- VI. “The playing of the merry organ”

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 269

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Stanza 1 — soloist

Stanzas 2-4 — all

***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. 289

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Prayer of the Day

P O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 63:7-9

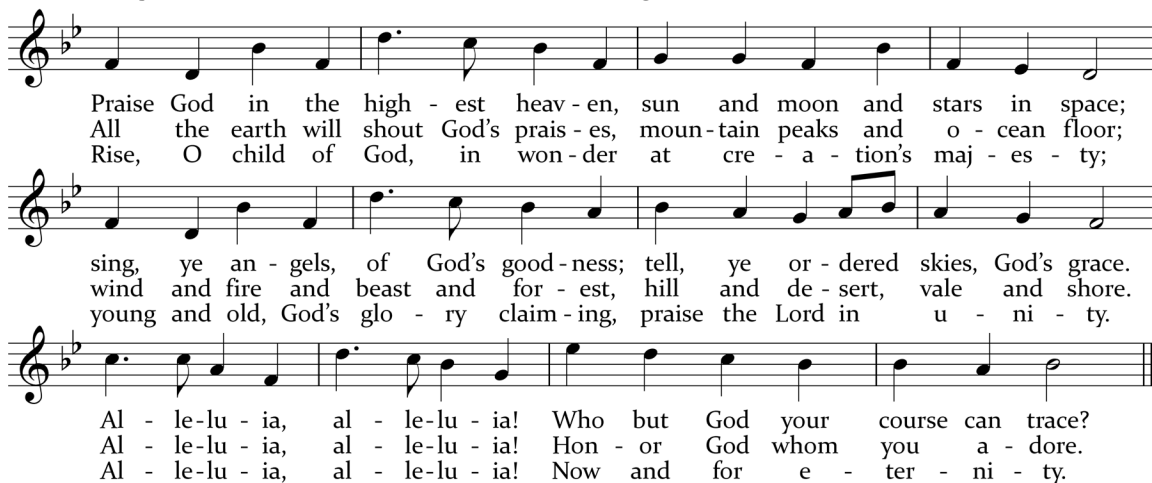
⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 148, "Praise God in the Highest Heaven"

REGENT SQUARE



Praise God in the high - est heav - en, sun and moon and stars in space;
All the earth will shout God's prais - es, moun - tain peaks and o - cean floor;
Rise, O child of God, in won - der at cre - a - tion's maj - es - ty;
sing, ye an - gels, of God's good - ness; tell, ye or - dered skies, God's grace.
wind and fire and beast and for - est, hill and de - sert, vale and shore.
young and old, God's glo - ry claim - ing, praise the Lord in u - ni - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Who but God your course can trace?
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hon - or God whom you a - dore.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Now and for e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Psalm 148, paraphrase Michael Morgan © 1999 MM, admin. Witherspoon Press

Second Reading — Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.” ¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 2:13-23

Spark Story Bible, page 224

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or

under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Katie Fick

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 282

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

***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 God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering

“Coventry Carol”

Traditional English Carol

*Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, bye bye, lully, lullay. O sisters too, how may we do
for to preserve this day? O, this poor youngling for whom we sing, “Bye bye, lully,
lullay”? Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day his men of might,
in his own sight, all children young to slay. That woe is me, poor child, for thee,
and ever morn and day. For thy parting, nor say, nor sing, “Bye bye, lully, lullay.*

– Robert Croo, 1534

***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.

C 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.

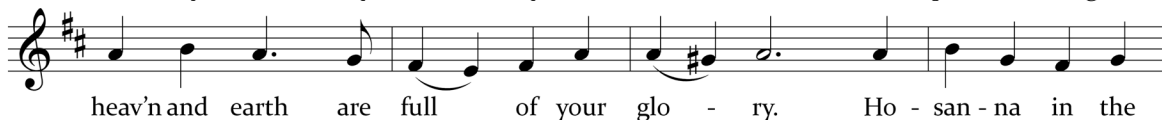
And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others
in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving



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



*Words of Institution

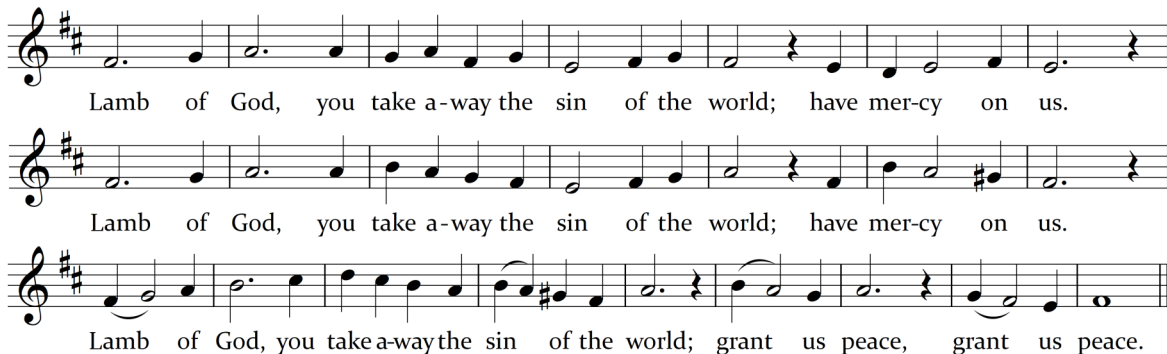
*The Lord's Prayer

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. 296

“What Child Is This”

Hymn — ELW No. 272

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

*Post-Communion Blessing

***Prayer at the End of the Year**

ℒ Let us pray.

℣ **Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time,
and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love.
Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love
at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—
the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

℣ **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 267

“Joy to the World”

***Dismissal**

ℒ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

℣ **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — on VOM HIMMEL HOCH

Johann Pachelbel



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching and Presiding	Rev. Katie Fick
Assisting Minister	Rod Christensen
Organists	Nathan Proctor, David Sims
Soloist	Nancy Ordahl Kmoch
Communion Service	Brenda Nelson
Greeters	Sandra Nyvall
Counters	Sue Brockman, Marilyn Calcutt, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Eric Sponheim

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Learning and Fellowship Between Services

Next Week (January 4)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons

Sunday School: Preschool–Grade 5 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

Sunday Youth Gathering: Grades 6–8 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Youth Room)

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (January 4):

Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 + Psalm 147:12-20 + Ephesians 1:3-14 + John 1:1-18

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by friends of St. John's. 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), contact the church office at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Next available dates: December 28 and January 4.

Annual Meeting Reports

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report, please turn in your report as soon as possible, and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 25. (Watch future publications for more details regarding the annual meeting.)

The Church Building will be closing at noon on Wednesday, December 31, and will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026.

Pastor Coverage Over the Christmas Holiday

During the days between Christmas and New Years, please call the church office first for pastoral needs. If the office is closed, go to extension 1 for the number of Pastor Mark Rydberg, the on-call pastor, while Pastors Pam and Jonathan are away.

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 2025 and can at this time, your gifts to our operating funds will be much appreciated! Mailed checks need to be postmarked by December 31. Thank you!

Women's Annual Carols Luncheon

Saturday, January 3, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., St. John's Hall

Sign up in between services for our "South of the Border" flavored Christmas celebration. There will be good food, wonderful music, great company and more! Tickets are \$15 if you buy them early and \$20 at the door. Questions? Contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli.

Volunteers Needed, January 2 and 3, for Women's Annual Carols Luncheon

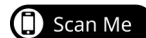
If you would like to help make this a festive occasion for the women of St. John's by setting tables with decorations, prepping the meal (chopping things), clearing tables, playing the piano during the meal, running the dishwasher, etc., please sign up at this [link](#) or contact [Pam Groves-Gaggioli](#).

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.

Announcements (continued)

Stewardship 2026 Appeal

We at St. John's have so much to be thankful for and to celebrate. If you have already made your financial pledge to St. John's for 2026, thank you. It's not too late to submit your 2026 giving intention. You can return a card to the church office or complete the online pledge form on our website. If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2026 intent, even if it is to remain the same. Your generosity is heart-warming and assures the continuation and growth of the missions of St. John's.



Reminder of Deadlines

Please send all submissions electronically to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

- Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements: Due by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.
- *The Voice* (February 2026 Edition): Due January 15

Children and Youth

New Year's Break

No Wednesday Programming on December 31.

Sign up for Good Earth Village Summer Camp 2026!

Northfield Week at GEV is June 21–26 for children in grades 2–6

Here are the camp options:

- Discover Camp for kids in Grades 2–4, June 24–26
- Seekers Camp for kids in Grades 3–4, June 21–26
- Stargazers Camp for kids in Grades 5–6, June 21–26

For Northfield Week use codes:

- NORTHFIELD26FULL for Seekers and Stargazer Camps, sponsorship of \$100
- NORTHFIELD26HALF for Discover Camp, sponsorship of \$50

The discount code and sponsorship code will be entered on the “My Cart” page. If you need to use more than one code you will need to enter them separately. Please contact Julie Brehmer, children@stjohnsnorthfield.org, if you have questions.

Summer Mission Trip Registration for Youth is Open!

Get ready for the summer 2026 mission trip to Milwaukee, June 21–26! The registration window is short because of the organization we're working with, so make your plans now. The cost per participant is \$500 and registrations are due by January 15. For more information, contact Kristin Partlo at 507-645-4429 or 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

Fred Huemoeller, Ron James

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Robert Flaten

Those with ongoing health concerns

David Halsor, Greta Matzner-Gore, Dagfinn Moe, Dolores Nelson, David Norman,
Alice Rickert, Ruth Smestad Anglin, Lori Skoglund, Ingrid Alberding,
Darlene Schloeder (mother of April Fitzloff), Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard)

All who are homebound, including

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

Contact 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.



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

No Meal on Wednesday
December 31

All are welcome!

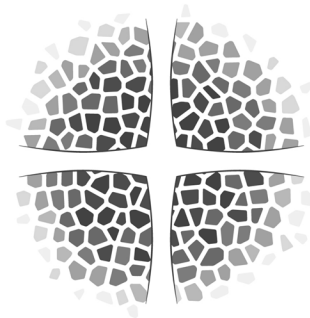
*Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.
Dessert contributions are always welcome and needed!*

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. 29	9:00 a.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Dec. 30	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting, Fireside Room
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room
Wednesday, Dec. 31		<i>New Year's Eve - Building Closes at Noon</i>
Thursday, Jan. 1		<i>New Year's Day - Building Closed</i>
Friday, Jan. 2	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Jan. 3	11:00 a.m.	WELCA Holiday Luncheon, St. John's Hall
Sunday, Jan. 4	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	9:30 a.m.	Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall
		Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 5), Lower Level
		Sunday Youth Group (Grades 6-8), Youth Room
	10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary





St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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office@StJohnsNorthfield.org
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenschner, *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*

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