



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 29, 2019 † 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 pew hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship),
page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section,
and hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section.*

An asterisk () invites you to stand as you are able.*

Pastor, Leader (Assisting Minister), 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.

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

*Opening Litany

- ☐ Praise the living God!
Praise God from the heavens:
sun and moon, and shining stars,
praise the living God!
- ☑ **Praise the Holy Name,
whose word speaks all things into being,
who created the forces of the universe
and the laughter of children.
Praise the Holy Name!**
- ☐ Praise the Living God from the earth:
clouds and storms and ocean currents,
fish in the sea and creatures of the deep,
animals and cattle, insects and birds,
praise the living God!
- ☑ **Praise the Holy Name,
who did not rely only on angels and messengers
but came among us in person whose living presence saves us!
Praise God's Holy Name!**

*Gathering Hymn — No. 288

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*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

- ☐ 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.
- ☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 63:7-9

Pew Bible, page 605

After the reading:

- ☐ The word of the Lord.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody — Psalm 148

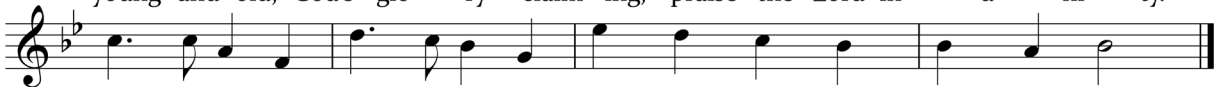
REGENT SQUARE



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

After the reading:

- The word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Carol — “Away and in Danger”

AWAY IN A MANGER

A - way and in dan - ger, no hope of a bed, the ref - u - gee
 Come close, lit - tle chil - dren, we hold out our hand in res - cue and
 chil - dren, no tears left to shed look up at the night sky for
 wel - come to shores of our land— in touch - ing, in heal - ing your
 some - one to know that ref - u - gee chil - dren have no place to go.
 fear and your pain, with dreams for your fu - ture when peace comes a - gain.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray © 2016 Hope Publishing Co., reprinted under OneLicense A-708009

***Gospel** — Matthew 2:13-23

Spark Story Bible, page 224; Pew Bible, page 784

Before the reading:

- The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

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

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — No. 718

“In a Lowly Manger Born”

Stanza 1 — cantor
Stanzas 2 and 3 — all

*The Nicene Creed — *Front of hymnal, page 104*

*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

Missy Berger, soprano

*Offering Hymn — “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” *stanza 1* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

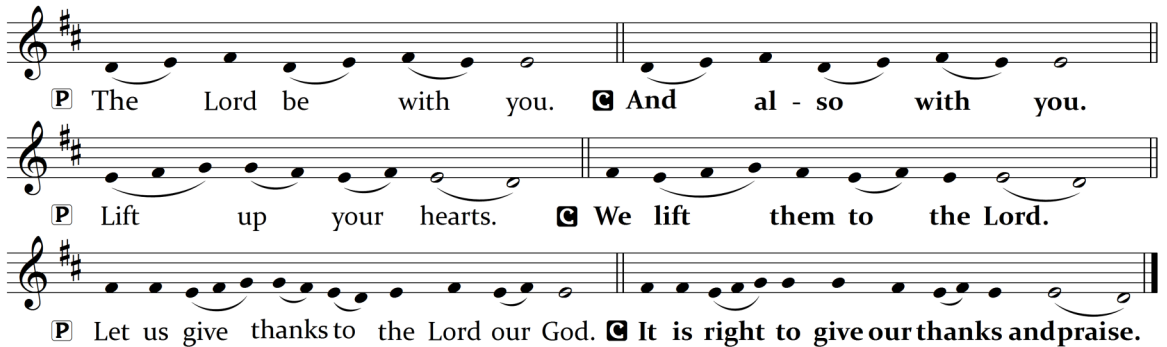
**Of the Father’s love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

*Offering Prayer

- 📖 Let us pray together.
- 📖 **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

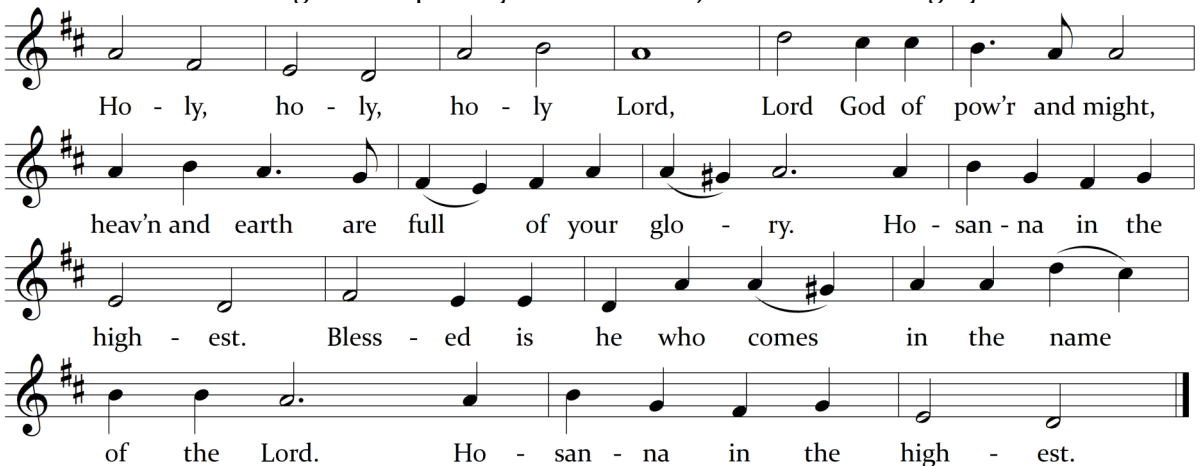


📖 The Lord be with you. 📖 And al - so with you.

📖 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.

- 📖 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. This morning we commune by means of **intinction** (dipping the wafer into the chalice). You will be given a wafer and offered a choice of two chalices.*

*The **wine** is red; the **grape juice** is white. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the center, and there is a chalice of grape juice in the center for the gluten-free wafers only.*

If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to you.

On the last Sunday of the month during communion, we offer the practice of anointing with oil on your brow and receive a blessing. If you want, you may ask for a specific prayer blessing from the anointer.

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.

Carol — No. 296

"What Child Is This"

Carol — No. 282

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

*Post-Communion Blessing

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

℣ 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** — No. 267

“Joy to the World”

***Dismissal**

℣ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

℟ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude — ON ANTIOCH

Kristina Langlois



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	Pat Fick
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantor	Missy Berger
Healing Prayers	Jennifer Edwins, Kristin Partlo
Communion Preparer	Georgene Johnson
Communion Server	Schroeer Family
Communion Cleanup	Georgene Johnson
Greeters / Welcome Desk	Janet Lotegeluaki, Cynthia Neubecker
Coffee and Refreshments	Sharon Bishop, Erik Hong, Georgene Johnson, Sally Lindell, Kristi Wermager
Nursery	TBD
Counters	Sue Brockman, Chris and Martha Erickson, Gordon Jorgenson
Ushers	Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Learning and Fellowship Between Services

Next Week (January 5):

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons

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

Sunday Morning Youth Group: Grades 6-12 (9:45 a.m., Youth Room)

St. John's Forum: When the End is Near (9:45 a.m., St. John's Hall)

Wednesday Night



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

Wednesday Night Meals Take A Break

Meals Resume January 8

All are welcome!

Consider this Amazing Fact:

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

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (January 5):

Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 † Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 † Ephesians 3:1-12 † Matthew 2:1-12

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Wally and Roberta Wegner. Sunday 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 the church office. 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.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH THE CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER!!

There were at least 300 people in St. John's Hall enjoying the wonderful dinner. What a sight to see all the tables full with everyone talking to their neighbors. It is a blessing that St. John's can provide this to the community.

The Church building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31, and will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2020. Our Wednesday night programming resumes on January 8.

Our financial contributions are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2019 can be received in the following ways

- delivered in person by noon, December 31, to the church office
- mailed and postmarked by midnight December 31

Thank you!

Carols on the Campus

Thursday, January 9, 11:30 a.m.

The Women of St. John's annual luncheon at the King's Room on St. Olaf campus will be Thursday, January 9. Please RSVP by signing up at the Women's bulletin board. Cost is \$15. Ride share will be available from St. John's and a bus from NRC will be available at 11:00 a.m.

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 12. 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.

Save the Date: Annual Meeting / Potluck!

The annual meeting of St. John's will take place on Sunday, January 26, at noon in St. John's Hall. Following a potluck lunch, we will meet to hear reports, elect council and board members for 2020, and approve the 2020 budget. The St. John's Foundation meeting will take place just before the congregational meeting. ***For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report - please turn your report in as soon as possible!***

Announcements (continued)

Stewardship Campaign Update

Thank you to all who have already submitted their 2020 pledge card. If you have not yet indicated your intent, please do so as soon as possible to help facilitate our work on next year's budget. You can return a card to the church office, in the offering plate, or you can email your intent to Bernie Renander at finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org. If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2020 intent, even if it is to remain the same.

St. John's Website

Please check out our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Our website contains additional information regarding events and programs, along with a link to our online church directory, Church Community Builder (CCB), in the top right hand corner. You can also access the church calendar.

Children and Youth Ministries

Sunday School / Sunday Morning Youth Group resume this week!

- Sunday School and Sunday Morning Youth Group resume next Sunday, January 5.
- Wednesday afterschool programming, confirmation, and High School Youth Group resume Wednesday, January 8, which is also the return of 4th and 5th grade CAT.

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes January 8

Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

The 4th grade class meets in Room 20 (lower level) and 5th grade in the Undercroft (lower level) from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. (snack is included). Please contact Julie Brehmer if your child would like to ride the St. John's afterschool bus on Wednesdays to CAT. The bus picks up at Sibley, Bridgewater, Greenvale, and at the Middle School for PCCS kids.

Save the Date:

- **Monday, January 21, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.:** Grades 2-5 are invited to Jesse James Lanes for a St. John's Bowling Event. Watch for more info!

Registration for our 2020 High School and Middle School Mission Trips is Now Open

This year we are working with CSM and Serve Boldly mission partners to plan for two mission experiences in Denver. For more information, pick up a brochure in the Commons. The signup sheet is posted in the Commons and on the bulletin board by the Youth Room. For additional information contact Emmanuel Kaghondi at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429.

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

Donna Hunecke, Donna James

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Betty Schuette

Family of John Ruckh

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Mary Ingbritsen, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, Joanne Sommers,
Tom Sorenson, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Lyla Arneson Paulson, Carol Carlson, Janice Helgeson

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;

Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

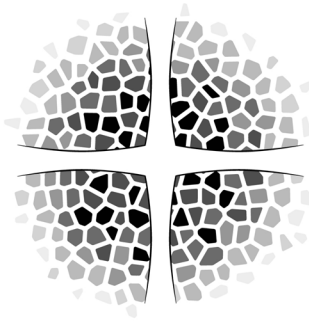
Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.

This Week At-a-Glance

*The calendar below contains only St. John's events.
The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

Mon., Dec. 30	9:30 a.m.	Visitation - Betty Schuette
	10:30 a.m.	Funeral - Betty Schuette
Tue., Dec. 31	8:45 a.m.	SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life), Fellowship Hall
Wed., Jan. 1		<i>New Year's Day - Church Office and Building Closed</i>
Thursday, Jan. 2	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
Friday, Jan. 3	8:45 a.m.	SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life), Fellowship Hall
	1:30 p.m.	Tai Chi Chih, Fireside Room
Saturday, Jan. 4		<i>No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed</i>
Sunday, Jan. 5	8:30 a.m.	Worship / Nursery <i>(For Schedule Between Services, please see page 11)</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery



St. John's

ELCA • NORTHFIELD • MN

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*
Carol Benson, *Director of Jubilate Choir*
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Christy Hall-Holt, *Welcome Ministry Coordinator*
Emmanuel Kaghondi, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Director of Alleluia Choir*
Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*
Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, *Security and Custodial Assistants*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*
Bernie Renander, *Financial Manager*

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