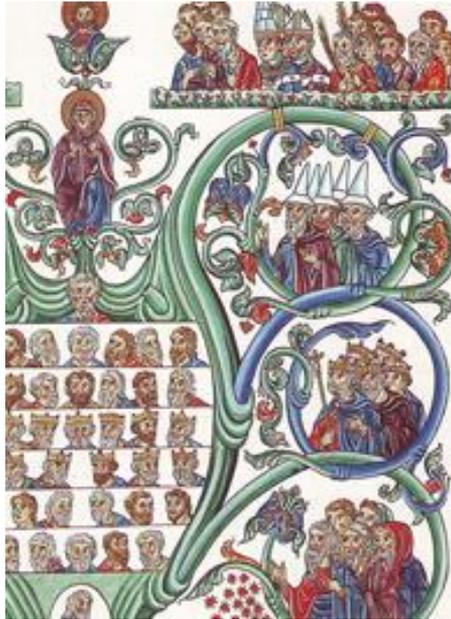




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

10:30 Service of the Word

Today we begin a journey through the gospel of Matthew. We'll read it mostly in order, ending a little after Easter. Matthew begins at the beginning – with a genealogy of Jesus. At first this may seem like just a bunch of names. But when we look closer we'll discover lots of important things about our Lord and his coming.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting St. John's we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is shown in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become anxious and impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in service to our neighbors. Increase our trust in your timing and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may have the hope that you have promised.

Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn The King Shall Come
(For music turn to Hymn 260 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.**
2. **Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.**

3. **Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death,
Despite the rage of foes.**
4. **Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes,
And we shall see his face.**
5. **The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings.**

Text: John Bownlie, Music A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony; arr. Theodore A. Beck

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Dialog (John 1)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

† WORD †

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

B: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen

As the first candle on the wreath is lit we sing:

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

(For music turn to Hymn 257 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Oh come, Oh come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

First Reading Genesis 15:1-6

D: After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 105:1-10 *(read responsively)*

E: Give thanks, acclaim God’s name,
tell all that the Lord has done.

**C: Make music and sing
the Lord's mighty wonders!**

E: Revel in God's holy name,
delight in seeking the Lord.

**C: Look always for the power,
for the presence of God.**

E: Recount the signs and wonders,
the just decrees of God,

**C: you heirs of Abraham and Jacob,
the chosen of the Lord.**

E: The Lord is our God,
judge of all the earth,

**C: who remembers his covenant
spoken to a thousand generations:**

E: the agreement with Abraham,
the oath to Isaac,

**C: the firm decree to Jacob,
the unending promise to Israel.**

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 1:1)

C: Alleluia. An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:1-17

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, ⁴and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and

Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. ¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. ¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Blessed Be the God of Israel
(For music see Hymn 552 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Blessed be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free,
who visits us and redeems us,
and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise
to bring our people peace.**
- 2. Now from the house of David
a child of grace has come,
a Savior who will lead us
to our eternal home.
Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of day.**

**3. On all by death imprisoned
the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace;
oh, bless our God and Savior
with songs that never cease!**

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996, based on Luke 1:68-79. Music: Hal Hopson, B. 1933. Text copyright 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, music copyright 1983 Hope Publishing Company

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!** (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

‡ THANKSGIVING ‡

Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Thanksgiving Prayer

P: Let us pray: Savior of the nations, come.

**C: Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our
faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are prayed for.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: May God who comes among us,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting,
peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn We Will Wait
(for music, turn to Hymn 56 in the Songbook binder)

1. **We will wait with ever watchful eyes.
We will wait with ever serving lives.
We will wait with ever open hearts.
We will greet You.**

2. **We will greet You with ever thank-ful tears.
We will greet You with ever lessening fears.
We will greet You with ever hopeful joy.
We will welcome You.
We will welcome You! We will sing!
We will welcome You! We will sing!**

3. **We will welcome You as prophesied.
We will welcome You into our lives.
We will welcome lessons that You teach.
We will sing for You.**

4. **We will sing while we wait here on earth.
We will sing to greet You at Your birth.
We will sing to welcome You, the gift.
We will follow You.
We will welcome You. We will sing!
We will welcome You! We will sing!**

Text and music: Julie Hennies Clark, Larry Olson, David Lee Brown; Copyright 1992 Julia Hennies Clark/Dakota Road Music; CCLI # 1941957

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

CAT ADVENT CALENDAR

EVERY DAY UNTIL CHRISTMAS
YOU BREAK A NEW ORNAMENT

I
LOVE
IT!



SCOTT JOHNSTON

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Greg and Mary Zuege
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 7, 2025

Greeters and Ushers John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Altar Care
Communion Assistant Gary Boisseau
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications.

St. John's Lutheran Church
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Dongwon Shin, Pianist