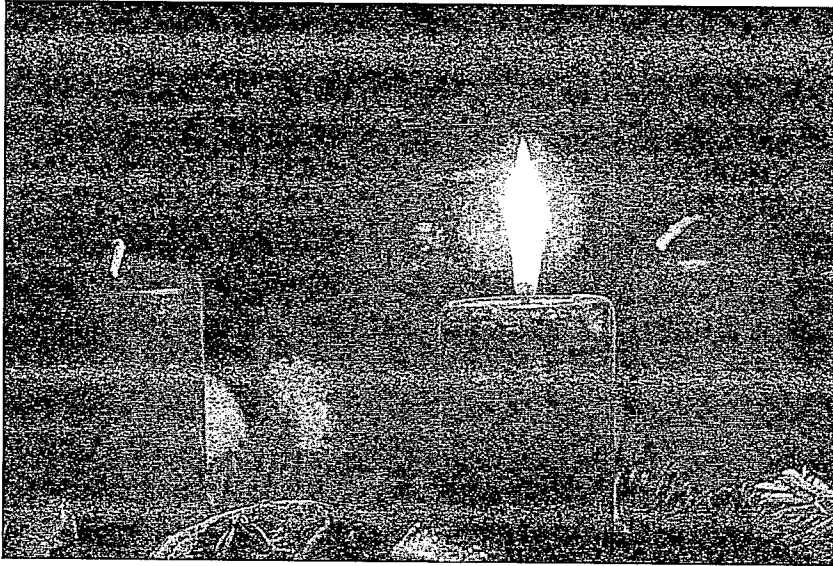


**St. John Lutheran Church  
and Preschool**

*First Sunday of Advent*  
*Ad Te Levavi*

**Divine Service Setting Three**  
November 30 & December 1, 2024



# St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool

520 Paddock Avenue

Meriden, CT 06450

Church Office 203-238-2331 Hours M-W 9am – 2pm  
[office@saintjohnmeriden.org](mailto:office@saintjohnmeriden.org)

Reverend Scott M. MacDonald 203-238-2332

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Church Website: [www.saintjohnmeriden.org](http://www.saintjohnmeriden.org)

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

**Holy Communion** *The Lord welcomes to his table all who repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. In this meal the Lord is present by a mystery in his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. As the Lord's Supper is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar and lest any eat and drink unworthily, those who are not yet instructed as members or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Lord's Supper, are asked to first speak to the pastor. Those who are not communing but wishing to receive a blessing are also invited to come forward. Simply bow your head to indicate that a blessing is desired.*

As we prepare for worship together please remember to set your phone to silent mode. Thank You!

**Mission Statement:** Growing a Christian Community rooted in Faith, Fellowship, and Service

## November 30 & December 1, 2024

*As we gather for this service let us take time to lay aside our thoughts of other things as we prayerfully prepare for the worship of our Lord. Inside the front covers of your hymnal are Prayers For Worship. Additionally inside the back covers of your hymnal are the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds as well as the Lord's Prayer.*

**Bell tones and Prelude** - *Veni Emmanuel* - Anonymous

*(we prepare in silent prayer during the time of the prelude)*

**Hymn:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

357 (1-4)

*(As the music begins, please rise to sing)*

**Confession And Absolution**

p. 184

Introit: *Psalm 25:4-5, 21-22; antiphon: vv. 1-3a*



**Antiphon:** To you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.\*

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame.

Let not my enemies exult | over me.\*

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame.

**C:** Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;\*

teach me | your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God  
of my sal- | vation;\*

for you I wait all the | day long.

May integrity and uprightness pre- | serve me,\*

for I | wait for you.

Redeem Israel, | O God,\*

out of all his | troubles.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
 and to the Holy | Spirit;  
 as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Antiphon

**Kyrie** - *Lord Have Mercy*

**p. 186**

*(The Gloria in Excelsis is not sung during Advent)*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day (Sung)**

**Anthem:** *O Come to Us, Emmanuel – J. Martin (Sunday)*

**First Reading:** *Jeremiah 23: 5-8*

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ And they shall dwell in their own land,” says the Lord Almighty.

**A:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle:** *Romans 13: 11-14*

Brethren: You know the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:** *Psalm 25:3-4*

A: None who wait for you shall be | put to shame;\*  
 they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.  
 Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;\*  
 teach me | your paths.

Alleluia

p. 190

**Holy Gospel:** *Matthew 21: 1-9*

P: The Lord be with You.

**C: And with your Spirit.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

At that time: When they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you,

and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.' " So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

p. 191

**Hymn of the Day** *Savior of the Nations, Come* 332(1-4, 8)

**Sermon**

**Offertory Music:** *With Open Hearts, We Are Waiting –*

*P. Choplin (Sunday)*

**Offertory:** *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

p. 192

**Prayer of the Church**

<b>Preface</b>	p. 194
<b>Sanctus - <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i></b>	p. 195
<b>Prayer of Thanksgiving <sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>The Words of Our Lord</b>	p. 197
<b>Lord's Prayer</b>	p. 196
<b>Pax Domini – <i>The Peace of the Lord</i></b>	p. 197
<b>Angus Dei – <i>Lamb of God</i></b>	p. 198
<b>Distribution</b>	p. 199
<i>The Lord welcomes to his table all who repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. In this meal the Lord is present by a mystery in his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. As the Lord's Supper is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar and lest any eat and drink unworthily, those who are not yet instructed as members or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Lord's Supper, are asked to first speak to the pastor. Those who are not communing but wishing to receive a blessing are also invited to come forward. Simply bow your head to indicate that a blessing is desired.</i>	

<sup>1</sup> *The Prayer of Thanksgiving III – adapted from Apostolic Tradition, Worship Supplement, CPH 1969*

*Communion Prayers* During the time before, during and after Communion you may wish to pray while kneeling or sitting in your pew. Prayers are provided for the time of Communion inside the front covers of the hymnals under "Prayers for Worship."

<b>Post-Communion Collect</b> ( <i>Please Rise</i> )	<b>p. 201</b>
<b>Salutation and Benedicamus</b>	<b>p. 201</b>
<b>Benediction</b>	<b>p. 202</b>
<b>Closing Hymn</b> <i>Hark the Glad Sound</i> ( <i>silent prayer</i> )	<b>349</b>
<b>Postlude</b> <i>Chesterfield – K. Hildebrand</i>	

**Church Attendance**

Wednesday.....	4
Saturday.....	11
Sunday.....	60

**Offerings for God** The offering box is available in the narthex for our giving.

**Welcome Guests!** Please take a moment to fill out the form in the red Record of Fellowship pads at the end of your pew. This will help us to get to know you as you share worship among us!



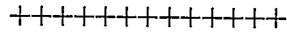
**Assisting with our services:** Assistant: Bill Leon (Sat), Carl Vensel (Sun); Lead Deacon: Diane Foell (Sat), Faith Twining (Sun); Readers: Beth Johnson (Sat), Lisa Barillaro (Sun); Altar Guild: Donna Dlugos (Sat), Kathryn Chester (Sun).

**Soup and Service!:** Join us for Soup and Service during our midweek Advent worship services. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be soup in Fellowship Hall from 5:30p.m. to 6:45 p.m. followed by worship in the Sanctuary. You can sign up today to bring your favorite soup or bread. All are welcome!

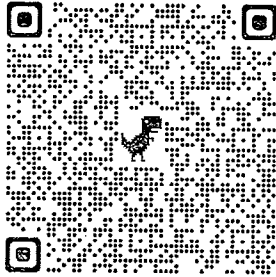
**One for You and One for Me:** We are excited to announce our Food Drive Challenge. Between November 8<sup>th</sup> through January 5<sup>th</sup>, we are challenging the congregation to collect 500 food products for the Food Pantry. Let's make a positive impact on the lives of those facing insecurity. Items needed are Tuna, Pasta and Sauce, Canned Foods, Rice, and Paper Goods.

**Gifts for Meriden Seniors:** We will again be collecting gifts for Meriden Seniors at the Meriden Senior Citizens' Center. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to St John by Sunday, 12/15. Warm hats, socks, gloves, puzzle books, special food or health and beauty items. Thank you all!

**Special Voters Meeting:** Join us for a special Voters Meeting on **December 15<sup>th</sup>** after worship to approve the slate of officers for 2025. This Voters Meeting will be combined with coffee hour!



**Support Our Preschool:** The preschool has set up a wishlist for supplies and other teaching items on Amazon. Use your cell phone's app to scan this QR code to link directly to the wishlist. You can order and have items shipped directly to the preschool. Thank you for your support.



**God's Blessing:** *"Pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord."* James: 5:14 The blessing of God with prayer and the anointing with oil is an ancient and biblical custom. Following services on **Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>,** you are invited to join at the altar area after service for a brief time of scripture, prayer and this request of God's blessing!

**Christmas Memorials:** Christmas memorials are available at the table in the narthex. You may purchase a poinsettia or make a monetary contribution. Deadline monetary contributions continue to December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## News at Saint John

**Advent and incense:** On Wednesday December the 4th at 7:00 PM we begin our midweek Advent services in the St. John sanctuary. For the Advent season we will again share the Divine Service and the Vespers evening prayer. As Vespers is often associated with incense we will offer incense for our first Wednesday service. As incense was offered to the Christ child the church has seen fit to offer it in its worship as a reminder of our prayers ascending to heaven. In the words of the historic Psalm prayer for Vespers, "*Let my prayer rise before you as incense!*"

## *The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us*

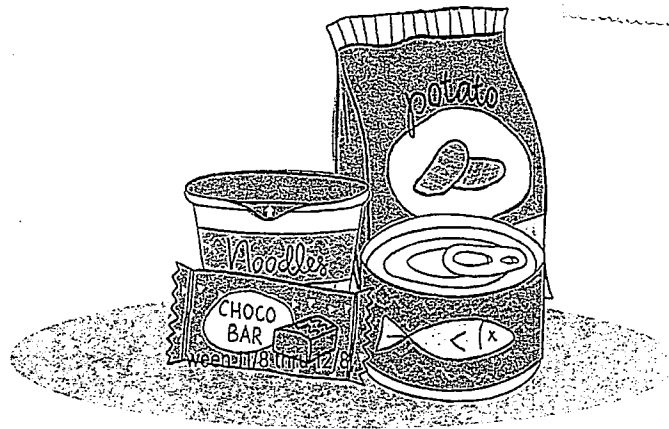
The new Church Year begins by focusing on the humble coming of our Lord. “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey” (Matt. 21:5). Even as He was born in a lowly manger, so Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a beast of burden. For He bears the sin of the world. He is the Son of David riding to His enthronement on the cross, where He shows Himself to be “The LORD is our Righteousness” (Jer. 23:5–6). Our Lord still comes in great humility to deliver His righteousness to us in the Word and Sacraments. Before receiving Christ’s body and blood, we also sing, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” (Matt. 21:9) And as we receive the Sacrament, we set our hearts on His return in glory, for “our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed” (Rom. 13:11).

St. John Lutheran Church Food Drive

**ONE FOR YOU  
AND  
ONE FOR ME**

**FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE**

**NOVEMBER 3RD- JANUARY 5TH**



We are excited to announce our Food Drive Challenge. Between Nov. 3rd thru Jan. 5th, we are challenging the congregation to collect 500 more food products for the Food Pantry.

Let's make a positive impact on the lives of those facing food insecurity.

St. John Church Evangelism Team

**ITEMS NEEDED**

- TUNA
- PASTA AND SAUCE
- SOUPS
- CANNED FOODS
- RICE
- PAPER GOODS

# SOUP AND SERVICE!

SOUP AND SERVICE  
5:30 PM - 6:45 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL



ADVENT SERVICES  
DECEMBER 4TH  
DECEMBER 11TH  
DECEMBER 18TH  
7 PM



SIGN UP IN NARTHEX  
COFFEE AND BUTTER  
PROVIDED

JOIN US FOR SOUP AND SERVICE.  
SIGN UP TODAY TO BRING  
YOUR FAVORITE SOUP OR BREAD.  
ADVENT SERVICE BEGINS AT 7 PM.  
ALL ARE WELCOME.