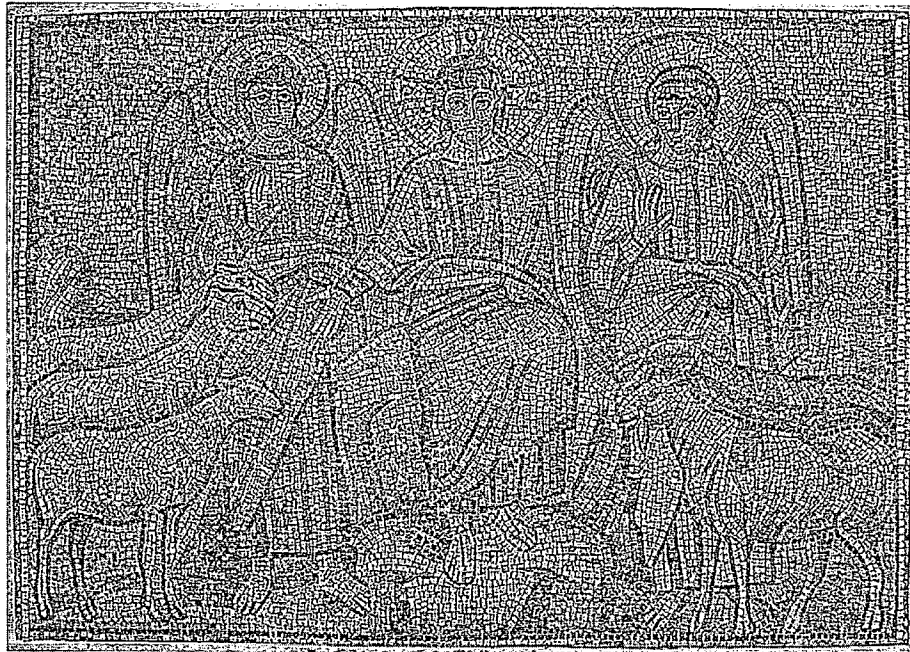


**St. John Lutheran Church
and Preschool**

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Trinity
Observing the Last Sunday of the
Church Year

Divine Service Setting Three
November 23&24, 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

Reverend Scott M. MacDonald 203-238-2332

Pastorsaintjohn@gmail.com

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Matthewbartlett510@gmail.com

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Church Website: 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

Cover: *Separation of Sheeps and Goats*, 6th Century, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

November 23&24, 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.

Pre-worship Music – *Immortal, Invisible* – D. Wagner

Bell tones and Prelude - *Wachet Auf* – K. Hildebrand
(we prepare in silent prayer during the time of the prelude)

Hymn: *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* 516

(As the music begins, please rise to sing)

Confession And Absolution p. 184

Introit: *Psalm 54: 3-5, 7; antiphon: Psalm 54: 1-2*



Antiphon: O God, save me, | by your name,*
And vindicate me | by your might.

O God, | hear my prayer;*
Give ear to the words | of my mouth.

C: For strangers have risen a-|gainst me;*
They do not set God be-|fore themselves.

Behold, God is my | helper;*
The Lord is the upholder | of my life.

He will return the evil to my | enemies;*
In your faithfulness put an | end to them.

For he has delivered me from every | trouble,*
And my eye has looked in triumph on my | enemies.

**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**

Hymn Of Praise: *Gloria in Excelsis* **p. 187**

Salutation and Collect of the Day (Sung)

**Moment of Stewardship – *Prayer of Thanksgiving –
E. Kremser (Sunday)***

First Reading: *Daniel 7: 9-14*

In those days the prophet Daniel spoke, saying: “I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all

peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.”

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: *2 Peter 3: 3-14*

Dearly Beloved: Know this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be

dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual: *Psalm 50: 4,6*

A: He calls to the heav-|ens above*

And to the earth, that he may judge his | people.

The heavens declare his | righteousness,*

For God him-|self is judge!

Alleluia

p. 190

Holy Gospel: *Matthew 25: 31-46*

P: The Lord be with You.

C: And with your Spirit.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said to His disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the

kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed

p. 191

Hymn of the Day *Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment* 511

Sermon**Offertory:** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* p. 192**Prayer of the Church****Preface** p. 194**Sanctus** - *Holy, Holy, Holy* p. 195**Prayer of Thanksgiving** ¹**The Words of Our Lord** p. 197**Lord's Prayer** p. 196**Pax Domini** – *The Peace of the Lord* p. 197**Angus Dei** – *Lamb of God* p. 198**Distribution** p. 199

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.

¹ *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."

Post-Communion Collect (<i>Please Rise</i>)	p. 201
Salutation and Benedicamus	p. 201
Benediction	p. 202
Closing Hymn <i>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>	525
<i>(silent prayer)</i>	
Postlude	<i>Diademata – K. Hildebrand</i>

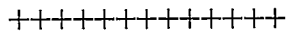
Church Attendance

Saturday.....	18
Sunday.....	52

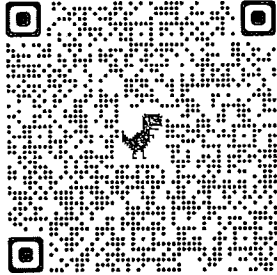
Offerings for God The offering box is available in the narthex for our giving.

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: Paul Patnoad (Sat), Nathan Moran (Sun); Lead Deacon: Gary Poulin (Sat), Cissy Kulakowski (Sun); Readers: Cathy Poulin (Sat), Nathan Moran (Sun); Altar Guild: Cathy Poulin (Sat), Marcia Gregory (Sun).



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 30th, and Sunday, December 1st,** 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 for poinsettia order is Sunday, November 24th, and monetary contributions continue to December 15th.

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!”*

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!

Operation Christmas Child: St. John Lutheran Church will once again be collecting items, packing them in shoe boxes, and having them mailed to people around the world. Suggested items are toys, school supplies, personal hygiene items and no perishable foods are allowed. You can also write a check made payable to “Samaritan’s Purse” with “Operation Christmas Child” in the memo. All gifts and checks must be at the church by noon on Sunday November 24, 2024.

Stewardship 2025: There are pledge cards on the narthex table for our members to take home. Please pick up a pledge card and prayerfully consider the offering of your time, talent, and treasure to your Lord! On the weekend of **November 23rd and 24th**, our members will have the opportunity to bring their pledge cards forward to be placed on the altar offering box. May the Lord bless our offering of ourselves to the Lord!

St. John Lutheran Church Food Drive

**ONE FOR YOU
AND
ONE FOR ME**

FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE

NOVEMBER 8 - JANUARY 5



We are excited to announce our Food Drive Challenge. Between Nov. 8th 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

Render to God the things of God

“Behold, with the clouds of heaven there came One like a Son of Man” (Dan. 7:13). The Lord Jesus will return in glory on the Last Day with all His holy angels. “Before Him will be gathered all the nations . . . And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left” (Matt. 25:31–33). Those on His left will be cast into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For they rejected Christ by failing to receive and support His brethren, that is, the preachers of the Gospel. But those on His right will inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. For they received and supported His brethren and believed what they preached. We believe in the promise of Christ’s coming, even it is delayed because of His longsuffering mercy. Conducting ourselves in godliness, knowing that this fallen creation will soon pass away, we look forward to “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13)