

**St. John Lutheran Church  
and Preschool**

*First Sunday of Christmas*

**Divine Service Setting Three**  
December 28&29, 2024



# St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool

520 Paddock Avenue

Meriden, CT 06450

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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

Image: Gelder, Arent de, *Simeon's Song of Praise*, Mauritshuis, 1700-170

**December 28&29, 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**

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

**Hymn:** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* **367**  
*(As the music begins, please rise to sing)*

**Confession And Absolution** **p. 184**

Introit: *Psalm 93: 1, 3-4; antiphon: Psalm 93: 5, 2*

**Antiphon:** Your decrees are very | trustworthy;\*

Holiness befits your house, O LORD, for-|evermore.

Your throne is established | from of old;\*

You are from ever-|lasting.

**C: The LORD reigns; he is robed in | majesty;\***

**The LORD is robed; he has put on strength | as his belt.**

**Yes, the world is es-|tablished;\***

**It shall nev-|er be moved.**

**The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted | up their voice;\***

**The floods lift up their | roaring.**

**Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves | of the sea,\***

**The LORD on high is | mighty!**

**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**

**Gloria in Excelsis** **p. 187**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**First Reading:** *Jeremiah 31: 31-34*

Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, the days are coming when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more," says the Lord Almighty.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle:** *Galatians 4: 1-7*

Brethren: The heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:** *Psalm 45: 2a, 1b*

**A:** You are the most handsome of the | sons of men;\*  
 grace is poured up-|on your lips.  
 I address my verses | to the King;\*  
 my tongue is like the pen of a | ready scribe.

**Holy Gospel:** *Luke 2: 33-40*

P: The Lord be with You.

**C: And with your Spirit.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord. (Sung)**

At that time: Joseph and Mary marveled at those things which were spoken of Jesus. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ. (Sung)**

**Nicene Creed**

p. 191

**Hymn of the Day** *Let All Together Praise Our God*

**389(1-4)**

**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.*

**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** *(Please Rise)* p. 201

**Salutation and Benedicamus** p. 201

**Benediction** p. 202

**Closing Hymn** *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*  
377  
*(silent prayer)*

**Postlude**

**Church Attendance**

Wednesday.....11  
Saturday.....16  
Sunday.....54

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

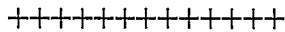


**Assisting with our services:** Assistant: Bill Leon (Sat), Dan Cox (Sun); Lead Deacon: Diane Foell Sat), Faith Twining (Sun); Readers: Beth Johnson (Sat), Dan Cox (Sun); Altar Guild: Cathy Poulin (Sat), Kathryn Chester (Sun).

**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!

**Offering Envelopes:** Your offering envelopes are on the table in the narthex in alphabetical order. Pick yours up today! And if you don't have a box of envelopes, please contact Matt in the office to be assigned one at [office@saintjohnmeriden.org](mailto:office@saintjohnmeriden.org)

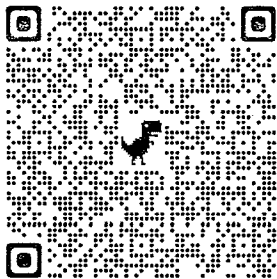


**Midweek Sanctuary services:** Midweek services will continue in the sanctuary through January the 8th. On New Year's Day there will be a special Wednesday service at 7pm commemorating the Circumcision and Naming of Christ. We begin our New Year with his saving name! Also again this year we will share a special Epiphany evening, Vespers service on Wednesday January the 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This will be a full service with organ and hymns. Incense will be offered as a reminder of the prayer and worship afforded to our King! We will be using pure frankincense known from biblical times for its mild and gentle aroma. Join us in the presence of our Lord!

**Exploring the Epistles!**

Beginning the new year our adult Bible class will be exploring the appointed Epistle of the day. These texts have been shared by the faithful each Sunday for over a millennium. These readings often match the Gospel and so carry the theme of the day. Join us as we share together beginning at *9:00 AM* each Sunday in the new year. All welcome!

**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.

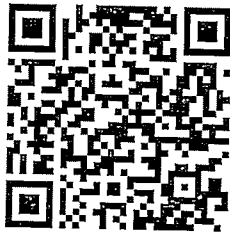


## News at Saint John

**Coat Drive:** We will again be collecting clean and gently used coats for Meriden social services. Please leave in the narthex through Sunday 12/29.

**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 food insecurity. Items needed are Tuna, Pasta and Sauce, Canned Foods, Rice, and Paper Goods.

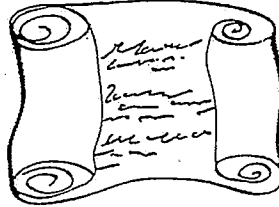
**Online Giving:** We recently set up a secure giving option through the Joyful Response program, already in use for our direct deposit for offerings. "You may set up a one-time donation or recurring offering to St. John through this link." Credit/Debit card payments and bank ACH are accepted through this program. Credit card fees are deducted from the amount unless otherwise selected.



### *The Seed of David Comes to His Temple*

A Rod has come forth from the stem of Jesse (Is. 11:1–5)—the Seed of David whose kingdom shall be established forever (2 Sam. 7:1–16). In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son Jesus to redeem us from the judgment of the Law (Gal. 4:1–7). Now He is presented in the temple in fulfillment of the Law and revealed to be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:22–40). Christ has enlightened us in baptism, giving us to be adopted as sons of God and heirs of eternal life. Receiving the Holy Sacrament of His body and blood, we are prepared to depart this world in peace, for our eyes have seen the salvation of God in Him.

# *Exploring the Epistles!*



Beginning In January our adult Bible class will be exploring the appointed Epistle of the day.

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Join us as we share together beginning at 9:00 AM each Sunday in the new year.

*All welcome!*