

St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

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Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

December 7, 2025

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



St. John's Lutheran Church is part of the North American Lutheran Church. We welcome you and are glad you are participating in worship this morning as we celebrate the **Second Sunday of Advent**. Please register your attendance in the blue pad at the end of the pew. HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month and on Festival Sundays. All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.

Prayer upon entering God's House:

Gracious God, You give us so much. We thank You for those whom You have blessed with the good news of the gospel for proclamation. May they be faithful. Continue Your call to men and women for the full time ministry of Your church. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Wachet auf ruft und die stimme”

Bach

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen

P Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

LBW 26

***GREETING**

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.

*KYRIE



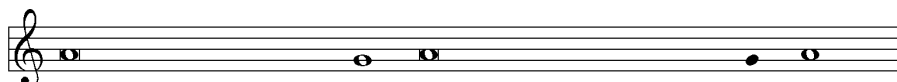
Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



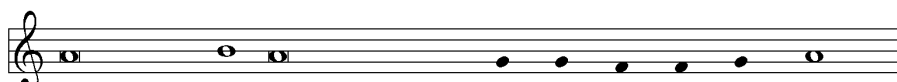
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. ☩ A - men

*HYMN OF PRAISE



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

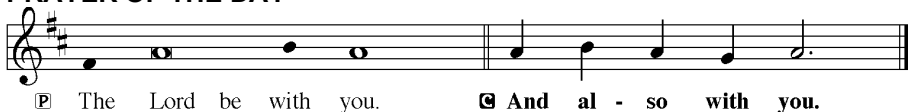


☩ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.
Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY



☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al-so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of Your Son and to prepare His way. Grant us, Your people, the wisdom to see Your purpose today and the openness to hear Your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare His way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 11:1–10

A The First Lesson is from the eleventh chapter of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A Here ends the reading.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

LBW 34, v. 1-2

ADVENT READING

PSALM 72:1–7, 18–19

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. **R**

Romans 15:4–13

A The Second Lesson is from the fifteenth chapter of Romans.

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

¹²and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Here ends the reading.

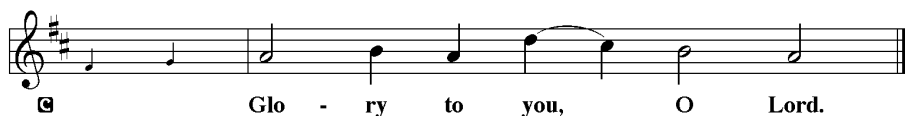
***VERSE**



***GOSPEL:**

Matthew 3:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the third chapter.



In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

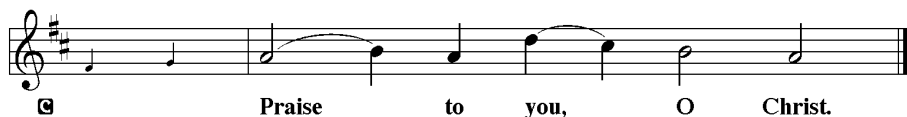
⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is

in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

L The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry"

LBW 36

SERMON

*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*THE PRAYERS

As we await the coming of Christ in mercy and majesty, let us pray for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their need.

A brief silence

Come quickly, Lord! Thank you for promising to deliver us from sin, death and the devil – but even so, come quickly! Thank you for being our King, Savior, Healer, and Redeemer – but come quickly to establish Your reign, perfectly and forever.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(Other intercessions are offered)

L Into your hands, O LORD, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ our LORD.

C Amen

***PEACE**

P The peace of the LORD be with you always.

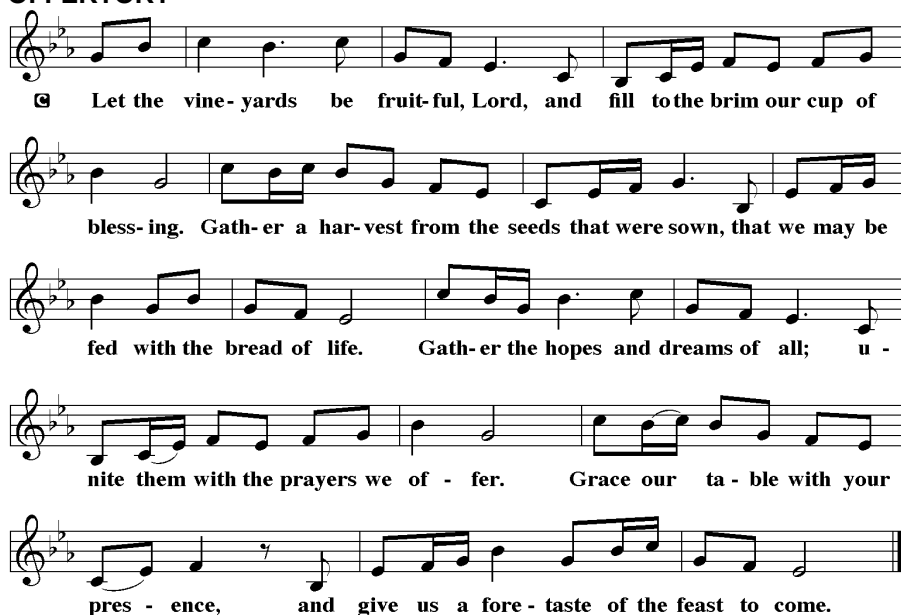
C And also with you.

ANTHEM

"Come, Emmanuel"

Besig

***OFFERTORY**



C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

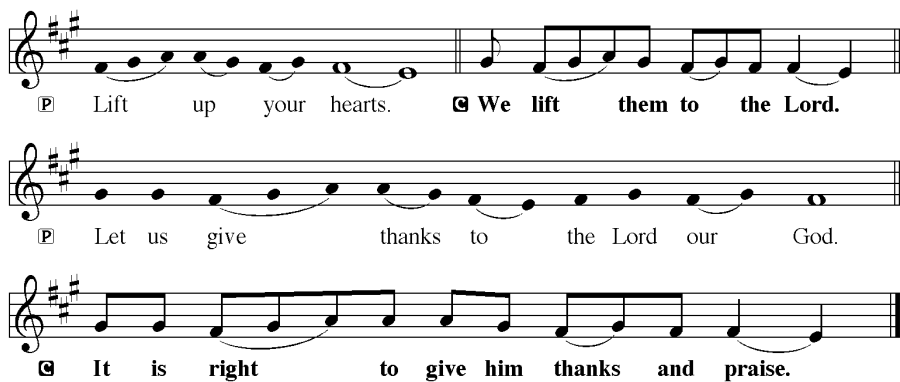
A Blessed are You,

C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness
You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer
ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and
redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him who
gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

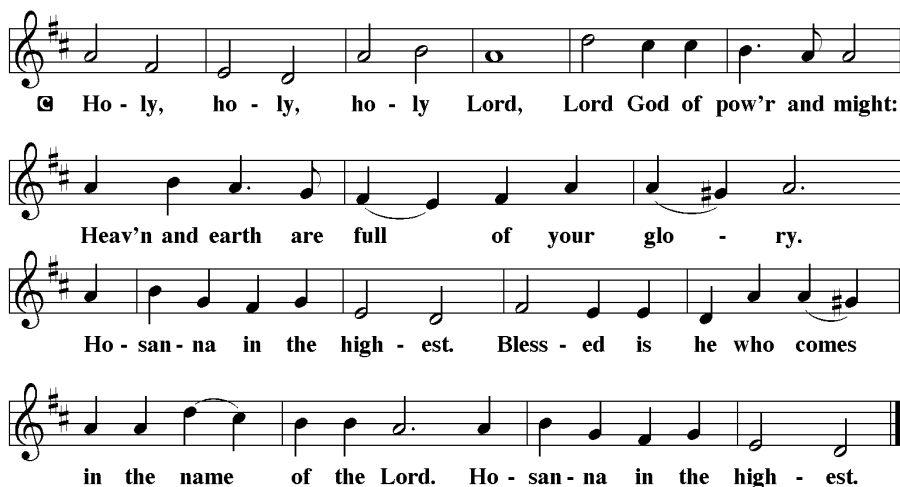
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are You, LORD of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world, You gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to You for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

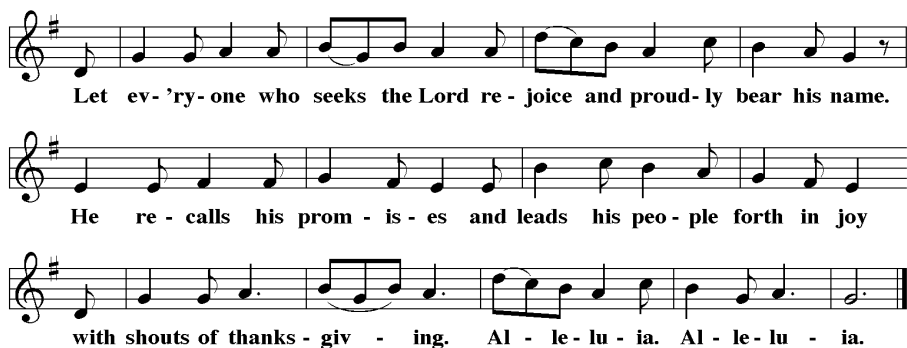
Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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**





*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray.... Almighty God, You gave Your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive Him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to His; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

*BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

LBW 29

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"People, Look East"

arr. Wood

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A Nursery/Cry Room is available on the second floor of the Education Building for those who may need it.



Everyone is invited for a time of fellowship following worship in the Gathering space.

Don't forget to check out your Church Web Site:

www.stjohnskittanning.org

Here you will find: Bulletins, Newsletters, Morning Prayers, Upcoming events and program information, Youth Events including photos from the recent QUAKE trip, and more.





Electronic Giving is Good for You and the Church

You can now make a contribution to our church through a mobile app!

Scan the QR code for St. John's Lutheran Church: **Options Include:** *Local Expenses, Improvement Fund, Benevolence, Capital Appeal, Evangelism, Sunday School, Youth, World Hunger, Katie's Cupboard and Other.* **When choosing "Other" please indicate which fund you are contributing to. Thank you for supporting your church.**



**"Give according to your income,
lest God make your income
according to your giving."**



Internet Streaming St. John's Live Broadcast

The St. John's worship service is broadcast live on You Tube each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. as well as 8:30 a.m. service Sundays. <http://www.youtube.com/@st.johnskittanning2251>

Empower the Mission and Ministry of St. John's!

Amounts needed in offerings during November and December to meet our budget in the following accounts:

Current Account:	\$98,000.00
Benevolence:	\$24,000.00

Every November and December we count on your generosity to make up the difference in these accounts so that we finish the year in the black. This year presents a very great challenge for each and every one of us! Please consider increasing your giving and/or making a significant one time gift over and above your normal offerings. Thank you for your continued commitment to making the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ happen at St. John's.

Creative ways of year end giving to St. John's:

- It is possible, if you are over 70 1/2, to make a direct payment from your IRA to St. John's. This saves the taxes and the gift is still eligible for a charitable gift deduction.
- Giving stock saves capital gains taxes and the gift is still eligible for a charitable gift deduction.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday 12/7	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Concert
Tuesday 12/9	Noon	Women's Bible Study – Kings
Wednesday 12/10	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	7:00 p.m.	Advent in the Barn
		256 Adrian Sherret Road, Adrian
Thursday 12/11	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
Saturday 12/13	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Sunday 12/14	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Pageant
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	After Worship	Congregational Meeting
	Fellowship	Reception: In honor of Julie Smith



St. John's Lutheran Church

Presents the

Annual Christmas Concert

Featuring:

The Vocal Choirs

The Bell Choirs

Under the direction of Rebecca Veith

Accompanist Elizabeth Cramer

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Admission is free. No offering will be taken.

Refreshments to follow the concert.



Katie's Cupboard

Again, this year we have created a Reverse Advent Calendar and included Epiphany as well. Reverse calendars are in the Narthex.



If you would like to place a poinsettia(s) in our Church for the Christmas Eve Service, please complete this form and return with your check made payable to: **"St. John's Lutheran Church"** marked **"Christmas Flowers"** in the memo line.

The Poinsettias are \$9.00 each.

Orders must be received by December 7, 2025

Number of **RED** _____

Number of **WHITE** _____

I wish for the acknowledgment in the bulletin to read as follows:

PLEASE PRINT, USING FIRST AND LAST NAMES

IN **MEMORY** OF _____

IN **HONOR** OF _____

GIVEN BY: _____

OFFERING ENVELOPE NUMBER: _____

Please check one: Check _____ Cash _____

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Please check one:

_____ I will take my poinsettia(s) with me after the Christmas Eve Service.

_____ Please take my poinsettia to a shut-in.



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Minister
Lector
Communion

Gene Hughes
Jonah Petruschke
Susan Barto, Susan Neal
Lance & Christine Whiteman
Ella Fennell
The Shafer Family
Bill Bouch

Acolyte
Welcome Team
Camera Operators

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry
Secretary
Sexton
Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music
Sr. Choir Accompanist

Julie Smith
Angela B. Clever
TBD
Rebecca Veith
Elizabeth Cramer

*For 200 years St. John's has been a bright beacon
of Christ's light and life for the world.
200 years and the work continues:
That all might know Christ's Love.*

OUR MISSION

St. John's Lutheran Church is a group of people who believe that we are saved by God's grace and who respond to God's love by joyfully serving God, each other, our community and our world. We will humbly and lovingly serve by proclaiming the Gospel, teaching the Word, offering Sacraments, leading others to fellowship, supporting those in need, giving generously of our talents as well as our resources and by thanking and praising God.

