

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



November 30, 2025



Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
48 Greene Avenue
Sayville, New York 11782
SUNDAY 9:30 AM

Welcome to Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rejoice in God's grace. Live as disciples. Love one another.

Our Purpose

The family of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, gathered around Word and Sacrament, enhanced by liturgy and music, exists to encourage its members in a life of discipleship in Christ Jesus and fellowship with one another.

Utilizing the gifts that God has entrusted to us, we engage in acts of mercy, attending to the spiritual and physical needs within our congregation and community.

We bear witness to the Grace of God through living in His Word thus demonstrating the love Christ has shown us.

To Those Visiting with Us Today

We welcome you among us as we gather in God's presence to receive his benefits towards us. If this is your first time visiting, please introduce yourself to the Pastor on the way out. We pray God's blessings upon you in this time, and invite you to continue to join us in the future. Please contact the Pastor if you have any needs or questions about St. John's and the work for which he has called us.

A Guide to the Symbols in the Service

P = Pastor; **L** = Lector; **C** = Congregation

Anywhere the symbol ✝ appears, the sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism. Please move in and out of the sanctuary at places marked with an asterisk (*).

As We Gather

Everything about Jesus seems wrong. He comes as a king, and yet he is not the picture of what people thought kings looked like. He comes to establish a kingdom, and yet his rule seems weak and his territory very small. He comes to bring peace, and yet he is put to an end in a violent way. None of this seems to add up. That is because people had a very worldly idea of who Jesus should be and what he should do. Jesus is a king - ruler over the nations. Jesus has a kingdom - an eternal one in the heavens. Jesus brings peace - he is the Prince of Peace. And now, he has made all the baptized to be part of his kingdom in his death and resurrection, and by plunging you in the waters of baptism. You belong to Christ, and to his kingdom, so that you may dwell eternally in his peace.

Today in the Church Year

Advent is derived from the Latin word meaning "to come." During this season, we will recall the three ways in which our Lord comes to us: He comes in history through His incarnation, He promises to come again on the Last Day, and He comes to us today through His Word and Sacraments. Advent is also a time of penitential reflection as we follow in the way of John the Baptist by "making ready the way of the Lord." The color on the altar throughout this season is blue, which is traditionally the color for hope. It is in joyful hope that we expect the arrival of our Lord and Savior, who will be made flesh amongst us, and shall be called Immanuel, that is, God with us!

✠ IN NOMINE JESU - IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

A Prayer upon Entering Church

O Almighty God, who pourest out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Voluntary: Bells of Praise
People, Look East

Bob Burroughs
BESANCON, Douglas E. Wagner

Announcements & Sharing of the Peace

✠ Service of Preparation ✠

Opening Hymn: The Night Will Soon Be Ending

LSB 337
Tune: LLANGLOFFAN

Baptism: Riley Ann Dondero

(Turn to p. 268 for the Rite of Holy Baptism. After the Baptism, the service continues with the readings. To our guests: please read our statement below regarding our confession and practice of the Lord's Supper.)

Advent Canticle



A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; Show forth the glo - ry,
A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; Pro - claim the cap - tive's
A - rise, your light is come! All you — in sor - row born, Bind up the bro - ken -
A - rise your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise up like ea - gles

of lib - your God Which shines — on you to the — day.
heart - er - ty, Good ti - on dings to the poor.
on the ones wing, And com - fort those who mourn.
God's pow'r — will make us strong.

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1–5

L The First Reading for The First Sunday in Advent is taken from Isaiah, the second chapter.

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

*²It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,*

*³and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”*

*For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

*⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.*

*⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.*

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Psalm 122

(Cantor sings antiphon, the Congregation repeats the antiphon and sings the bolded verses)

Antiphon (v. 6)

Herbert Howells, adapted Cynthia Holden ©2025

Pray for the peace of Je - ru - sa - lem! May they be se - cure who love you!

Tone

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

1. I was glad when they | said to me,*
"Let us go | to the house of the LORD!"
2. Our feet | have been standing*
within your gates, | O Jerusalem!
3. **Jerusalem is built | as a city***
that is bound | firmly together,
4. **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for |**
Israel,*
to give thanks to | the name of the LORD.
5. **There thrones for judg- | ment were set,***
the thrones of | the house of David.
6. Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!*
"May they be | secure who love you!"
7. Peace be with- | in your walls*
and security | within your towers!"
8. **For my brothers and com- | panions' sake***
I will say, | "Peace be within you!"
9. **For the sake of the house of the | LORD our God,***
I | will seek your good.

Antiphon

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

Epistle

Romans 13:11–14

L The Epistle is from Romans, the thirteenth chapter.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

*Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:36–44

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.



³⁶[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and

would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

***Hymn of the Day: O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide**

LSB 355

Tune: O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF

Sermon: Avoiding darkness

***Offering: Sanctus**

Urmas Sisask, Estonia b. 1960, ed. M. Dolan Miller

Holy, holy, holy the Lord; holy the Lord God of Hosts.

Holy, holy, holy the Lord; holy, holy is God.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

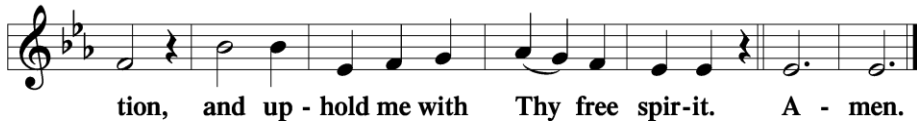
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(Please fill out the green attendance card the pew, and then hand it to the usher on the way forward for communion.)

Stand

***Offertory** *(Psalm 51:10-12)*





Prayer of the Church *(1 Timothy 2:1-4)*

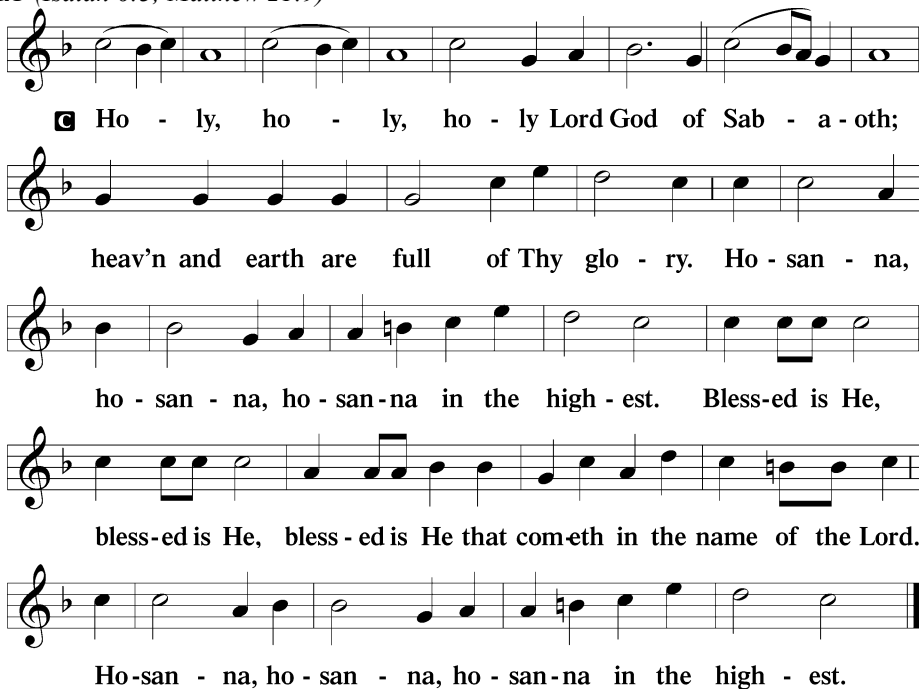
- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
(after each petition)
- P** Lord, in your mercy...
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** ...one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface *(2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136)*

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer *(Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)*

**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.**

The Words of Our Lord *(Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)*

P *Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

Pax Domini *(John 20:19)*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *(John 1:29)*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

Please read what Saint John's believes concerning the Sacrament of the Altar:

As Lutherans, we believe, teach, and confess that in the Holy Supper all receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ with their mouth. Believers feed on Christ for the assurance of salvation and the strengthening of their faith.

To assure that our Lord's great gifts are received in a beneficial way, Holy Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 11:28-29 **"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."** Self examination includes:

- 1) The confession that we are sinful and in need of God's forgiveness. (Ps 51; Romans 3: 9-28)
 - 2) The faith that Jesus Christ is truly and actually present in the Sacrament, offering His very Body and Blood for all to eat, so that our sins are forgiven. (Mt 26: 26-28; 1 Cor 10: 16-21)
 - 3) The sincere resolve, with the Holy Spirit's help, to amend what is sinful in our life by actively belonging to a body of believers where these Scriptural truths are preached and taught. (Acts 2: 42; Ephesians 2: 8-10)
- If this reflects your belief and you are a member in good standing, not under discipline, at a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or a church body with which we are in fellowship, we welcome you to the Lord's Table and pray that His Body and Blood will be for your soul the highest good. If you are not sure, or do not understand, we ask that you speak with the Pastor, at your earliest convenience, prior to communing. If you would like to come to the altar and receive a personal blessing instead of the Eucharist, please cross your arms over your chest as a sign to the pastor.

Distribution will take place around the altar. Both sides of the church will be ushered forward up the center aisle at the same time with the first person in line starting at the center, and the rest fanning out along the sides. Once everyone has come forward, you will be invited to kneel, if able, to receive the Sacrament. Once all have received, and the pastor announces the dismissal, you may stand and the two people in the middle will turn and start back to their seats, with both sides following and returning via the side aisles.

A Prayer before Communing

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

*Distribution Hymn: The Advent of Our King

LSB 331

Tune: ST. THOMAS

*Distribution Hymn: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348

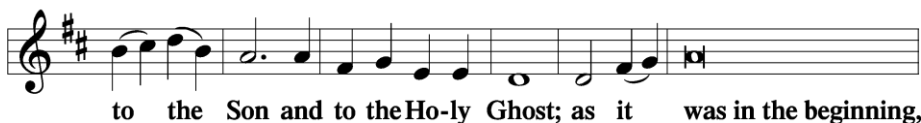
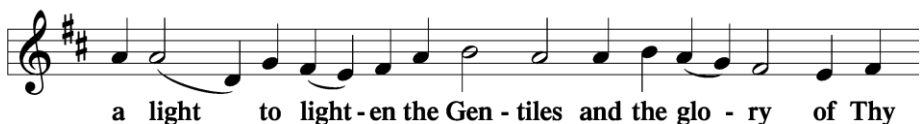
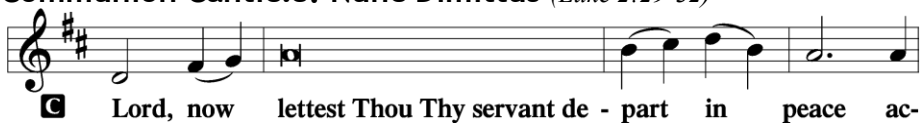
Tune: CONSOLATION

A Prayer after Receiving the Sacrament

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Stand

***Post-Communion Canticle: Nunc Dimittis** (Luke 2:29-32)



Thanksgiving *(Psalm 107:1)*

- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C **and His mercy endures forever.**
P Let us pray...O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus *(2 Timothy 4:22; Psalm 103:1)*

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.
C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336

Tune: HELMSLEY

Closing Voluntary: O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF setting: Jonathan R. Mueller

(You are invited, and encouraged, to stay and listen to the voluntary as a way to continue to ponder God's love for you, and consider how today's message and music can influence your life over the coming week. This is also a nice way to calm yourself before heading out into the rest of the day's activities.)

A Prayer for Departure

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may, through thy grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA - TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY ✠

† Look Ahead for next week:

The Second Sunday in Advent: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
Daily Devotions for Home and Family are available on the way out and online

SAINT JOHN'S IN ACTION

Sun 11/30	The First Sunday in Advent Coffee Hour hosted by the Dondero Family 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service w/Holy Baptism 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Nativity Setup
Mon 12/1	6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Boy Scouts
Tue 12/2	6:00pm First Communion Basketball Judo/Women's 12-Step
Wed 12/3	12:30pm Narcotics Anonymous 12:00pm Midweek Advent Divine Service 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Midweek Advent Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI
Thu 12/4	6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir
Fri 12/5	12:30pm Narcotics Anonymous 6:00pm Basketball
Sun 12/7	The Second Sunday in Advent Coffee Hour hosted by Ann & Richard Frenz 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Faith Renewal



Want to give an offering but forgot cash or a checkbook? Now you can give securely online! Simply scan the QR Code on your mobile device and you will be directed to St. John's Donation page.

Contributions Received 11/17-11/23/25	\$5,265	Wednesday Attendance: 13 Sunday Attendance: 117
Weekly Forecasted Income	\$5,209	
Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$2,554	
F.O.R. Contributions - November	\$790	

Prayer Garden - In memory of Roy Chopping IV, with love from his Aunt Janice, Uncle Wayne & the Panarese family.

Christmas Mail - Martha will have their 2nd Annual Christmas Mailbox at church. This is for those who attend church and would like to send Christmas cards to members of our church family. Please refer to the insert for detailed information on the card exchange. Copies are available on the table in the Narthex.

Advent/Christmas Help - A signup sheet has been posted on the bulletin board to help as an usher, communion steward, or acolyte for our Advent Midweek, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve Services. Please sign up to help, or contact the Church Office. Thank you, in advance, for your assistance in making our holiday services run smoothly.

Vacation Bible School - St. John's will host VBS this next year during winter break from school, **February 17-20**. Registration is now open on our website. Please register by November 30, and help us spread the word about this exciting program!

SoLI presents Chronicles & Carols - St. John's hosts the chamber choir, **Singers of Long Island** in concert Wednesday, December 17 at 7 pm. Join us for Advent classics, Christmas carols, spirituals and more, followed by a festive reception. Help spread the word (& The Word) by inviting a friends & neighbors to join you! \$15/10 students & seniors with all proceeds going to St. John's.

Communion Stewards: Greg Calvano (7:45am); Paul Erath (9:30am); **Ushers:** Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter (7:45am); Kristin & Abby Noack (9:30am); **Readers:** Christine Kirschenheiter (7:45am); Annie Habeeb (9:30am); **Musicians:** Chancel Choir, Eagle Eye Ringers, Lloyd Arraste & Tom Lackemann, trumpet (9:30am); **Counters:** Bobbi Harris & Jan Panarese

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Tom Keller & Steve Lindfors

Facilities Management

Saint John's Divine Service Schedule:

Sunday 7:45am & 9:30am

Wednesday Noon & 7:00pm

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 9:30am-2:30pm

Bookkeeper Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11am-3pm

**A congregation of
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod**

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