

St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool

The Nativity of Our Lord

Divine Service Setting Three
December 25, 2025



St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool
520 Paddock Avenue
Meriden, CT 06450

Church Office 203-238-2331 Hrs. Mon-Wed: 9am-2pm

office@saintjohnmeriden.org

Reverend Scott M. MacDonald 203-238-2332

Pastorsaintjohn@gmail.com

Matthew Bartlett, Music Director

Matthewbartlett510@gmail.com

Preschool 203-630-3997

Church Website: www.saintjohnmeriden.org

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

Full Divine Service is held:

Sundays at 10 a.m.

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the St. John Chapel

Saturdays at 5 p.m.

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**

From Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld's Die Bibel in Bildern, 19th century

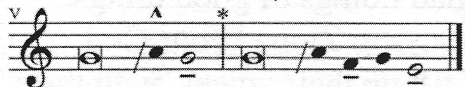
December 25, 2025 *As we gather for this service let us take time to lay aside our thoughts of other things as we prayerfully prepare for the worship of our Lord. Inside the front covers of your hymnal are Prayers For Worship. Additionally inside the back cover of your hymnal are the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds as well as the Lord's Prayer.*

Bell tones and Prelude *(We reflect in silent prayer during the time of the prelude)*

Hymn: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* **380**
(As the music begins, please rise to sing)

Confession and Absolution **p. 184**

Introit: *Isaiah 9:6a, Psalm 98:1a (Mode V)*



Antiphon: Unto us a / Child is born,
 unto / us a Son is given;
and the government shall be upon / His shoulder:
 and His name shall be called / Wonderful, Counselor.

A: Oh, sing unto the LORD / a new song;
 for He / hath done marvelous things.

C: 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: Unto us a / Child is born,
 unto / us a Son is given;
and the government shall be upon / His shoulder:
 and His name shall be called / Wonderful, Counselor.

Kyrie - Lord Have Mercy

p. 186

Gloria in Excelsis

p. 187

(Altar bells are sounded as we sing the Gloria)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

p. 189

(Please be seated for the readings)

First Reading: Isaiah 52:6–10

Thus says the LORD God: "My people shall know My name; therefore they shall know in that day that I am He who speaks: 'Behold, it is I.' " How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, with their voices they shall sing together; for they shall see eye to eye when the LORD brings back Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

A: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Hebrews 1:1–12

Brethren: God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed

heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire." But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions." And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual: *Psalm 98:3b–4a, 2 (Mode V)*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation / of our God.

Make a joyful noise un-/to the LORD, all the earth.

The LORD hath made known His / salvation:

His righteousness hath He openly showed in / the sight of the heathen.

(Please rise for the Alleluia)

Alleluia

p. 190

Holy Gospel: John 1:1–14

P: The Lord be with You.

C: And with your Spirit. *(Spoken)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

p. 191

(Please be seated for the hymn)

Hymn of the Day: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

384Δ

Sermon

Offertory *Create in Me A Clean Heart*

p. 192

(As the music begins, please rise to sing)

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****Agnus Dei - *Lamb of God*****p. 198***(Please be seated after the Agnus Dei)*

1. *The Prayer of Thanksgiving III – adapted from Apostolic Tradition, Worship Supplement, CPH 1969.*

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 *Prayers are provided for before and after communing inside the front cover of the hymnal under "Prayers for Worship". Please make use of these prayers or your own prayers during the time before, during and after communion*

(Please rise for the Post Communion Collect)

Post Communion Collect**p. 201****Salutation and Benedicamus****P. 201****Benediction****p. 202****Closing Hymn:** *Angels We Have Heard on High***368**

(We reflect in silent prayer following the closing hymn)

Postlude

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Attendance

Wednesday.....	15
Saturday.....	21
Sunday.....	93

Assisting with our service: Assistant: Bill Borriello, Lead
Deacon: Beth MacDonald, Reader: Joanne Outlaw, Altar Guild:
Kathryn Chester

Offerings for God The offering box is in the narthex for
our giving. For online donations/offering, please use this QR
code



Thank You!: to all the volunteers who worked at the
Annual Fall Clean Up of the church interior on Saturday
November 8. Many hands make light work!

We Welcome Our New Members: Anya Oblon, Connor
Orcutt, Jeffre Roche, Sandie Buteau, Matthew Ruby, Jim
and Kim Atkinson, Gage and Kayla Murphy *with Rayna*

First Communion Blessing: We rejoice at the recent first
communion of Olivia Cox, Leo, Jackson, and Lily
Laferriere, Olivia Fox, Sophia Wheeler, and Lucas Jones

News At St. John Church

Directory Corrections: We are gathering corrections and additions for the recently published Directory. Anyone with changes to their listing in the directory can send changes to Matthew in the office (either on paper or by email).

Vacation Bible School (VBS) program - We haven't held VBS for a few years but may try to restart next summer if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Cissy (csk@snet.net) if you can help to plan or lead any of these segments of the program: Director/Co-Director, Bible Story, Bible Challenge, Songs/Music, Arts/Crafts, Games/Fun, Snack. Leaders will need to be available a minimum of 4 days during the week of VBS; planners can help in the months before the event. Dates/time of the event to be determined at a later date.

Epiphany service - "Bring him incense, gold, and myrrh!" Words of the familiar Carol we will sing at our Epiphany service. Again this year at Saint John we are planning to bring Him a little incense! From ancient times the church has offered incense as a reminder of the prayer and worship afforded to our King! We will be using pure frankincense which is known to be hypoallergenic, known from biblical times for its mild and gentle aroma. "Sweet" or fragrant incense represents the offering of prayer and worship by God's people on earth and in heaven as we see in the book of Revelation. The Vespers or Evening prayer service has historically been associated with the offering of incense. Join us Wednesday night, **January 7th at 7:00 PM** for our Epiphany celebration!

***The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells
among Us in the Flesh***

In the beginning God created all things through His Word, His Son. But man fell into sin, and with man all creation was cursed. Therefore, God spoke His Word again, this time into the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary. The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle of our human nature (Ex. 40:17–21, 34–38). “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:1–14). The Son of God took on our flesh and blood and died on the cross in order that we might receive the right to become the children of God through faith. Baptized into Christ’s body, we are made partakers of a new Genesis, “the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:4–7). In Christ, the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man has truly appeared.