

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026

9 am



Saint John Lutheran Church

Fairfield, Pennsylvania

Rev. Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor

Carol Garman, Organist/ Music Director

**St. John Lutheran Church
13 East Main St.
Fairfield Pa 17320
717-642-5822**

Reverend Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor
Cell: 605-214-6828
Pastor's Office Hours – Mon. & Tues. 8:30am – 4:30pm

Carol Garman, Director of Music Ministries

www.stjohnfairfield.net
Email: office@stjohnfairfield.net

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Office Hours
Monday – Thursday 8:30am-12:00pm

Our Mission is to make Christ known.

We welcome all guests this morning.
We are very pleased to have you worship with us.
All are welcome to receive communion.

Sunday School for all ages meets at 10:15.
Everyone is welcome! Grab some refreshments and join us!

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARING CONVERSATIONS: "What is Your Hope for 2026?"

PRELUDE It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

arr. Willis

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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. **Amen**

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 reflection and 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. **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN Angels from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

INVOCATION

P: May 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE Let All Together Praise Our God (Vs. 1,2,5 & 6)

ELW 287

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

P: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.” ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the Word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.” ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

*The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 147:12-20 (Read Responsively)

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

¹³**Who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters hail like breadcrumbs. Who can stand against God’s cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God’s judgments.

Hallelujah!

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord...Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ *please stand if able*

Al-le-lu-ia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Al-le-luia!

P: The Holy Gospel according to John....**Glory to you O Lord**

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.] ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory

as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. *The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.***

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Wayne Gallipo

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

APOSTLES CREED

(inside back cover of hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: Hear us, O God. **Your Mercy is Great**

PEACE

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING PRAYER

C: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

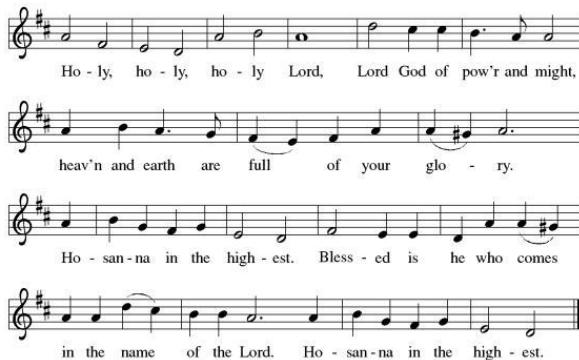
P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right....

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



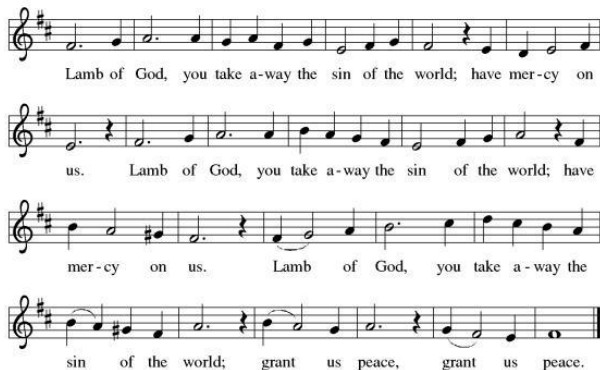
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: On the night in which he was betrayed ... for as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes again.

LORD'S PRAYER

THE FRACTION AND INVITATION

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION

We practice "open communion" at St. John. ALL are invited to come forward as ushered to receive this life-giving sacrament. Those not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing. As you are given the bread and wine an appropriate response is "Amen." Please be respectful of this meditative time within our worship.

COMMUNION HYMNS

As With Gladness Men of Old
What Child is This?

ELW 302
ELW 296

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray... Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN Go Tell it On the Mountain

ELW 290

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

2 The shepherds feared and
trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That bless-ed Christmas morn.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Rejoice, a King is Born

Ballinger/Fettke