

-St. John's Lutheran Church

218 North Jefferson Street
Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201

Phone (724) 548-2051 Home: 724-548-5512

Church Web Site: www.stjohnskittanning.org

Church e-mail: stjohnskittanning@gmail.com

The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor

December 29, 2024

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 the Service of the Word this morning as we celebrate **the First Sunday of Christmas**. 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:

We lift our voices in prayer to You, Lord, and You hear; we present our lives in prayer, and You see; grant to us Your peace and wholeness in all that we do. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE *Fanfare on "Hark, The Herald Angel Sing"* *arr. Wyton*

***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

OPENING HYMN _____

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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Almighty God, You have made Yourself known in Your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that His birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

FIRST LESSON:

1 SAMUEL 2:18–20, 26

A The First Lesson is from the second chapter of First Samuel.

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD "; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM:

PSALM 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

**²Praise him, all you angels of his;
praise him, all his host.**

³Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

**⁴Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD;
for he commanded, and they were created.

**⁶He made them stand fast forever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

**⁸fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

**¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds;**

¹¹kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴**He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!**

***HYMN OF JOY**

SECOND LESSON:

COLOSSIANS 3:12–17

The Second Lesson is from the third chapters of Colossians.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A Here ends the reading.

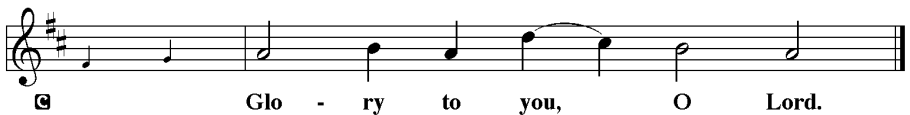
***VERSE**



GOSPEL:

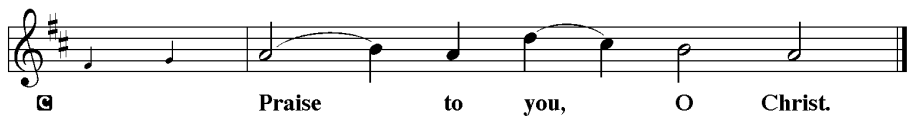
LUKE 2:41–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the
 Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the
 festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy
 Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming
 that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they
 started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not
 find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they
 found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and
 asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his
 understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were
 astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like
 this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."
⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I
 must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to
 them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was
 obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.
⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and
 human favor.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

SERMON

"CLOTHING"

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

*APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

***THE PRAYERS**

With joy and gratitude for the gift of Jesus, let us draw near to our heavenly Father in prayer, asking his mercy for the Church, the world, and all who need his loving-kindness.

A brief silence

Dear Father, thank you for Jesus. Though your eternal Son, he is also our brother – “flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone.” Thank you for allowing him to share with us every stage of growth, life, and death. Thank you for revealing who Jesus is, and why you sent him. Turn our hearts, eyes, and lives toward Christ, our eternal Dayspring and our heart’s delight.

Lord in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

(Other intercessions are offered.)

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

C Amen

ANTHEM

“All Is Well”

Smith

***OFFERTORY**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Let us pray. 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 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.

* PREFACE

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, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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



C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____

***COMMUNION**

All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present

In the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.

Gluten-Free Communion Wafers are available, please inform the Pastor of your needs.

P The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen

***CANTICLE**



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray....Pour out upon us the spirit of Your love, O LORD, and unite the wills of those whom You have fed with one heavenly food; through 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.



C A - men

CLOSING HYMN

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on “Noel Nouvelet”

arr. Young

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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 after worship.

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

Amounts needed in offerings during December to meet our estimated expenses in the following accounts:

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Current Account: | \$28,000.00 |
| Benevolence: | \$22,000.00 |

Every 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! 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.

Electronic Giving is Good for You and the Church

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



To give through the app, search your phone's app store for "GivePlus Mobile" or contact the church office. To give from your personal computer go to: <https://secure.myvanco.com>

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

| | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Today | 8:30 a.m. | Worship: Rock of Our Salvation |
| | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Senior Choir |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship: Communion |

Wednesday 1/1 Happy New Year! Office Closed

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| Friday 1/3 | 8:00 p.m. | Youth Lock-in |
| Sunday 1/5 | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Senior Choir |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship: |

The St. John's worship service is broadcast live on You Tube each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.johnskittanning2251>

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Assisting Minister | Becky Swanson (E) Nancy Pierce (L) |
| Lector | Jill Wranich (E) Lance Whiteman (L) |
| Communion | Nick & Jill Wranich (L) |
| Acolyte | Lizzie Smoyer (E) Kendall Bailey (L) |
| Welcome team | The Smoyers (E) Lance & Christine Whiteman (L) |
| Camera Operator | Robert John (E) Keith Livengood (L) |

STAFF MEMBERS

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Director of Children's & Youth Ministry | Julie Smith |
| Secretary | Angela B. Clever |
| Sexton | Colin Toy |
| Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music | Rebecca Veith |
| Sr. Choir Accompanist | Elizabeth Cramer |

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.

*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.

GRACE
happens



at
St. John's Lutheran Church
Kittanning, PA