

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

February 2, 2025

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE



Jesus Presented in the Temple

St. John's Lutheran Church is part of the North American Lutheran Church in America. We welcome you and are glad you are participating in the Service of the Word this morning as we celebrate the **The Presentation of Our Lord**. 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:

Father in heaven, from whom alone come life and freedom, deepen our understanding and faith during our worship of You to the end that we may truly follow Your Holy will in our lives. Amen.

PRELUDE*Wie Schon Leuchtet Der Morgenstern**arr. Manz****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***“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**LBW 315****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



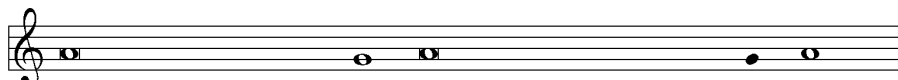
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



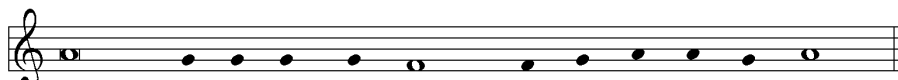
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



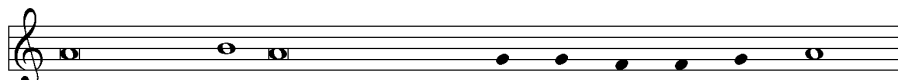
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



G Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** 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



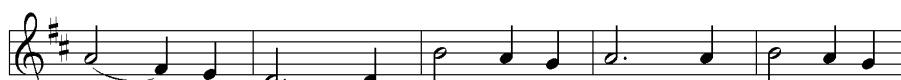
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



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.

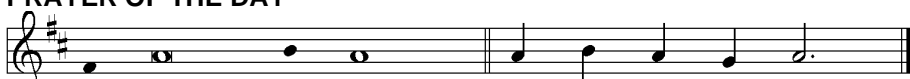


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for You have sent us Your salvation. Inspire us by Your Holy Spirit to see with our own eyes Him who is the glory of Israel and the light for all nations, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

FIRST LESSON:

MICAH 3:1–4

A The First Lesson is from the third chapter of Micah.

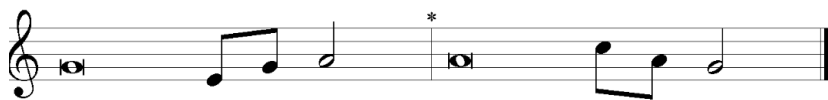
See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years

A Here ends the reading.

PSALM

Psalm 84



How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!^{*}
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

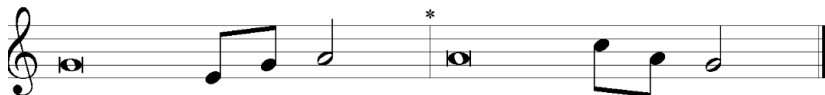
²The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,^{*}
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

³Happy are they who dwell in your house!^{*}
They will always be praising you.

⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you,^{*}
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁵Those who go through the desolate valley
will find it a place of springs,^{*}
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶They will climb from height to height,^{*}
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.



⁷ LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer;*
hearken, O | God of Jacob.

**⁸Behold our defend- | er, O God;*
and look upon the face of | your anointed.**

⁹For one day in your courts is better than
a thousand in | my own room,*
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents | of the wicked.

**¹⁰For the LORD God is both | sun and shield;*
he will give | grace and glory;**

¹¹no good thing will the | LORD withhold*
from those who walk | with integrity.

**¹²O | LORD of hosts,*
happy are they who put their | trust in you!**

SECOND LESSON:

Hebrews 2:14–18

A The Second Lesson is from the second chapter of Hebrews.

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested

A Here ends the reading.

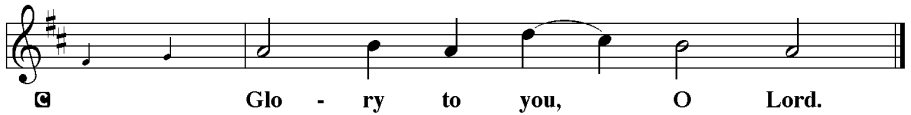
*VERSE



*GOSPEL:

LUKE 2: 22-40

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



²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

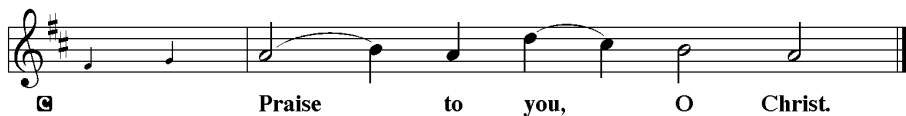
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

LBW 415

SERMON

*NICENE CREED

C 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

A Let us draw near to the Light of Christ, offering prayer and supplication on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Heavenly Father, sometimes your Word seem hard and stern and offensive. But in Jesus, you assure us that your Word is good. In him, you flesh out your never-failing love for us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, so we can thank you for every Word you speak to us. Help us to model, however imperfectly, your perfect love for your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C 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

*PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANTHEM

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

Gabarain

Tim Marasco, guitarist

*OFFERTORY



C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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 Let us pray.

A Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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. Sharing our life, He lived among us to reveal Your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to His own brilliant light. 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**

**C: 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**



☩ 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**

*All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present
in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.*

Amen.

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

C Amen

***CANTICLE**



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,



and will be for - ev - er. A - men

***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.



***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

“Give to Our God Immortal Praise”

LBW 520

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in Ten

Tambling

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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.



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.”

Katie's Cupboard

Many thanks to the folks who donated/gifted the sets of shelves for storing donated items. Our fellowship hall is much neater and contained and items are much more organized.

Did you know~ For your consideration: If you are a member of the rewards program at **Sprankle's Neighborhood Market**, they have "free item Friday". You just need to make a purchase, pick up said the item (it's free) and then you can donate to Katie's.

Shop-N-Save always has their brand items and some great BOGO sales as well. Keep in mind if you don't need "4" of something, Katie's will gladly take the overage.

It's about time to think of spring cleaning and the Lenten reflection/cleaning of our hearts. If you could take and "March" your way to the local stores (**Dollar Tree** cleaning products work just fine) any cleaning item would be welcome.

We are also beginning to shelf pet items. Meeting someone at the cupboard, they were so thankful for the tuna, not only for themselves but to share with their pet. Yes, Jesus reminds us to love and care for all God's animals.

If you would care to volunteer, have great ideas to further this ministry, offer suggestions ~please contact any member of council, **Amber Zurn** 724/902-9471 or **Tammy Fleeger** 724/664-1773.

We also welcome cash donations so that the Social Ministry Committee can do the shopping for you. Thank you for your support!

SPARK

February 18, 2025 - - - **6:15-7:30pm**

Preschool-6th Grade - - - COST: FREE!

Dinner, Bible Story, Exciting Games, Fun, Crafts and More!

Parents, stay or run some errands.

NEXT Spark Date March 18th 2025

Text **SPARK** to 724 276 5321

for weather updates, announcements and reminders

REGISTER YOUR CHILD AT

www.tinyurl.com/sparkstjohnskittanning

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHNS

Today 2/2	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
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Monday 2/3	7:30 p.m.	Property
Wednesday 2/5	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	5:30 p.m.	New Bells
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Bells
	7:00 p.m.	Pastor's Bible Study
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir
Thursday 2/6	9:30 a.m.	Children's Hour
	2:45 p.m.	Catechism
	7:00 p.m.	Catechism
Friday 2/7	10:00 a.m.	Youth Led Bible Study at Ispirare
Saturday 2/8	8:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sunday 2/9	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Communion



The flower chart for 2025 has been posted in the narthex. Please take this opportunity to sign up for the dates that you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one or special event. You may also call the church office. **Flowers have increased to \$75.00 for the 2025 year.**



Heading into the hospital?

If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, please contact the office @ 724-548-2051. Because of confidentiality issues, the hospitals are not as helpful in notifying us as they once were.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Assisting Ministers	Julie Smith (E) Gene Hughes (L)
Lectors	Jill Wranich (E) Val Lager (L)
Communion Assistants	Rich Farah & Nick Wranich (E) Sara Shafer, Deb Bouch, Sue Neal, Nancy Pierce (L)
Welcome Team	The Smoyers (E) The Holts (L)
Acolytes	Gracie Hodak (E) Quinn Kellner, William Bouch, Kendall Bailey, Logan Duncan (L)
Camera Operator	Nick Wranich (E) Keith Livengood (L)

STAFF MEMBERS

Director of Children's & Youth Ministry	Julie Smith
Secretary	Angela B. Clever
Sexton	TBA
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