

Christ the King

The Last Sunday of the Church Year November 26, 2023 | 10:30 AM



All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-

racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music cha Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator j Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org charlowjennings@stjohnssummit.org crothman@stjohnssummit.org jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org tion wk154linda@gmail.com

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

God of majesty, you love us with an everlasting love and show us the way to justice and peace. In Jesus Christ you have reconciled the whole world to you and claimed us as your own, that we may live as his body on earth and, with all the saints, enter into your glory on the last day. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2

ELW Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book ACS All Creation Sings: Purple Book

PRELUDE Dedication

Margaret Sandresky

WELCOME

Please stand. INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In Christ all things hold together;

he is head of the Church and Lord of all.

The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our God.

Christ will reign forever and ever.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In Christ, God came to reconcile all things, making peace through the blood of the cross. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acknowledge Jesus as lord of our lives and acclaim him as ruler of all. Make us servants of our servant King Jesus, in whose name and by whose mercy we pray. Amen.

God is merciful and forgives us all our sins. In the stead and by the command of our + Lord Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there we are expecting a Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, who will transform the body of our humiliation into the body of his glory, and make all things subject to himself. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 434 Jesus Shall Reign



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Please be seated.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 100 ELW 883 All People That on Earth Do Dwell

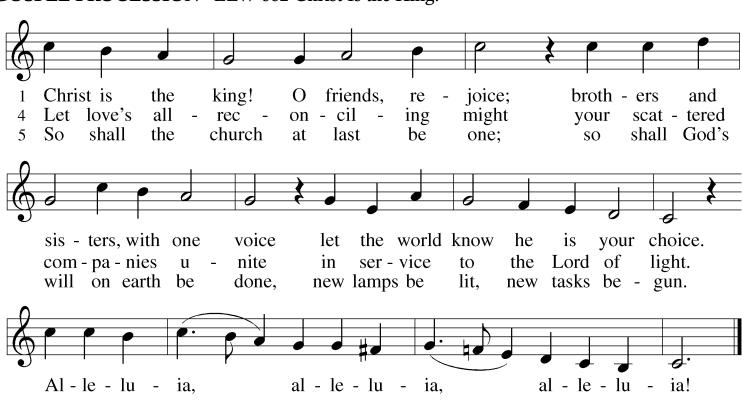


Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594 Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.



Please stand. GOSPEL PROCESSION ELW 662 Christ Is the King!

Text: George K. A. Bell, 1883—1958, alt. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Music: GELOBET SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570—1615

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46 The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

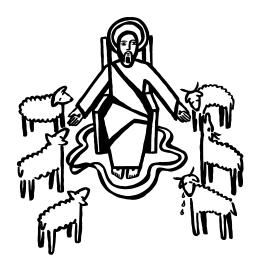
[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated. CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet



Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 707 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith: 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC O Come Let us Sing Unto the Lord

Emma Lou Diemer

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

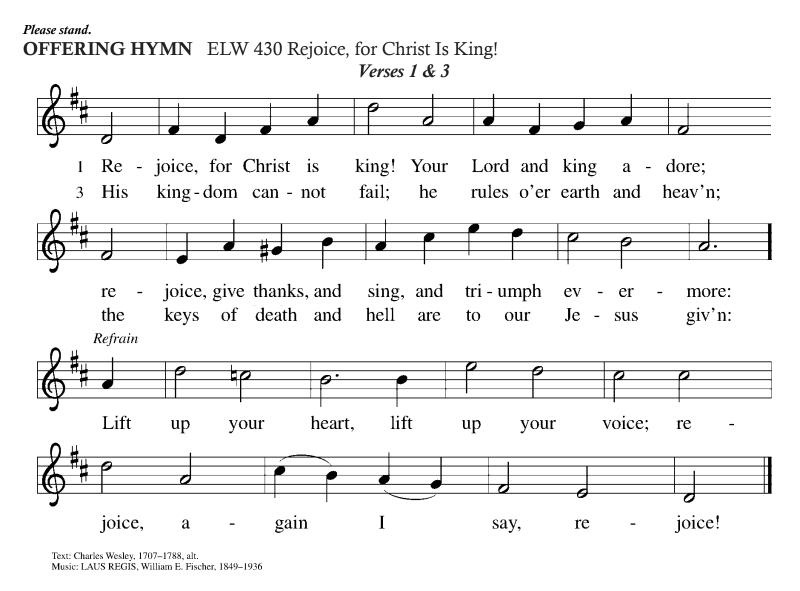
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth, and the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it, and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is the Lord our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him. For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, and with righteousness to judge the world and the peoples with his truth.

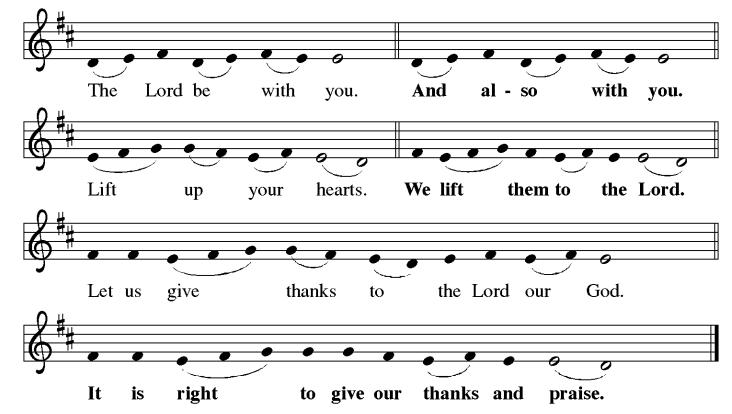
– Psalm 95 & 96, Coverdale Translation



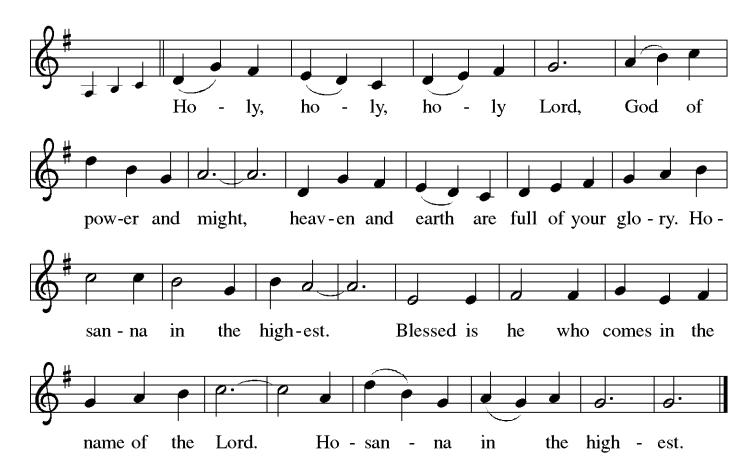
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PROPER PREFACE



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNON

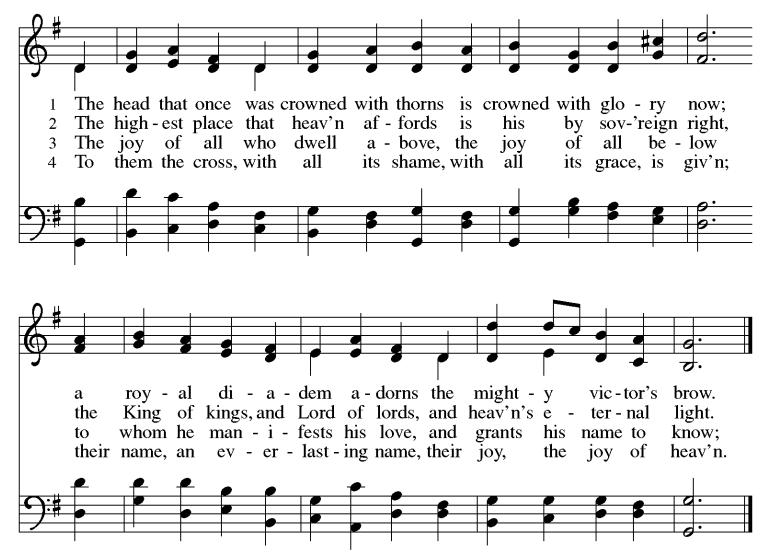
If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time. The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer. Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup. Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

> All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

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

LAMB OF GOD

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 432 The Head that Once Was Crowned



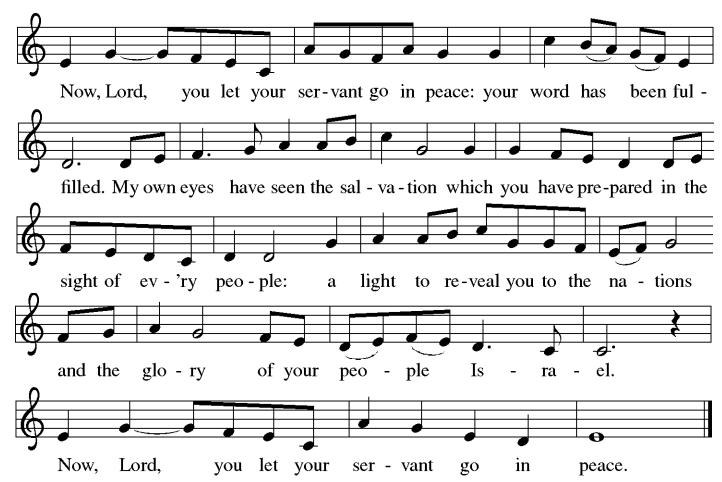
5 They suffer with their Lord below; they reign with him above; their profit and their joy to know the myst'ry of his love.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855 Music: ST. MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke, 1669–1707 6 The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him; his people's hope, his people's wealth, their everlasting theme!

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.



POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

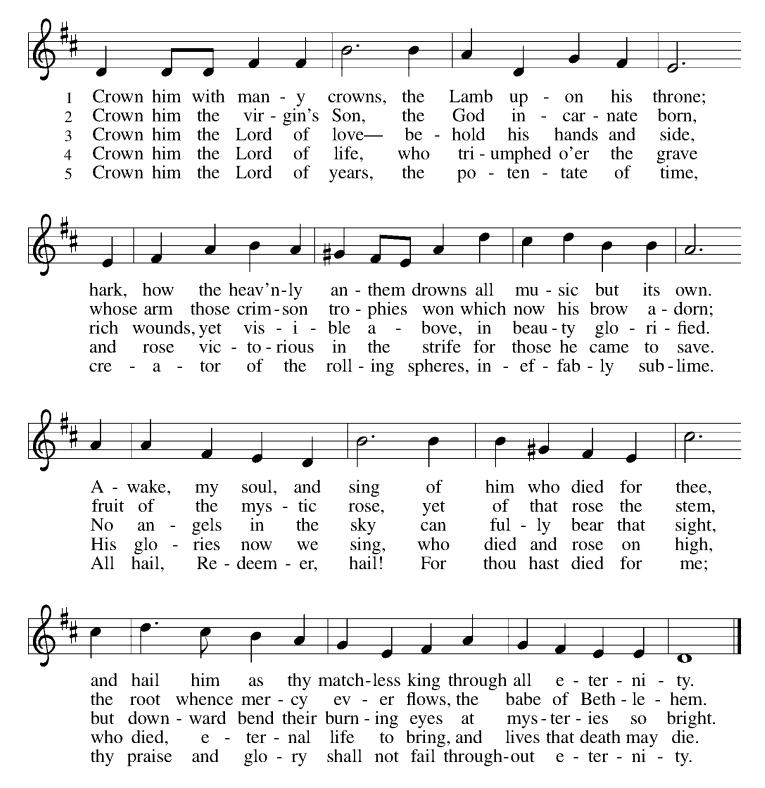
Let us pray. Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your reign of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ, our king and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Our help in the name of Lord, **Who made heaven and earth.** Jesus Christ is coming to reign. **To God be glory forever and ever!**

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. And my the blessing of God—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 855 Crown Him with Many Crowns



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE A Phoenix Processional

Dan Locklair

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Dec. 2	Saint John's Christmas Market	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Dec. 3	First Sunday of Advent	8:00 & 10:30 AM
Dec. 10	Second Sunday of Advent Lessons & Carols Service 115th Anniversary Reception	.4:00 PM
Dec. 17	Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Bridges Run Prep Greening the Church	.9:00 AM
Dec. 19	Blue Christmas	.7:00 PM
Dec. 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:15 AM
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Festival Prelude with Choir & Brass Christmas Eve Service–All-in Pagenant Festival Prelude with Choir & Brass Christmas Eve Festival Service	5:00 PM 9:30 PM
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Christmas Morning Service	.10:30 AM
Dec. 31	Lessons & Carols for Christmas	.10:30 AM

November 26, 2023

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of their anniversary by the Bev and Michael Kaczmarski.

Pledge Update: Thus far we have received 50 pledges, totaling \$308,952. Please submit your 2024 pledge as soon as possible.

Children's Choir TODAY at 9:30 AM and Faith Formation at 10:00 AM. All children are welcome. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings or Deacon Walker for more information.

Advent Devotional Books are available in the narthex.

We are having a Christmas Market on December 2 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM to support the Bethlehem Builds affordable housing project. See the weekly email for more information and contact Jane Bowman if you are interested.

Christmas decorations: Recommended donations of \$25-\$100 are appreciated, but we will receive donations of any amount. To be included in the Christmas worship bulletins, dedications must be received in the church office by **December 10**. Sign up in the rear entryway.

Lessons & Carols & St. John's Anniversary, December 10 at 4:00 PM.

This moving service combines readings with choral music and congregational carols. Following the service, we will have a festive reception celebrating the 115th anniversary of the founding of our congregation with Bishop Tracie Bartholomew as our special guest.

Thursday Meals for Summit Warm Hearts: Every other Thursday we are providing dinner for our Warm Hearts guests. Sign up to provide meals, sides, salads, or desserts in the weekly email.

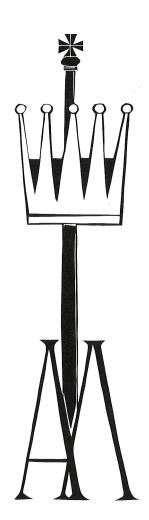
LSMNJ Gifts due December 10.

GRACE collection of spices, bouillon, and cooking oil, due December 10.

Mitten Tree collection of new or gently-used mittens, hats, scarves, or other winter apparel due December 17.

BRIDGES Run Collection: We are collecting supplies for 200 sustainable lunches to be assembled on **December 17**. Sign up in the narthex or in the weekly email.

BRIDGES Run: We will be handing out lunches on **December 23**. If you wish to participate, please sign up in the weekly email.



SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901 stjohnssummit.org | 908-273-3846



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