



The Word became flesh and lived among us

JOHN 1:14

Second Sunday of Christmas
January 4, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville

5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road

Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937

574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville
5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
574-8028 or email: stjoh1875@gmail.com

January 4, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Service of the Word

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and
to serve where the Spirit leads us.

PRELUDE

+ GATHERING SONG *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* #780

1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;
 Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1919

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

+ GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)

C And also with you.

P In the beginning was the Word,

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P In the Word was life,

P and the life was the light of all people.

P The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

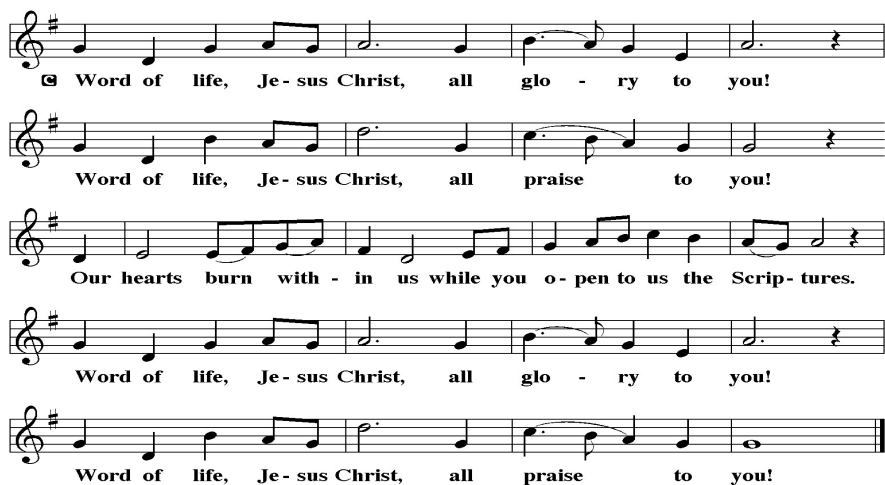
C And also with you.

P Let us pray. . . 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.

INTRODUCTION

SPECIAL MUSIC by Jacob Tolliver

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

+ THE GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

¹⁴ And 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.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Francis

SPECIAL MUSIC by Jacob Tolliver

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (*2 Corinthians 13:11*)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

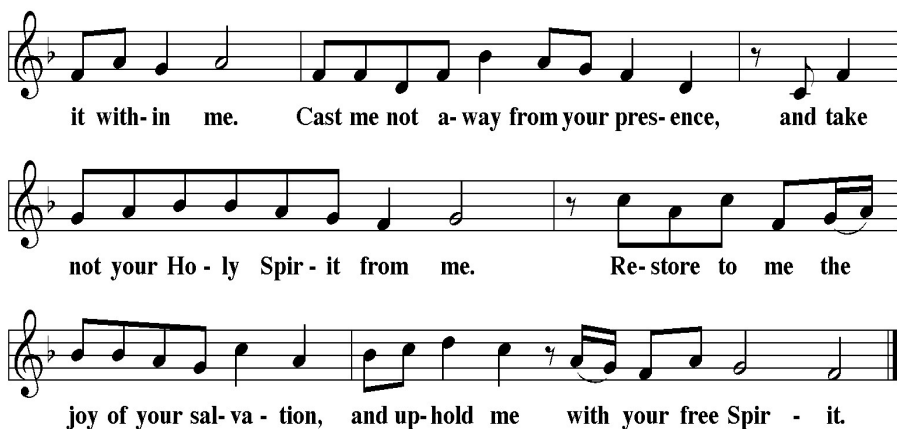
Peace be with you.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY





+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

P God, our Creator,

C you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P “Raise up and send to us our next pastor (deacon). We pray for our call committee, that your wisdom will rest upon them, that they may know and recognize the person you are sending. Grant us patience and faith as we wait. Amen”

“We pray for the our call committee as they continue their work, that they may know your will, and have the faith and courage to follow your leading.”

“Grant that your Holy Spirit may rest upon our call committee as they listen for your will. Grant us patience and hope that comes by faith in you.” Hear us, O God

C Your mercy is great.

P You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P With the joy of Christ’s birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

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

+ THE LORD’S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

**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**

+ BLESSING

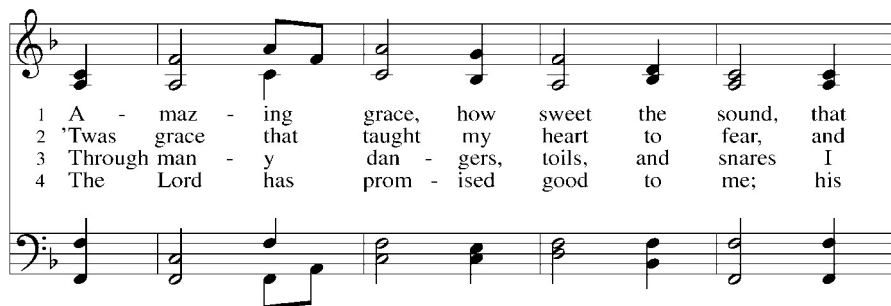
P Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

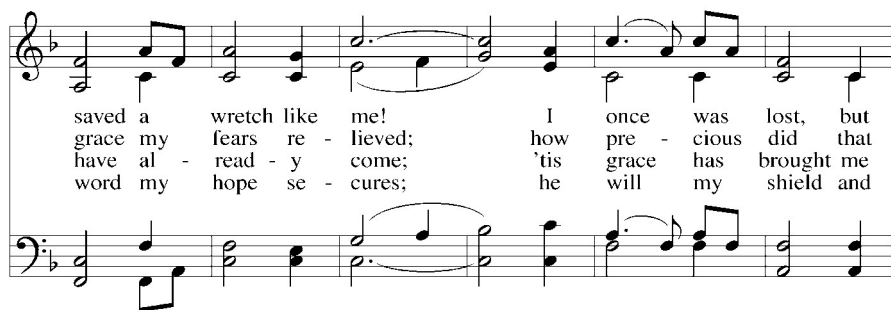
+ SENDING SONG

Amazing Grace

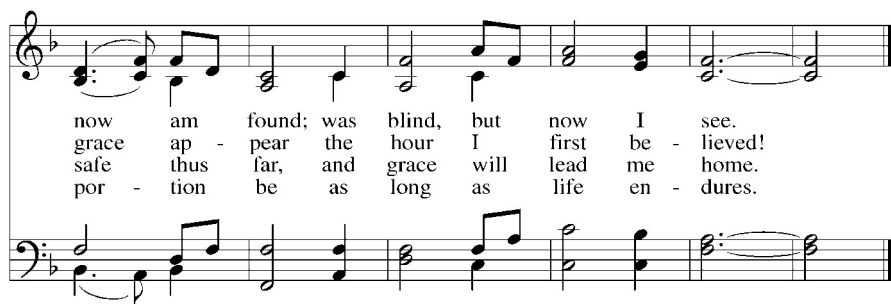
#448



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

+ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace.
 Children Serve the Lord.
 C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

+Stand as you are able

Reprinted from *Lutheran Book of Worship*, copyright 1978
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #8747-L
From sundaysandseasons.com.
Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

SERVING TODAY

Organist

Prayer Leader

Greeter

Altar Committee

Council President

Leigh Ann Henry

Vivian Riffel

Shirley Gleim

Debbie Clevenger, Cindy Oakes

Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here.

If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

WE WELCOME JACOB TOLLIVER as our special guest this morning. His ancestors were some of St. John's founding members 150 years ago. Following morning worship, we will have a light lunch.

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Rosemarie Becker, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Paul Means, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Frank Dodd, Linda Martin, Rena McIntyre, Bill Culver, Melaine Hawk, Patty Poole, Kent Gifford, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Joanne Oakes, Vivian Riffel, Donnie Hixon, Rod Schneider, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

PLEASE PRAY FOR the Call Committee and Church Council as we search for a new pastor. May God bless and guide them in this journey.

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be on Sunday, January 11 immediately after worship. Reports will be received and elections for Church Council will be held, along with a few other items of business.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 7th and 8th graders is the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The next class is Sunday, January 11 and January 25 at 9:30 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the library Sunday School room.

PASTOR RICHARD MATCH'S has been moved into an assisted living facility. His new address is Story Point, 3872 Attucks Dr., Powell, OH 43065.

Below is the ballot for the 2025 church council.

Elder	Trustee	Deacon
Brian Oakes	Jim Gleim	Kelly Skipworth
	Rusty Gleim	Vicki Titus
	Daniel Mullins	Rick Williams

Vote for one Elder, one Trustee, and two Deacon.

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Paul Means, Kwynn Thackston

BAPTISMS: Galen Gleim

ANNIVERSARIES:

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

This Week at St. John

Today—*Second Sunday of Christmas*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

11:00 a.m. Lite Lunch

Next Sunday—*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

11:00 Annual Congregational Meeting

Attendance

2026 Average:
2025 Average 62

Serving Next Sunday, January 11

<i>Organist</i>	<i>Leigh Ann Henry</i>
<i>Worship Assistant</i>	<i>Vivian Riffel</i>
<i>Lay Reader</i>	<i>Dené DeGonzague</i>
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	<i>Ophelia Hatfield</i>
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Ophelia Hatfield</i>
<i>Altar Committee</i>	<i>Debbie Clevenger, Cindy Oakes</i>
<i>Council President</i>	<i>Rick Willaims</i>

Coming Events

Sunday, January 11 immediately after worship
Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 18 at 11 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Sunday, February 15 at 11 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, January 4 at 11:00 a.m.
Lite Lunch

Sunday, January 11
Annual Congregational Meeting
Immediately following worship.

Wednesday, February 18
Ash Wednesday Service
At 7:00 p.m.