

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas  
DECEMBER 30-31, 2023**

**ORDERS OF WORSHIP**

**Saturday Spoken Vespers - 5pm**

Welcome & Announcements  
Invocation  
Confession & Forgiveness  
Litany of Praise  
Prayer of the Day  
Bible Readings  
Message  
Creed, Prayers and Peace  
Offertory  
The Words of Communion  
Communion  
The Lord's Prayer  
Blessing & Sending

**Sunday Liturgical - 10am**

Prelude  
Invocation  
Confession & Forgiveness  
Opening Hymn ELW 270  
Greeting p. 138  
Kyrie p. 138  
Prayer of the Day  
First Bible Reading  
Psalm of the Day Psalm 148  
Second Bible Reading  
Gospel Acclamation  
Today's Message  
Hymn of the Day ELW 290  
Creed, Prayers & Peace  
Offertory  
Offering  
Eucharistic Liturgy & Lord's Prayer p. 144  
Lamb of God & Distribution p. 146  
Blessing & Prayer p. 146  
Benediction & Sending Hymn ELW 267  
Dismissal



**WEEKLY WORSHIP  
BULLETIN FOR  
ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE ERIE LUTHERAN PARISH**

2216 PEACH STREET, ERIE PA 16502  
814.456.7596 WWW.STJOHNSERIE.ORG

**YOU BELONG HERE**

We welcome you to our congregation this weekend! We are glad to have you with us. We celebrate Holy Communion at every service. If you are a baptized Christian, please join us at the Lord's Supper. We ask that you come down the center aisle as directed and receive your wafer and wine as you walk back to your seat.

If you are new to us, everything you need for worship is projected on the screen and in this bulletin. Please feel free to use the red hymnal found in your pew, if you are more comfortable. The pages and hymn numbers are to the left of this bulletin.

Please join us for coffee after worship in the lobby.

Should you need a bathroom, they are through the glass doors in the back of the nave (sanctuary) and down the hallway on your left. A family/handicap accessible restroom with baby changing station is available in the front lobby (Peach Street entrance).

**TODAY'S THEME**

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

**Today's Bible Readings**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Pew Bible p. 604
Galatians 4:4-7	Pew Bible p. 947
Psalm 148	Pew Bible p. 508
Luke 2:22-40	Pew Bible p. 833

**Today's Message**

*By Faith, "We shall Rejoice and be Glad"*

*by Rev. Owen Rhodes*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### PSALM RESPONSE:



Psalm 148:13

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.  
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### OUR PRAYER LISTS:

**Members:** Gayle Matthis, Joan Wheeler, Lynn Schrimper, Robert Schlaufman, Kellie Montifiori, Sharon Hetrick, Judy Crissman, Sandy Alwens, and Nancy Varner.

**Cancer treatments:** Ellen Stevens

**Friends of the congregation:** Jeff LaLonde, Ryan Meyers, Sami D, Jamey Price, Ken Marshall, Amanda VanLoon, Richard D., Ernie Winter, Jarod Stolz, Fran Moriarty, Audrey Hetrick, Astro Rys, Vernon Thompson, Amy Nupp, Michelle S., Rev. Rhodes and family as they mourn the loss of Owen Jr., Natalie Zimmerly, David Gaston, Michelle S., and Carol B.

**Cancer Friends:** Bishop Lozano, Pastor Ken Larson, Lee S, Janie G, Karen B, Norm S, Tony Paggio, Vicki Hanson, Edward Scarpitti, Beaty Emch, Ruth Stiles, Admiral Brent Scott, Katrina, Arlene Rick, Glicerica Conuel, Becky, Nicole C., Ian Minner, and Jason Beeler.

**Other prayer requests:** The congregation of St. John's to remain strong and faithful as we journey through the months to come.

**Choir Rehearsals:** Choir rehearsals will resume on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Chancel Choir rehearses at 9:00 AM and the Bell Choir at 11:15 AM. New members are welcome. Start the New Year with a resolution to sing and ring for the Lord.

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** following the 10 AM worship service on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**First Holy Communion:** The First Holy Communion Retreat being hosted by Rev. Mineo has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, with First Holy Communion being held on January 14<sup>th</sup>. This retreat is intended for students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above who have not yet received communion.