

Grow ... Go ... Gather
December 12, 2021



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)

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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

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**The Third Sunday in Advent
The Order of Service
(Morning Prayer, pp.235ff.)**

(Please turn off your wifi)

Preservice Music, Call to Worship and Welcome

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Advent and Christmas are colorful seasons in the church year!

C: Red, blue, white, gold, and green, and purple, adorn our celebration as we prepare for the advent of our Lord.

P: Red is everywhere around us.

C: Poinsettias, Santa's cap and outfit, Christmas stockings and wrapping paper

P: Lights on trees, Christmas bulbs, and candy canes.

C: But for us, the color red reminds us of sacrifice.

P: Red is the color of Jesus' blood shed for you and me.

C: Red is the color of celebration.

P: As we celebrate the new life our Savior brings to His redeemed.

C: "O Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant!"

P: "Joy to the world, the Lord is Come!"

C: Let earth receive her King

P: Let every heart prepare Him room

C: Including my own!

ALL: Alleluia! Amen!

The Versicles

LSB 235

P O Lord, open my lips,



C and my mouth shall de-clare Your praise.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



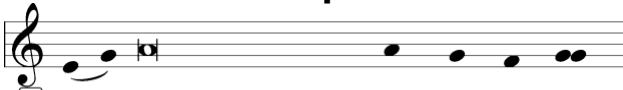
as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Common Antiphon & Venite

LSB 236-236



L Give glory to God, our light and our life.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite

LSB 236




C O come, let us sing to the Lord;



let us make a joy-ful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.




1 Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;



let us make a joy - ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a - bove all gods.



I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.



II The sea is His, for He made it;




and His hand formed the dry land.



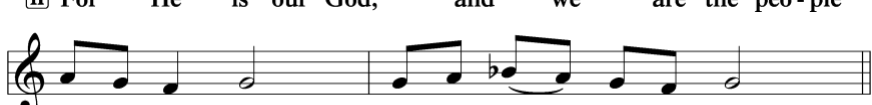
I O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;



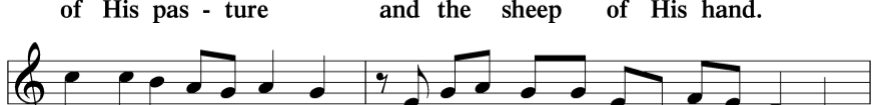
let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.



II For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple



of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.



III Glo - ry be 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.

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

O come, let us wor - ship Him.

The Office Hymn: LSB 345, "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the

near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -

works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain



The Old Testament Lesson: *Zephaniah 3:14-20*

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Lesson: *Philippians 4:4-7*

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 7:18-28

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 352, "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
 That, set free from doubt and dread,
 I may cling to You in faith,
 Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
 As the glorious king to reign,
 I with joy will see Your face,
 Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Tune and text: Public domain

The Sermon: Genesis 12:1-14; Matthew 2:16-18, "Red: The Color of Sacrifice"



A Hymn: LSB 338, "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"



1 Come, Thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
 2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
 By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Offering

The General Prayer

the Collect for Grace LSB 241

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (on the back cover of the hymnal)

Benedicamus

LSB 241

- P Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

The Benediction

LSB 242

- P The almighty and merciful Lord, the
Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve you.
C **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: LSB 350, "Come, Thou Precious Ransom Come"



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: December 12 - 19

- TODAY:** 11:00 a.m. Sunday School, PK-4th
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:00 a.m. Bible Study
3:00-5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party
- Monday:** 6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Worship
Service w/ Holy Communion
- Tuesday:** 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
- Wed:** 10:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Darrell
7:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service
- Thursday:** 6:00 p.m. Bells
7:15 p.m. Adult Choir
- Friday:** Pastor's Day off
- Sunday:** 8:00 a.m. Gizmo Devotions on FB
9:30 a.m. COMMUNION WORSHIP at St
James & FBL.
KIDZ TIME during the sermon, PK-2nd
11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Those who serve Today:

Deacons: Bryan Ensing

Ushers: The Urbanski family

Lector: David Ringel, ISJ Academy

Those who serve Advent Worship December 15:

Deacon: Bryan Ensing

Ushers: Orlin Bowman and Grace Rosema

Lector: Pastor Schaeffer

Those who serve December 19:

Deacon: Bryan Ensing and Craig Popma

Ushers: Ben & Ashley, Jim & Nancy

Lector: Charlie Kirt

December Altar Guild: Marjie Weiss and Melissa Ensing

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: December 5

General Fund	\$40,461.00
Bible Study Guide	20.00
Plate Collections	602.00
Youth Fund	40.00
	Total: \$41,123.00
On-line giving	1,033.75
	Total: \$42,156.75

CHRISTMAS CARDS are available in the Coat Room. A wonderful display rack has been donated to make sorting through cards easier. The cards are free, help yourself.

ADVENT CALENDARS AND DEVOTIONS for young children and teens/young adults are available in the Main Entryway. Please help yourself and share the Advent of our Lord in this fun and exciting way!



The **December Youth Meeting** is **TODAY** from **3pm to 5pm**. It is the **Christmas Mystery Party**. Dinner will be served so the youth kids should bring their appetite! Friends are

always welcome to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact Youth Leader Kelsey Butler.

DIAPER DRIVE

Friends in Faith is sponsoring a Diaper Drive during the **month of December**. When you are shopping for your Christmas gift giving needs, please consider a much appreciated package of diapers for a family in need. The collection box will be in the main entryway of church. **FIF is also collecting winter**

clothing for Mel Trotter.