

Grow ... Go ... Gather
December 19, 2021



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)**

2040 Oakwood Avenue N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

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The Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Order of Service (DS 4 p. 203)

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 **Blue, white, gold, and green, purple, and red adorn our celebration as we prepare for the advent of our Lord.**

P Blue is the color of boys!

C **And our Savior is a boy.**

P Blue is the color of water.

C **We have received the gifts of God in the waters of Holy Baptism.**

P Blue is the color of eternity.

C **We are promised everlasting life with our Lord!**

P "Come and worship"

C **"Come and worship"**

ALL: "Worship Christ the newborn King!"

(During the singing of the Opening Hymn, we will light the candles on the Advent wreath.)

The Opening Hymn: LSB 354, "Arise, O Christian People"



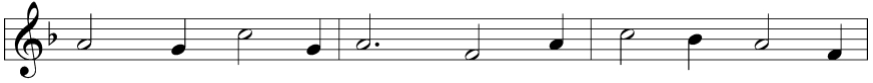
1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
high; Be - neath His feet in - ter - ror The haugh - ty
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n-ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion, And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Invocation, Confession and Absolution *LSB* 203

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son
 and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O
 Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness;
 therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word,
 call upon Him in prayer and praise, and
 receive the body and blood of our Lord
 Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar,
 let us first consider our unworthiness and
 confess before God and one another that
 we have sinned in thought, word, and

deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The Introit *1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47*
Sung by Choir and Congregation

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.
My mouth derides my | enemies,*
because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.
There is none holy | like the LORD;*
there is none besides you; there is no rock
| like our God.
The barren has borne | seven,*
but she who has many children | is forlorn.
The LORD kills and | brings to life;*
he brings down to Sheol and | raises up.
The LORD makes poor and | makes rich;*

he brings low and | he exalts.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

The Salutation and Prayer of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem: "Carols for Advent"

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel 9th century text translated by John M. Neal Third verse by Patrick M Liebergen Based on Jesu Bambino by Pietro Yon Setting by Patrick M Liebergen Copyright 2000 by Hope Publishing Co. Carol Stream, IL 60188 All Rights Reserved Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license # M-401621 All rights reserved

The Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 seventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, 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 to You, O Christ.**

The Nicene Creed (on the back cover of the hymnal)

The Sermon Hymn: "Light of the World" (We the Kingdom)

Verse 1

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight

Verse 2

Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory You saw my story
God You entered in and became one of us

Chorus

Sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah for the things He has done

Come and adore Him

Bow down before Him

Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Verse 3

Light of the world crown in a manger
Born for the cross to suffer to save
High King of Heaven death is the poorer
We are the richer by the price that He paid

(Chorus)

Verse 4

Light of the World soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory
And there He shall reign forevermore forevermore

(Chorus)

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The Sermon: Romans 6:3-11, "Blue: the Color of Boys, Water, and Eternity"

The Offering

The General Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

A Hymn: LSB 937, "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace"



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,

Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and

va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

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Welcome/Announcements/Blessing for Online Worshippers

T The Service of the Sacrament T

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also 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.**

It is truly good, right,...we laud and magnify
Your glorious name, evermore praising You
and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Words of Institution

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 210



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

During Holy Communion we will sing;
 LSB 392, "God Loves Me Dearly";
 LSB 353 "Jesus Came, The Heavens Adoring"
 LSB 934, "My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"

LSB 392 God Loves Me Dearly

1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -

va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me
 dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

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LSB 353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
 worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
 sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
 To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty,
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

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LSB 934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
 2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
 3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
 4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
 maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
 those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
 leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
 light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
 tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
 el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Prayer

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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
T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: LSB 340 "Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates" (Verse 1, 3, 5)



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The
 is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To
 Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion
 whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of
 face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To
 joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free. To
 guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: December 19 - 26

- TODAY:** **KIDZ TIME** during the sermon, PK-2nd
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Monday:** **6:30 p.m.** Monday Evening Worship
Service w/ Holy Communion
- Tuesday:** **7:30 p.m.** ZOOM Bible Study
- Thursday:** **6:00 p.m.** Bells
7:15 p.m. Adult Choir
- Friday:** **7:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**
- Saturday:** **10:00 am CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**
- Sunday:** **8:00 a.m.** Gizmo Devotions on FB
9:30 a.m. WORSHIP at St James & FBL.

*Darrell's Bible study will resume January 5th, 2022

Those who serve Today:

- Deacons:** Bryan Ensing and Craig Popma
Ushers: Ben & Ashley, Jim & Nancy
Lector: Charlie Kirt

Those who serve CHRISTMAS EVE: 7:00 p.m.

- Deacon:** Bryan Ensing and Craig Popma
Ushers: The Urbanski family
Lector: Pastor Schaeffer



Those who serve CHRISTMAS DAY: 10:00 a.m.

- Deacon:** John Weiss
Ushers: Orlin Bowman, Jim & Nancy Spears
Lector: Pastor Schaeffer



Those who serve December 26: 9:30 a.m.

- Deacon:** Jerry Talen
Ushers: Ben & Ashley, Dale & Grace
Lector: Pastor Schaeffer



December Altar Guild: Marjie Weiss and Melissa Ensing

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: December 12

General Fund	\$4,510.00
Plate Collections	1,012.00
ISJ Academy	50.00
Lutheran Witness	23.20
	Total: \$5,595.20
<u>On-line giving</u>	<u>110.00</u>
	Total: \$5,705.20

Who are you inviting to the Christmas services this year? A family member? A friend? A neighbor? A coworker? We have several Christmas services:

- Christmas Eve (Candlelight and Communion) at 7:00 p.m. NOTE: Because we are expecting a higher attendance than usual, we are **encouraging** worshippers to wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status, but we are **NOT mandating** that a mask be worn.
- Christmas Day (Communion) at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 a.m. "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols"
- New Year's Eve (Communion) at 7:00 p.m.

Please let your visitors know that they are welcome to come forward for a blessing during Holy Communion. If they are members of an LCMS congregation, they are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper.

Just a heads up regarding Upcoming Bible studies! Pastor Schaeffer will lead the "Christians in a Woke World" Bible study on December 12, 14, 19 and 21st. **The Bible study on Sunday, December 26th and Tuesday, December 28, will be cancelled.**

