

**Grow ... Go ... Gather**  
**December 26, 2021**



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

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**The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
**The Feast of St. Stephen**  
**December 26, 2021**

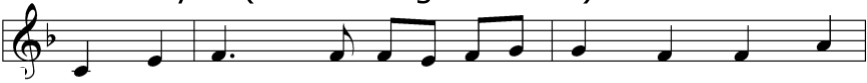
Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is our hope and prayer that the good news of our Savior's birth, told in spoken words and in music, will kindle in our hearts a renewed faith in Him, as we hear of our heavenly Father's great love for us, given to us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

While the Festival of Lessons and Carols had its origin among English Christians, being first held in 1918 at King's College, Cambridge, the message presented here is the simple message of the Gospel itself, which belongs to all Christians: the message of the forgiveness of sins won for us by our Lord. From the story of the Fall and the subsequent promise of the Savior made to our first parents, through the words of prophecy given down through the ages in the history of the nation of Israel, to the point of fulfilment with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, we see the Advent and Christmas message of hope, peace, joy, and love played out in human history. The same message set to music, played and sung by soloists, choirs, and congregations, has been presented in carols and hymns which have inspired multitudes, creating and sustaining faith in the Savior that God has provided for a fallen humanity. That truly is Good News of great joy!

**Preservice Music and Call to Worship**

*(Please stand.)*

# The Processional Hymn: LSB 376, "Once in Royal David's City" (Pastor sings verse 1)



Pastor


1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

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## Dialogue

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

## **Opening Prayer**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, we are delighted that through the season of Advent and now during the Christmas season that we are able to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even to Bethlehem and see the thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men to adore the Child lying in His mother's arms. We pray for the needs of the whole world: for peace and goodwill over all the earth, for guidance to the leaders of the world, especially our own President and Governor. We pray for the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the afflicted; the sick in body and in mind and all who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the orphans; and all who do not know Your lovingkindness. We also remember, O Lord, all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, the multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh; and we pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer to God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all Your people and giving reverence for all that You have made. These prayers and praises we humbly offer to the throne of heaven, in the words which You, Yourself, have taught us:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven ... Amen.**

P: The Almighty God bless us with His grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

**C: Amen.**

**A Hymn: LSB 357, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**



ALL 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 Choir 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 Women 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 ALL 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



*Refrain*  
 Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Men 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
 And open wide our heav'nly home;  
 Make safe the way that leads on high,  
 And close the path to misery. Refrain

Choir 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
ALL In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain  
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*(Be seated.)*

**The First Lesson:** Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel...." <sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and

you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

**Hymn: LSB 562 “All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall”**



1 All man - kind fell in Ad - am's fall; One com - mon  
 2 Through all our pow'rs cor - rup - tion creeps And us in  
 3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone, Flow thoughts and  
 4 But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - am, came To bear our



sin in - fects us all. From one to all the  
 dread - ful bond - age keeps; In guilt we draw our  
 deeds of sin a - lone; God's im - age lost, the  
 sin and woe and shame, To be our life, our



curse de - scends, And o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.  
 in - fant breath And reap its fruits of woe and death.  
 dark - ened soul Seeks not nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.  
 light, our way, Our on - ly hope, our on - ly stay.

- 5 As by one man all mankind fell  
 And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,  
 So by one Man, who took our place,  
 We all were justified by grace.
- 6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,  
 New light, new hope, new strength, new  
 pow'rs.  
 This grace our ev'ry way attend  
 Until we reach our journey's end.

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**The Second Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9**

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.... <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

**A Hymn:** LSB 359, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"  
(Choir sings verse 2)



Choir  
 1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright

cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

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### The Third Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather

the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

**A Hymn: LSB 347, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"**



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."  
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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**The Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-5**

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>4</sup>And 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. <sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men.

**A Hymn: LSB 361, "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

**The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said,

"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

<sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

<sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God....

<sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**A Hymn:** LSB 356, "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" (Choir verses 1-2, Congregation verses 3-4)



Choir 1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
Choir 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
ALL 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
ALL 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high-ly fa-vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high-ly fa-vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high-ly fa-vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 “Most high-ly fa-vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

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*(Please stand.)*

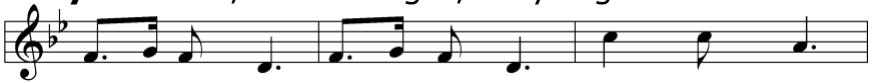
**The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1, 3-7**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered....

<sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

<sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**A Hymn: 363, "Silent Night, Holy Night"**



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light Ra - diantbeams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, born! birth, Sleep Christ, Je - sus, in the heav - en - ly Sav - ior, Lord, at Thy peace. born! birth.

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**The Seventh Lesson:** Luke 2:8-16


<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in The field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"


<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

<sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

**A Hymn:** LSB 368, "Angels We Have Heard on High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a  
 in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a  
 in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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*(Be seated.)*

**The Eighth Lesson:** Matthew 2:1-16, 19-22

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they

saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

<sup>13</sup>Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." <sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.... <sup>19</sup>But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup>saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.

**A Hymn:** "Lullay, Thou Tiny Child" (Coventry Carol)

**Verse 1**

Lullay thou little tiny child



Bye bye lully lullay  
Lullay thou little tiny child  
Bye bye lully lullay

### Verse 2

O sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we sing  
Bye bye lully lullay

### Verse 3

Herod the king in his raging  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might in his own sight  
All children young to slay

### Verse 4

That woe is me poor child for thee  
And ever mourn and may  
For thy parting neither say nor sing  
Bye bye lully lullay

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*(Please rise.)*

### A Hymn: LSB 370, "What Child Is This?"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**A Hymn: LSB 379, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

*(Be seated.)*

**A Homily**

**An Offering – Bell Choir**

*(Please stand.)*

**Responsive Prayer**

P: Glory to God in the highest.

**C: And peace to His people on earth.**

P: Blessed are You, Prince of Peace. You rule the world with truth and justice.

**C: Send Your gift of peace to all the nations of the world.**

P: Blessed are You, O Lord, You share our humanity.

**C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

P: Blessed are You, Son of God, You dwell among us the word made flesh.

**C: Reveal Yourself to us in Word and Sacraments that we may bear Your light to all the world.**

## Blessing and Dismissal

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: May He who by His incarnation fathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant us the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon us,

**C: Amen.**

## A Closing Hymn: LSB 380, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Tune and text: Public domain

## Welcome/Announcements

On New Year's Eve we will thank God for this past year and ask His blessing upon 2022 as we gather for worship at 7:00 p.m. on December 31.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Events of the Week: December 26 – January 2

- TODAY:** 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour  
**Friday:** 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship  
with Holy Communion  
**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-2<sup>nd</sup>  
11:00 a.m. Bible Study

### Those who serve Today:

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

### Those who serve December 31:

- Deacons:** John Weiss and Jerry Talen  
**Ushers:** Orlin Bowman, Grace & Dale Rosema  
**Lector:** Carol Bifulco

### Those who serve January 2:

- Deacons:** Bryan Ensing and John Weiss  
**Ushers:** Walt & Karen Kryzanowski  
**Lector:** Rick Schantz

**December Altar Guild:** Marjie Weiss and Melissa  
Ensing

**January Altar Guild:** Cindy McAuliffe

### FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: December 19, 2021

General Fund	\$ 2,470.00
Budget Deficit	25,000.00
Plate Collections	1,275.00
ISJ Academy	1,000.00
Total:	\$29,745.00
<u>On-line giving</u>	<u>330.00</u>
Total:	\$30,075.00



## **DIAPER DRIVE & CLOTHING DRIVE**

Friends in Faith is continuing the Diaper Drive into January. The collection box is in the main entryway of church.

**FIF is also collecting winter clothing for Mel Trotter.** There is a collection barrel in the main entry.



### **Lutherans For Life Quote:**

**December 26** "Where are your eyes today? ... Gaze at the baby Jesus in the manger—born into humanity for you. Watch as Jesus teaches, heals, comforts, and calls lost people to Himself. Fix your eyes on Him as He hangs on that cross for you. And look joyfully at Him as He meets you after the resurrection—loving you, forgiving you, and sending you out into His world to share His love with others ... Let's fix our eyes on Jesus!"

*Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*



**The Bible study on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 28, will be cancelled.**

**Dudes of St. James!**

**This Announcement is for you!**

**“Living a Balanced Life”** will be the Bible study topic for the next men’s Bible study breakfast. All men are invited! The next Bible study/breakfast is

**January 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.**



**St. James’ LWML will meet on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** Ladies, will you join us as we are led in Bible Study by Marjie Weiss. The study, written by Diane Grebing, is entitled “Setting Our Focus”. It promises to be a wonderful way to begin our year of study, fellowship, and service. We hope to see you there.

**“Knit/Crocheted Together in Love”**

*sponsored by LWML*

**Where:**

***St. James Lutheran Church First Floor Classroom***

**When:**

***After Church on Sunday, January 23, 2022  
10:45 am to 1:00 pm***