Grow ... Go ... Gather December 5, 2021



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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

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Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer

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offerings to the Lord: stjamesgr.com/give

The Second Sunday in Advent The Order of Service (DS 3 p. 184)

(Please turn off your wifi)

Preservice Music, Call to Worship and Welcome The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

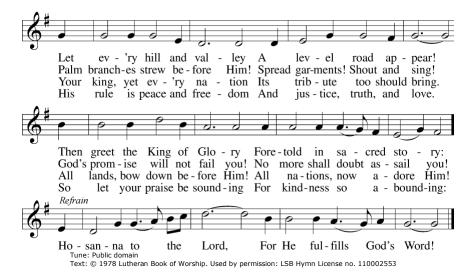
- P Advent and Christmas are colorful seasons in the church year!
- c Purple, red, blue, white, gold, and green, adorn our celebration as we prepare for the advent of our Lord.
- P Purple is the color of royalty.
- c Purple is reserved for kings, and queens and palaces.
- P Not usually for a King born in stable.
- c Nor for a King who enters Jerusalem riding on a donkev.
- P Nor for a King whose kingdom is not of this world.
- c And yet, the color purple reminds us of Jesus ... the King of kings!
- P Jesus rules this world and heaven above.
- C He is our King. We are citizens in His kingdom.
- P His kingdom is established forever and ever.
- c We rule with our King forever! Purple is the color of royalty!

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

The Opening Hymn: LSB 343, "Prepare the Royal Highway"



- 1 Pre pare the roy al high way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo-ple, see Him com ing: Your own e ter nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o pen To greet your prom-ised king!
- is no earth ly king dom; It comes from heav'n a bove. 4 His



The Invocation, Confession, and Absolution (p. 184-185)

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- c Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- c who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- c and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and

eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- c Amen.

The Introit *Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b* Chanted by the Adult Choir

Choir: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to me! I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.

Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

The Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- c And with thy spirit.
- P Let us pray.
 Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready
 the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by
 His coming we may be enabled to serve
 You with pure minds; through the same
 Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
 with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
 and forever.
- c Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Malachi 3:1–7b

¹"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

5"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker

in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Lesson: Philippians 1:2–11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- c Thanks be to God.

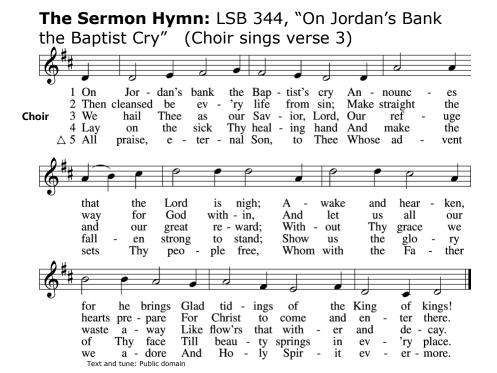
The Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:1–14

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.
- **c** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." ⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham, ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" 11And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." 12Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." 14Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

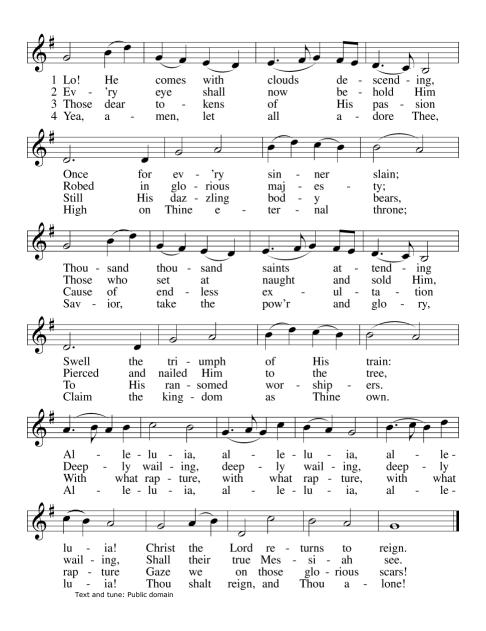
The Nicene Creed (on the back cover of the hymnal)



The Sermon: Luke 1:31-35, Luke 23:33-38; Rev. 19:11-16 -- "Purple, the Color of Royalty"

The Offering

The General Prayer and The Lord's Prayer A Hymn: LSB 336, "Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending"

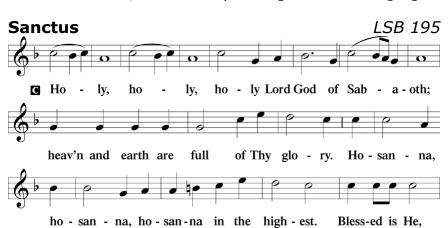


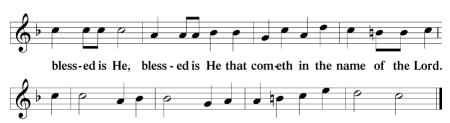
The Announcements and Blessing for Online Worshippers

T The Service of the Sacrament T

Preface LSB 194

- P The Lord be with you.
- c And with thy spirit.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- c It is meet and right so to do.
- P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



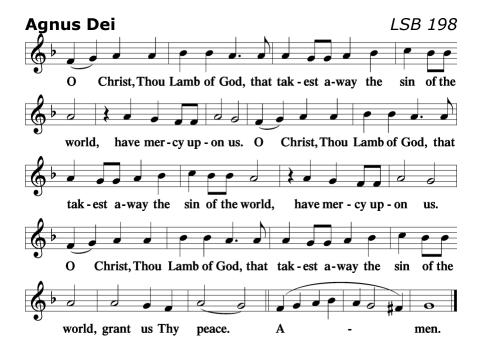


Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Pax Domini

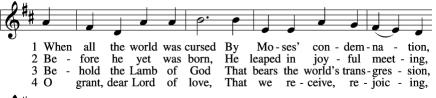
LSB 197

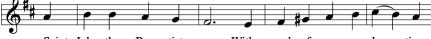
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- c Amen.



During Holy Communion we will sing; LSB 637, "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord," LSB 346, "When All the World was Cursed" LSB 548, "Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious"







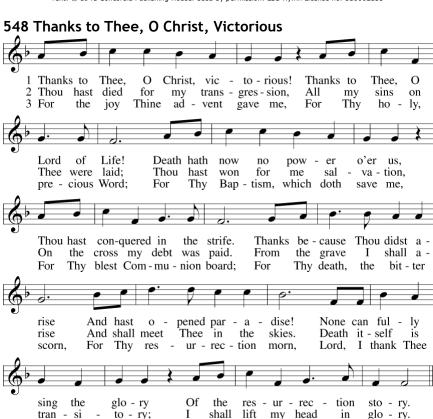
Saint John the With words of con - so - la - tion. Bap - tist came Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing. Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion. The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re - pen-tance voic - ing,



Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, Α new E - li - jah bold, hold the Lamb of Who takes a - way our God, sin, That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav-ior's way



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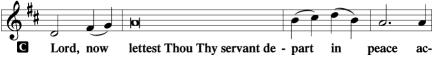
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tol Thee.

And in heav'n I

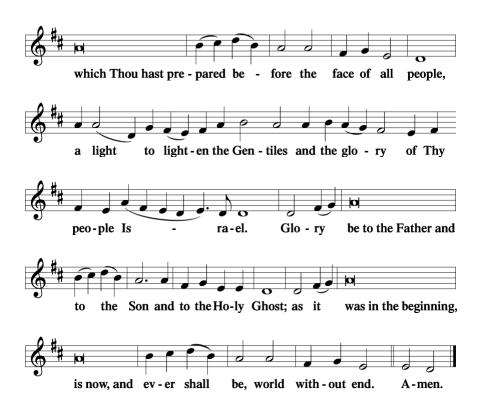
shall

be - hold Thee.





cord-ing to Thy word. for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



Thanksgiving

LSB 200

- P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
- c and His mercy endureth forever.
- P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

c Amen.

- P The Lord be with you.
- c And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

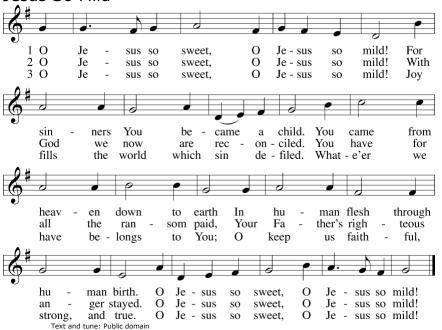
- P Bless we the Lord.
- c Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 - The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 - The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and $\ensuremath{\mathsf{T}}$ give you peace.
- c Amen.

The Closing Hymn: LSB 546, "O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild"



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: December 5 - 12

TODAY: KIDZ TIME during the sermon, PK-2nd

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:00 a.m. VOTERS' MEETING **6:30 p.m.** LWML ADVENT BY

CANDLELIGHT

Monday: 6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Worship

Service w/ Holy Communion

Wed: 10:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Darrell

7:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service

Thursday: 1:00 p.m. Dorcas Society Popcorn &

Movie

6:00 p.m. Bells

7:15 p.m. Adult Choir

Friday: Pastor's Day off

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Gizmo Devotions on FB

9:30 a.m. WORSHIP at St James & FBL.

11:00 a.m. Sunday School, PK-4th

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Those who serve Today:

Deacons: Craig Popma and Bryan Ensing

Ushers: Jim & Nancy Spears, Ben & Ashley Johnson

Lector: Carol Bifulco

Those who serve Advent Worship December 8:

Deacon: Jerry Talen

Ushers: Orlin Bowman and Grace Rosema

Lector: Pastor Schaeffer

Those who serve December 12:

Deacon: Bryan Ensing

Ushers: Nate, Kim, Hayden & Heath Urbanski **Lector:** Dave Ringel, ISJ Academy teacher

December Altar Guild: Marjie Weiss and Melissa Ensing

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: November 24 & 28, 2021 General Fund \$17,065.00

Plate Collections 927.50

Total: \$18,037.50

On-line giving 80.00

Total: \$18,117.50

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.

The **Dorcas Society** will gather on **Thursday**, **December 9** at **1pm** in the **gathering room at church**. We invite women of the congregation and guests to join us. We will be showing the movie, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". This is the heartwarming story of six misfit children who take control of the Sunday School Christmas Pageant and teach everyone the true meaning of Christmas. We will have popcorn and please bring your own beverage. Contact Rachel Palmer if you have questions. (616-883-6949)

OFFERING ENVELOPES 2022 are in the Coat Room on the table. Please pick up your envelopes today! If you know of anyone who cannot attend church, consider bringing their envelopes to them.

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!

If you are interested in receiving the **LUTHERAN WITNESS** (\$11.60), please see Karen ASAP. The deadline is December 12th.

The **PORTALS OF PRAYER** for January-March are now available. NOTE: The postage for sending the large print Portals is expensive. If anyone is willing to bring the Portals to our shut-ins, it would be appreciated. They are on the table in the Coat Room. Thank you!



The December Youth
Meeting will be held next
Sunday 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.

"Announcing the Advent" will be the theme of the mid-week Advent services. Services begin at 7:00 p.m.

- December 8, "Announcing the Advent to the Shepherds"
- December 15, "Announcing the Advent to the World"

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. Questions? Contact Eunice Florip.



Advent by Candlelight 2021

St. James' LWML invites all women in the congregation to attend ... - "Dancing in HIS Light". This event will take place TONIGHT at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Together we

will join Elizabeth and Mary as they realize God chooses them to carry the babies who fulfill HIS plan of redemption. Together we will celebrate what this means for us, HIS chosen people. Together we will "Dance in HIS Light!"

As we "Dance in HIS Light" we will collect an offering to provide scholarship funds for students in need at the Hearts in Step (HIS for Jesus) Studio of Dance.

Jeremiah 31:3-4 proclaims, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness ... You will take up your tambourines and go out to DANCE with the joyful!"

"DO GOOD with CHIPOTLE" is the **ISJ Academy fundraiser** scheduled for **Wednesday**, **December 8**th from **5:00-9:00 pm**. ISJ Academy will receive 33% of the proceeds from the Chipotle Alpine Ave. location sales for ISJ using the promo code; ZTE3WY2. There are fliers in the coat room for your convenience.





The Youth at St. James are going to order poinsettias to decorate the church for the majority of the Christmas Season. If you would like to purchase poinsettias to help decorate please see the sizes, colors, and prices below.

4 inch single stem- \$3.75 6 inch single stem- \$6.25 8 inch double stem- \$13.25 10 inch triple stem- \$19.50 12 inch Quad stem- \$28.50

The colors are as follows: red, white, pink, marble, and jingle bells (red with white flecks).

Any orders need to be placed TODAY to Kelsey Butler.

You can send an email with your order to kbutler@mychristianschool.com or text/call (616)437-6230.



