

Grow ... Go ... Gather
January 3, 2021



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)

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



Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer

glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com

St. James Church Office: 363-7718

Secretary e-mail: office@stjamesgr.com

Website: www.stjamesgr.com

The Second Sunday after Christmas

The Order of Service

The Preservice Music, The Call to Worship, and Welcome

(Please turn off your wif and wear your mask when singing.)

The Opening Hymn: LSB 375, "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" (Verses 1, 2, 4, 6)



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the
2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's
6 Gra - cious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -
love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -
low - ly man - ger cheer us, Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.
near us Till we join Your choir a - bove.

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Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 151

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 151

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

A Hymn: LSB 374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Tune and text: Public domain

The Introit

P: 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.

C: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

P: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

C: But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

P: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

C: Praise your God, O Zion!

ALL: 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.

P: 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.

The Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: 1 Kings 3:4-15

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

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

A Hymn: LSB 392, "God Loves Me Dearly" (Verses 1, 2, 4, 5)



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 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.
 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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The Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Alleluia Verse

All: Alleluia. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. Alleluia.

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:40-52

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

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and

was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 397 "As With Gladness Men of Old"



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
 So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
 So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
 All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
 There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

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The Sermon

A Hymn: "We Three Kings"

1. We Three Kings of Orient are,
 Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
 Field and fountain,
 Moor and mountain,
 Following yonder Star.

**CHORUS: *O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,
Star with Royal Beauty bright,
Westward leading,
Still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect Light.***

2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever,
Ceasing never
Over us all to reign. **Chorus**
3. Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh:
Prayer and praising
All men raising,
Worship Him God on High. **Chorus**
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;—
Sorrowing, sighing,
Bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Chorus**
5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King, and God, and Sacrifice;
Heav'n sings Hallelujah:
Hallelujah the earth replies. **Chorus**

The Offering and General Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**☩ Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us; and lead us
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and
the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

A Hymn: "The Blessing" (Brown, Carnes and Jobi)

Verse

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace **(2Xs)**

Chorus

Amen Amen Amen **(2Xs)**

Verse

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace

CCLI Song # 7147007 Chris Brown | Cody Carnes | Kari Jobe | Steven Furtick © 2020 Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Kari Jobe Carnes Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Writer's Roof Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 20021974

***Announcements and Blessing for Online
Worshippers***

✠ The Service of Holy Communion ✠

Preface

LSB 160

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

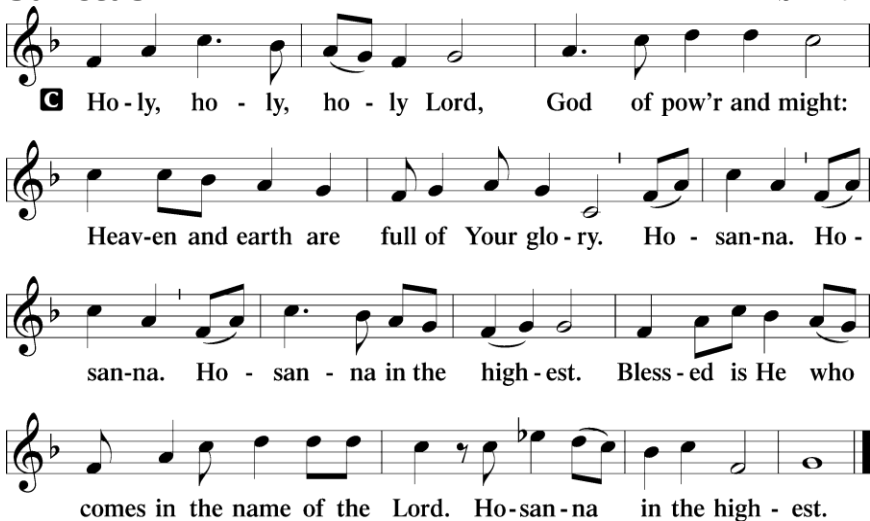
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface (Abbreviated) *LSB 161*

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . .
evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 161*



C Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini *LSB 163*

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

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

The Distribution

The General Communion Dismissal

The Post-Communion Prayer

- 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.

The Benediction

P: May you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: LSB 898, "The Ancient Law
Departs" (verse 1)



1 The an - cient Law de - parts, And all its fears re - move,
For Je - sus makes with faith - ful hearts A cov - e - nant of love.

Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: January 3 – 10, 2021

- TODAY:** 11:00 a.m. Bible study on Facebook
Monday: 10:00 a.m. Registration for **January 10**
Worship begins
6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Wed: 10:00 a.m. **"Established in Truth –
Marked by Love"** Bible Study w/ Pastor
Noon: Devotional Boost with Pastor
Thursday: 7:00 p.m. **"Established in Truth –
Marked by Love"** Bible Study w/ Pastor
Saturday 6:00 p.m. Registration for Sunday Worship
is closed
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship at St. James (for
registered members) and on Facebook Live
11:00 a.m. Bible Study on FB

Today's Deacons: Bryan Ensing and Craig Popma
Ushers: Walt & Karen Kryzanowski
January Altar Guild: Cindy McAuliffe

FRIENDS IN FAITH will meet next Sunday,
January 10, after the worship service. If you have
any questions, please contact Walt Kryzanowski.

Those who serve in worship next week: January 10

Deacon: Jerry Talen

Ushers: Jim & Nancy Spears

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP (December 24, 25, & 27)

General Fund	\$8,630.00
Zoom Subscription	150.00
Plate Collection	810.00
Roof Repair Fund	75.00
Mission Fund	10.00
Memorial	100.00
<hr/>	
Total:	\$9,775.00

REGISTRATION TO ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES IS REQUIRED:

To register for worship, please go to:

1. Go to bit.ly/stjamesgr
2. Click on the worship service you wish to attend.
3. Click on the green **"register"** box.
4. Put in the **number attending**.
5. Click on the orange **"register"** box.

Enter **your first name** and **ALL** the **first names** of those attending with you in the "first name" box.

First Name* Martin, Katie,
Margarete, Magdalena,
Elisabeth, Paul, Hans, Martin Jr.

Enter **only one last name, e-mail address and confirm e-mail address.**

6. Click on the orange **"register"** box.
7. Your ticket(s) will arrive in your e-mail inbox confirming your sign-up.

Last Name* Luther