

**Grow ... Go ... Gather**  
**November 28, 2021**



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

2040 Oakwood Avenue N.E.  
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offerings to the Lord: [stjamesgr.com/give](http://stjamesgr.com/give)

# The First Sunday in Advent

## The Order of Service

(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 **Green, purple, red, blue, white, and gold adorn our celebration as we prepare for the advent of our Lord.**

P Green is the color of life, of growth.

C **The Advent wreath and the Christmas tree ...**

P The holly and the mistletoe ...

C **Remind us that God gives us life!**

P New life when we are baptized.

C **Renewed life through His Word.**

P Eternal life when our Lord comes for us.

C **Green is the color of life!**

*(As we sing the opening hymn, the first Advent candle is lit.)*

### The Opening Hymn: LSB 331, "The Advent of our King"



1 The ad-vent of our King Our prayers must now em-ploy,  
2 The ev-er-last-ing Son In-car-nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi-on's daugh-ter, rise To meet your low-ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a-gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho-ly joy.  
Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.  
Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem-bers all u-nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

D 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

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## **The Confession and Absolution (p. 151)**

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

C **Amen.**

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.**

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.**

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

**The Psalm of the Day:** Psalm 25:1-10

P To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C **O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.**

P Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

C **Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

P Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

C **Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

C **Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

P He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**C All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **The Old Testament Lesson: *Jeremiah 33:14–16***

<sup>14</sup>Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **The Epistle Lesson**                      *1 Thessalonians 3:9–13*

<sup>9</sup>What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup>as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup>and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup>so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

**The Gospel Lesson:** *Luke 21:25–36*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34<sup>th</sup> But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon Hymn: LSB 342, "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"**



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,  
 3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
 A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
 That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
 Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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**The Sermon: John 1:1-5 "Green, The Color of Life"**

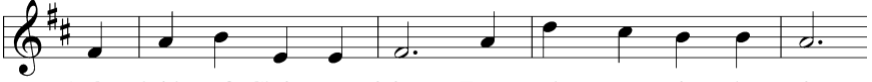
<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**The Offering**

## The Apostles' Creed (on the hymnal back cover)

## The Prayer of the Church and Lord's Prayer

### A Hymn: LSB 335, "O Bride of Christ, Rejoice!"



1 O bride of Christ, re - joice; Ex - ul - tant raise thy voice  
2 Let shouts of glad-ness rise Tri - um - phant to the skies.  
3 A hum - ble beast He rides, Yet as a King pre - sides;  
4 The weak and tim - id find How meek He is and kind;  
5 Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;



To hail the day of glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Now comes the King most glo - rious To reign o'er all vic - to - rious.  
Though not ar - rayed in splen - dor, He makes the grave sur - ren - der.  
To them He gives a trea - sure Of bliss be - yond all mea - sure.  
Thy gar - ments spread be - fore Him And hon - or and a - dore Him.



Ho - san - na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.

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## Closing Prayers

### The Benediction (p. 166)

- 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 920, "Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go"



1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;  
 2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;  
 3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth  
 4 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak;  
 5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show



Christ to the world with joy we bring;  
 King - ship with Him His ser - vants gain;  
 This world of time to con - se - crate,  
 Proph - ets are we whose deeds pro - claim  
 That in His Church all na - tions find



Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,  
 With Christ the Ser - vant - Lord of all,  
 This world of sin by grace to heal,  
 Christ's truth in love that we may be  
 Their hearth and home where Christ re - stores



Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.  
 Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.  
 Christ's world in Christ to re - cre - ate.  
 Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.  
 True peace, true love to all man - kind.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Voters' Meeting** is **Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service. Among several things we will be discussing will be the St. James' 2022 Mission and Ministry Budget. This meeting will **NOT** be made available virtually.

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
 I just wanted to thank you for all your prayers, cards and thoughts during my recent surgery. God is Great!*

*Mike Bifulco*

## **Events of the Week: November 28 – December 5**

- TODAY:**     **11:00 a.m.** Sunday School, PK–4<sup>th</sup>  
                  **11:00 a.m.** Coffee Hour  
                  **11:00 a.m.** Bible study in-person & FB
- Monday:**    **6:30 p.m.** Monday Evening Worship Service  
                  w/ Holy Communion
- Wed:**        **Noon:** Devotional Boost w/ Pastor on  
                  Facebook  
                  **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 in-person & FB

### **Those who serve Today:**

**Deacons:** Craig Popma

**Ushers:** Nate, Kim, Hayden, Heath Urbanski

**Lector:** Rick Schantz

### **Those who serve Advent Worship December 1:**

**Deacons:** Craig Popma

**Ushers:** Orlin Bowman and Grace Rosema

**Lector:** Pastor Schaeffer

### **Those who serve December 5:**

**Deacons:** Craig Popma and Bryan Ensing

**Ushers:** Jim & Nancy Spears, Ben & Ashley Johnson

**Lector:** Carol Bifulco

**November Altar Guild:** Sherry and Jennie Schmidt

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

**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.

**FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP:** November 21, 2021

General Fund	\$ 3,802.00
Reimbursements	425.00
Plate Collections	2,000.00
Youth Fund	500.00
Music Fund	10,600.00
<u>ISJ Academy</u>	<u>200.00</u>
	Total: \$17,527.00
<u>On-line giving</u>	<u>120.00</u>
	Total: \$17,647.00

**FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP:** November 14, 2021

General Fund	\$4,178.00
<u>Plate Collections</u>	<u>623.00</u>
	Total: \$4,801.00
<u>On-line giving</u>	<u>80.00</u>
	Total: \$4,881.00

**FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP:** November 7, 2021

General Fund	\$9,055.00
Future Building Expansion	215.00
Reimbursements	13.00
Plate Collections	546.00
<u>Tessaro Ministry Nigeria</u>	<u>25.00</u>
	Total: \$9,854.00
<u>On-line giving</u>	<u>695.00</u>
	Total: \$10,549.00

**FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP:** October 31, 2021

General Fund	\$ 3,706.00
Reimbursements	52.00
Plate Collections	925.00
	Total: \$ 4,683.00
<u>On-line giving</u>	<u>561.25</u>
	Total: \$ 5,244.25

**FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP:** October 24, 2021

General Fund	\$ 3,706.00
Reimbursements	52.00
<u>Plate Collections</u>	<u>925.00</u>
	Total: \$ 4,683.00
<u>On-line giving</u>	<u>300.00</u>
	Total: \$ 4,983.00

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!

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!

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

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

- December 1, "Announcing the Advent to Mary"
- December 8, "Announcing the Advent to the Shepherds"
- December 15, "Announcing the Advent to the World"

**"Dancing in HIS Light"** (Jeremiah 31:3-4) **Advent by Candlelight** is **Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** at **6:30 p.m.** The sign-up sheet is on the table outside the office door.