



3rd SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**St. James Lutheran Church
2040 Oakwood Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505**

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer

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**The Third Sunday in Advent
December 11, 2022**

Morning Prayer (p. 235ff.)

The Preservice Music, Call to Worship, & Welcome

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice.

C: I will hope continually and will PRAISE you yet more and more.

P: Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.”

C: Lord, may I PONDER all the days of my life, Your wondrous deeds! You are the One of whom Moses and the Prophets foretold who came to do Your Father’s will. You are God, who came with vengeance to rescue us!

P: Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

C: We long for Your Second Advent, O Lord! We PRAY for patience knowing that one day, the trumpet will sound and dead in Christ will rise from their graves to rejoice with You for all eternity!

P: O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

C: We PROCLAIM, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your

king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.”

(Two Purple Candles and the Pink Advent Candle are lit as we sing a hymn.)

The Opening Hymn: LSB 349, "Hark, the Glad Sound"

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
 Text and tune: Public domain

Versicles

LSB 235

L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
G and my mouth shall de - clare Your praise.
G Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

O come, let us wor - ship Him.

A Hymn of Praise: LSB 387, "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 146 (*Spoken by all*)

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth;

on that very day his plans perish.

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;

he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the

LORD!

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35

L A reading from Isaiah, chapter 35.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and

Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

A Hymn: LSB 515 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

Tune: Swedish

Text and tune: Public domain

The Epistle Lesson: James 5:7–11

L A reading from James, chapter 5.

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2–15

P A reading from Matthew, chapter 11.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the

one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷As they went away, 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 353, "Jesus Came, the Heaven's 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.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
 Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

The Offering

A Hymn: "Light of the World" (Sing Hallelujah)

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 Prayer of the Church and The Lord's Prayer

A Hymn: 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



Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite
 Tune: German
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Collect for Grace

- P** Shed Your Holy Spirit upon Your people, O Lord, and make ready our hearts this day to hear and keep Your holy Word that in the communion of Your congregation we may rightly sanctify Your holy day and through Your Word with all Your saints come to eternal blessedness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Benedicamus

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

The Benediction

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
C Amen.

The Closing 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.



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

Text: Danish, c. 1600; tr. Victor O. Petersen, 1864–1929, alt.
 Tune: Der Busfertige Sünder, 1679, Nürnberg
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer from Lutheran Service Book
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Events of the Week: December 11-18, 2022

Monday	6:30 p.m. Communion service
Wednesday	5:30 p.m. Advent supper
	6:30 p.m. ISJ Christmas program
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
	7:15 p.m. Choir
Friday	Pastor's Day off
Sunday	8:00 a.m. Gizmo Devotion on FB
	9:30 a.m. Worship service
	11:00 a.m. Bible study

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: December 4/5, 2022

General Fund	7670.00
Building Fund	200.00
Tessaro Ministry	185.00
TOTAL	\$8055.00

Announcements

Tis the Season to Sing! Pastor Schaeffer will lead us in a study of Luther's Christmas hymn, "*From Heaven above to Earth I Come*" following our service today. Next Sunday the hymn will be: "*Of the Father's Love Begotten.*"

We welcome, as members of St. James Lutheran Church, the following brothers and sisters in Christ who have transferred their membership from Mt. Olive Lutheran Church:

- Bob and Kathy Barrett
- Pat Graves
- Dianne Maitner
- Dixie Terpstra
- Trudy Ulanowicz

Please introduce yourself to these friends in Christ and give them a warm welcome into St. James' family. Early in the new year, we will have an official welcome member Sunday.

The day school children at ISJ Academy will present their annual Christmas program, "*Carriers of the Light*" as they remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world on Wednesday, December 14. Come, bask in the Light and be "*carriers*" of the Light yourself! **NOTE:** *The program starts at 6:30 p.m.! The Advent supper begins at 5:30 p.m.*

Who are you inviting to our Christmas Eve service? It's a wonderful opportunity to invite a family member, friend, coworker, classmate, or neighbor so that they might hear the glad tidings of great joy announced by the angelic choir.

One more Lector is Needed. If you would like to read the Old Testament and Epistle lessons for a Sunday service, please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the church foyer.

Discovery Class with Pastor Schaeffer: Discovery is a 12-week course that is designed for anyone who is interested in becoming a member of St. James. If you are already a member but would like to brush up on your understanding of Lutheran doctrine and the Small Catechism, this class is also for you! This class allows for Pastor Schaeffer to get to know you and for you to get to know Pastor in a more personal way. If you have any questions about this class, contact Pastor Schaeffer (glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com.) At this point, Pastor is trying to see who might like to attend Discovery so that he can set a day and time that works for those interested. Pastor's plan is to start the Discovery Class in January 2023.

The Altar Guild is now being led by Deb Butler. We are getting ready to make the schedule for next year and are looking to talk to those who are currently serving on Altar Guild as well as those who are interested in serving. Any questions, concerns, comments, or ideas are welcome. Feel free to call or text 616-437-6230 (Kelsey) or email kbutler@mychristianschool.com at any time. We look forward to hearing from you!

Change of Address: In case you want to mail Bee Ruble a Christmas card or a note throughout the year, Bee's new address is:

6162 Balcom Lane
Allandale, MI
49401

LAST CALL: Would you like to receive a monthly subscription *The Lutheran Witness*? It will be delivered to your home starting in March 2023. Yearly subscriptions are \$12.00/year. Please let Pastor Schaeffer know by December 11th and he will add your name to the subscription list.

A Christmas card and letter from Pastor and Linda Blain is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Our Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday Advent Services – December 18 at 9:30 a.m.

ISJ Academy Christmas Program – December 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service with Communion at 9:30 a.m.

New Year's Day Service at 9:30 a.m.

We are planning to livestream all services on Facebook Live.

Those who serve Today:

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Carol Bifulco

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Craig Popma

Ushers: Bryan Ensing and Orlin Bowman

Video/Sound/Recording: Nathan Urbanski, John, and Marjie Weiss

December Altar Guild: Marjie Weiss and Melissa Ensing