



**St. James Lutheran Church
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
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The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 18, 2022

The Order of Service (DS 4)

The Pre-service Music, the Call to Worship & Welcome

The Hymn of Invocation: LSB 350 "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our
sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,
O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er
let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

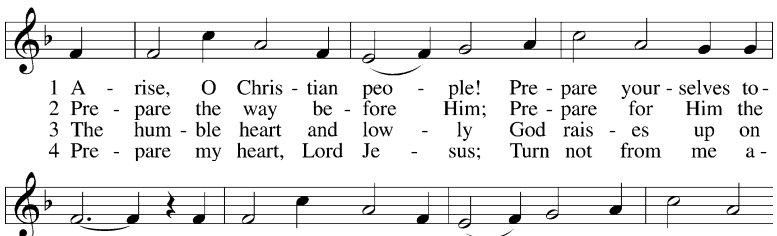
P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

A Hymn: LSB 354, "Arise, O Christian People"



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -

day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed

sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n-ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come

truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heads God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es

heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.
 Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Salutation and Prayer 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 and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

An Anthem: “Pat-a-Pan” (Adult Choir)

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the

virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

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

A Hymn: LSB 338 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

1 Come, Thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
 By Thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;

Dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
 By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-ri-ous throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–98, alt.
 Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according

to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

A Hymn: LSB 383, "A Great and Mighty Wonder"



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18–25

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

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed (see back cover of the hymnal)

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 355, "O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide"

1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;
 6 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies;
 7 There shall we all our prais - es bring

Come down, come down with might - y stride;
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.
 Grim death looms fierce be - fore our eyes.
 And sing to You, our Sav - ior King;

Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
 O come, lead us with might - y hand
 There shall we laud You and a - dore

Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
 To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.
 From ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt.
 Tune: Rheinfeilsisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch, 1666, Augsburg
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 Tune: Public domain

The Sermon

The Offering (“Manger Medley” – Bell Choir)

An Anthem: “Christmas Bells” (Adult choir)

The Prayer of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

A Hymn: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Verse 1

God rest ye merry gentlemen
 Let nothing you dismay
 Remember Christ our Saviour
 Was born on Christmas Day
 To save us all from Satan's pow'r
 When we were gone astray

Chorus

O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Verse 2

In Bethlehem in Jewry
 This blessed Babe was born
 And laid within a manger

Upon this blessed morn
The which His mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn **(Chorus)**

Verse 3

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name **(Chorus)**

Verse 4

“Fear Not,” then said the angel
“let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior,
The true and radiant light,
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan’s pow’r and might.” **(Chorus)**

Verse 7

Now to the Lord sing praises
All you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface **(Chorus)**

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The Announcements & Blessing

+Service of the Sacrament+

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent

Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

The Words of Institution

The Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

The Agnus Dei

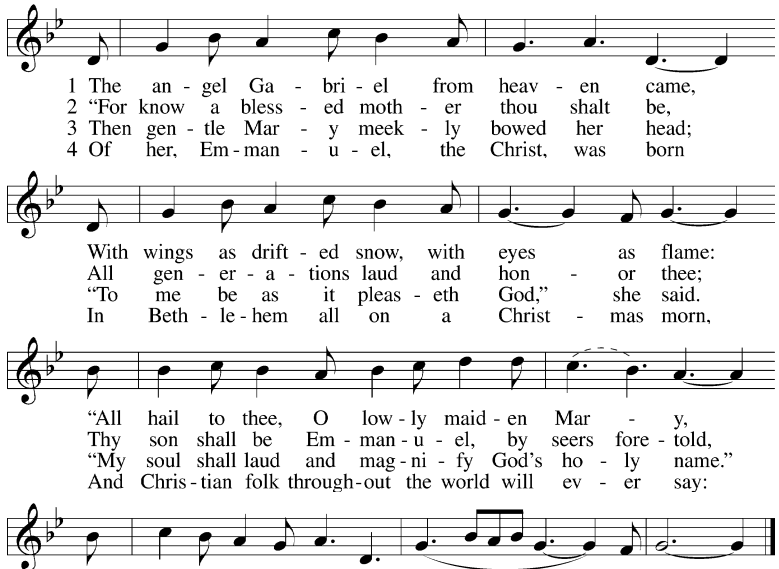
LSB 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

The Distribution

A Hymn: LSB 356, "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 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!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
 Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Post-Communion Collect

The Benedicamus

LSB 212

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

The Benediction

- 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 ✠ give
 you peace.
- C** Amen.

The Closing Hymn: LSB 375 “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

1 Come, your hearts and voices rais - ing, Christ the
 2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in
 3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with
 4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's

Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -
 love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -
 com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -
 fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -

maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
 tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
 ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
 tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
 When by faith we grasp this blessing,
 And to You we come confessing
 That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
 From Your lowly manger cheer us,
 Gently lead us and be near us
 Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: German, 14th cent.
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553
 Tune: Public domain

The Postlude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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Events of the Week: December 18-25, 2022

Monday	6:30 p.m. Communion service
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
	7:15 p.m. Choir
Friday	Pastor's Day off
Saturday	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Christmas Day service

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: December 11/12, 2022

General Fund	<u>5074.00</u>
TOTAL	\$5074.00

Announcements

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.

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.

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!

The Word Works – Building an Ethic of Bible Reading
Friends, God works through His Word – Jesus, the Word made flesh and the Word, the Bible, given for us to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest. Can I capture your imagination? What kind of People of Hope would we be if together we gave ourselves over to reading through the entire Bible in 2023? Come, join us for a day of instruction, conversation and reflection that will enable both you and your congregation to build an ethic of Bible reading. Let's spend a day together and think about it! – President Dave Davis. This conference for lay people and church workers will be February 4, 2023 at Our Savior, Lansing, MI. The Registration fee is \$25.00 and \$15.00 for students. The conference will also be livestreamed. For more information, visit the event page: www.michigandistrict.org/theological23.

The offering envelopes for 2023 are on the table by the church office. Look for the box with your name on it.

Have you selected your Bible reading program for 2023?

You are encouraged to read the whole Bible in 2023, but if you want to build into that challenge, you may want to read the New Testament instead. Check out the article in the December newsletter for a variety of Bible reading programs. There are also a couple Bible readings programs on the table in the coat. Those of you who have the You Version app on your phone will want to search for Bible programs. Starting January 1, Pastor Schaeffer is going to use the You Version Bible reading program called, *“The One Year Bible.”* Daily readings, in this Bible reading program, are from the Old Testament, the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs. The assigned readings take about 15 minutes a day.

Our Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

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: Irene Talen

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Craig Popma; Bryan Ensing

Ushers: Dale and Grace Rosema; Caleb Butler

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

December Altar Guild: Marjie Weiss and Melissa Ensing

A Statement on Holy Communion

We rejoice in the celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus comes to us in a very personal manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) It is out of love and care for every individual that comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to speak to the Pastor before attending the Lord's Supper. Members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, who:

- Repent of their sin;
- Believe in Jesus as their Savior;
- Trust that they are receiving, not only bread and wine, but also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of their sins; and
- Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying no to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life.

are invited to partake of this Holy Meal with us. We request that ALL guests who desire to commune, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service.

If you prefer to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion, please do so. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that Pastor knows you want to receive a blessing.