



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

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Office: 616-363-7718
Email: office@stjamesgr.com
Website: www.stjamesgr.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjamesgr
Online Giving: www.stjamesgr.com/give.

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com

**The First Sunday in Advent
November 27, 2022**

The Service of Prayer and Preaching (pp. 260ff.)

The Pre-service Music, the 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: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

C: We PRAISE You, O Lord Jesus, for You are the King of kings and Lord of Lords. You rule over all things!

P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: We PONDER Your love, a love so great that You descended from Your throne on high to be crowned with thorns.

P: Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success!

C: We PRAY that You would remember our sins no longer. We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace knowing that You alone can grant us success over Satan, sin, and death through Christ our King.

P: The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

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.”

(The First Advent Candle is lit as we sing a hymn.)

The Opening Hymn: 341 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to

King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with Thy grace di -

near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly

va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joi - ce and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.

To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913
 Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Versicles

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

- P** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- C** **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**
- P** Prepare the way of the Lord.
- C** **Make His paths straight.**
- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.
- C** **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- C** **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.

A Hymn of Praise: "10,000 Reasons -- Bless the Lord O My Soul" (Redman)

Chorus

*Bless the Lord O my soul
 O my soul
 Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before
 O my soul
 I'll worship Your holy name*

Verse 1

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
 It's time to sing Your song again
 Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
 Let me be singing when the evening comes (**Chorus**)

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
 Your name is great and Your heart is kind
 For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find (**Chorus**)

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

CCLI Song # 6016351
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The Prayer of the Day

- P** 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: Isaiah 2:1–5

- L** A reading from Isaiah, the second chapter.

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the
mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
³and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 13:8–14

L A reading from Romans, chapter 13.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now

than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 24:36–44

P A reading from Matthew, chapter 24.

³⁶[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Responsory

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C This is the name by which He will be called:
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C This is the name by which He will be called:
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C This is the name by which He will be called:
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

The Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Sermon Hymn: 332 "Savior of the Nations, Come"



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,

That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

- 5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.
- 7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.
- △ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobrien, 1973
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
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Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

The Sermon *(During the sermon, children who are ages 3 through grade 2 are invited to participate in KIDZ Time. Children can make their way to the back of the sanctuary where the KIDZ Time teacher is waiting. The children will return to the service following the sermon.)*

The Offering *(Please sign the burgundy Friendship booklet and pass it to other people sitting in your pew. When completed, pass it back to the center aisle and be sure to greet the people next to you! Those sitting by the center aisle: please tear off the completed sheet and place it on the pew. Thank you!)*

The General Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

A Hymn: 336 “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers,
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
 Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Collect for the Word

- L** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Morning Prayer

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

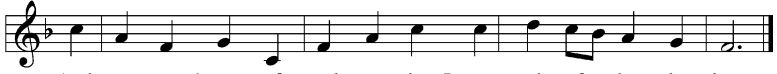
Blessing

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

The Closing Hymn: 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.

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

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Events of the Week: November 27-December 4, 2022

Today	11:00 a.m. Rwanda Mission Presentation
Monday	6:30 p.m. Communion service
Wednesday	4:00 p.m. Deacon's meeting 6:00 p.m. Advent supper 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent service 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
 6:00 p.m. Advent by Candlelight

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: November 13-14, 2022

General Fund	<u>2210.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2210.00

Announcements

Rwanda Mission Trip Presentation (PART 2): Pastor and Sandra will **CONTINUE** to discuss their recent mission trip to Rwanda TODAY following the service. All are invited!

Join us this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. for an Advent supper and for our midweek Advent service at 7:00 p.m.

The December newsletter was emailed to members and there are paper copies on the table in the church foyer.

Tis the Season to Sing is a Sunday morning Bible study that Pastor will have on December 4, 11, and 18. We will study (and sing!) beloved hymns of the Advent and Christmas season.

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!

We thank the Butler family for preparing our sanctuary for our Advent and Christmas worship! **THANK YOU!**

Young adults and youth – Are You called to Serve?

Take a minute to look at concordia.org/employment and then consider if God is calling you to serve directly with children or indirectly behind the scenes. Connect to others like you in a community with a mission at Camp Concordia in the summer of 2023.

FREE Christmas cards are available in the coatroom.

Browse the cards and send someone a reminder of Jesus' birth!

Interested in reading the Proceedings from the Michigan District Convention?

Among the Resolutions that were voted on, the Proceedings include President Maier's report and essays from the keynote speakers. A copy of the Proceedings is in the office.

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.

Presenting Advent by Candlelight 2022 – “*The Heartbeat of Praise: The Little Drummer Boy*”

Sunday, Dec 4, 2022 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. *The Heartbeat of Praise* will help our hearts to ponder the Advent of our Lord by focusing on Isaiah 12:2 “*Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for The LORD God is my strength, and my song, and He has become my salvation.*” The LWML invites you to attend and to bring along a friend or family member. Please sign up by Sunday, Nov 27th. A freewill donation will be collected for the NECM food pantry. You are welcome to bring a monetary donation or food items. The pantry is most in need of canned fruits, canned meats and/or cereal.

The Pregnancy Resource Center invites you to be a prayer partner in their ministry. They will send an occasional text message to your phone asking you to pray for a ministry need, like a young woman who may be considering abortion. To participate, do the following steps:

1. Text: prayer4prc
2. To: 616-877-7729
3. 3. Click: send

Those who serve Today:

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Marjie Weiss

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Bryan Ensing

Ushers: Urbanski Family

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

November Altar Guild: Sherry Schmidt