



**St. James Lutheran Church
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
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The Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023

Service of Prayer and Preaching (p. 260)

The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, and Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle (*Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v.3*)

P Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

C Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

P You brought a vine out of Egypt;
it took deep root and filled the land.

C Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

P Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

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.

(An Advent candle is lit as we sing the Hymn of Invocation.)

Hymn of Invocation: 344 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry"

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.

Hymn: 349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

Collect of the Day

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

A The Old Testament reading is Isaiah 40:1-11.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

A The Epistle Reading is 2 Peter 3:8-14.

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill

his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory be to Thee o Lord

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

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.**

Apostles' Creed

Sermon Hymn: 392 “God Loves Me Dearly”

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.)

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!)

General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 354 “Arise, O Christian People”

Collect for the Word

Morning Prayer

Blessing

The Closing Hymn: 345 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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This Week at St. James

Today (12/10)	Gizmo on FB - 8:00 AM Worship Service - 9:30 AM Bible Study - 11:00 AM F.I.F Meeting - 11:00 AM
Monday (12/11)	Communion Service - 6:30 PM
Tuesday (12/12)	Pastors Circuit Meeting - 9:00 AM ISJ Board Meeting - 6:00 PM
Wednesday (12/13)	Darrell Bible Study - 10:00 AM Advent Meal (Men's Group and Deacons Hosting) - 5:30 PM Advent Service - 6:30 PM
Thursday (12/14)	Adult Bells - 6:00 PM Adult Choir - 7:15 PM
Saturday (12/16)	Pastor's Day Off - 8:30 AM
Sunday (12/17).....	Gizmo on FB - 8:00 AM Communion Service - 9:30 AM Bible Study - 11:00 AM

Looking Ahead

Serving Today (12/10)

Officiant	Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector	Irene Talen
Organist	Beth McKay
Deacon(s).....	Jerry Talen
Ushers	Jim & Nancy Spears
Video/Sound/Recording	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
December Altar Guild	Butler Family
KidzTime	Kelsey Butler

Serving Next Sunday (12/17)

Lector Carol Bifulco
Organist Beth McKay
Deacon(s) Jerry Talen / Dave Hood
Ushers Dale & Grace Rosema / Walt & Karen Kryzanowski
Video/Sound/Recording Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
December Altar Guild Butler Family
KidzTime Cindy McAuliffe

Financial Discipleship: December 3 & 4, 2023

General Fund	\$7,373.75
<i>Needed each week for budget \$5,769.00 (+\$1,604.75)</i>	
ISJ Academy	\$275.00
Tessaro Ministry (Nigeria Mission)	\$76.00
Memorials	\$25.00
TOTAL Contributions	\$7,749.75

Announcements

Portals of Prayer: The Portals of Prayer for January- March 2024 are now available on the table in the lobby.

Midweek Advent Services The second one will be on Wednesday, December 13th. The services will begin at **6:30 p.m.** A meal will be served before the service starting at 5:30 p.m.

The Lutheran Witness It is that time of year again to renew or sign up to receive your subscription to The Lutheran Witness. I have a few people on the list that need to decide if they would like to renew. If you would like to renew or sign up please email Ashley at the office email (office@stjamesgr.com) or leave a note on my desk. All renewals and new subscriptions must be to Ashley no later than Wednesday, December 13th.

Are you able to help Pastor Eldaphonce rebuild his damaged home? Pastor Eldaphonce's house was damaged by torrential rain. He has provided Pastor Schaeffer with a list of the estimated cost of repairs. He is estimating that it will cost about \$1400.00 (US) to repair his home and toilet. Are you able to help pay for these repairs? If so, please talk with Pastor Schaeffer. Any money donated is a private donation so it cannot be run through the St. James financial books. The

money contributed would be sent by Pastor Schaeffer to Pastor Eldaphonce directly via an international bank transfer. The need is immediate as his house is uninhabitable and his toilet has been damaged beyond use.

“This is So Embarrassing!” You are encouraged to attend the ISJ Academy Christmas program. The children will share with us the “embarrassing” story of our Savior’s birth. The program will be on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m. You are also invited to the supper that will be served by Friends in Faith beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Thank you: We would like to thank everyone who turned in their pledge on the Pledge of Allegiance Sunday. If you have not yet done that, please get that into the office as soon as possible.

Funeral Planning: If you are looking to pre-plan your funeral, we have a few funeral planning packets on the table in the coat room. If you go to get one and the packets are gone, please let the office know and we can print more.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services: Just as a reminder we have two services on Sunday, December 24. We will have our AM service starting at 9:30 AM and then we will have the Christmas Eve service starting at 6:30 pm. Christmas Day Monday, December 25, service will begin at 10:00 am.