



**St. James Lutheran Church
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
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The First Sunday in Advent
December 3, 2023

Divine Service, Setting Three (p. 184)

The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, and Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle (*Psalm 25:1-3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b*)

P Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

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

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

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

P Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

C Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be! Amen!

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

Hymn of Invocation: 341 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Invocation

Exhortation LSB 184

Confession of Sins LSB 184

Absolution LSB 185

Hymn: 343 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:1-3

A The Old Testament reading is Isaiah 40:1-3.

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A The Epistle Reading is 1 Corinthians 1:3-9.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge – even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 190

The Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24–37

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Jesus said: “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know

when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning – lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



P Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Hymn of the Day: 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

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.)

Offertory

LSB 192

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!)

Prayer of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Light of the World (We the Kingdom)

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)

CCLI Song # 7163734

Andrew Bergthold | Ed Cash | Franni Cash | Martin Cash | Scott Cash

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Announcements & Blessing of Online Worshipers

Preface	<i>LSB 194</i>
Proper Preface (Full)	
Sanctus	<i>LSB 195</i>
The Words of Our Lord	<i>LSB 197</i>
Pax Domini	<i>LSB 197</i>
Hymn: 336 “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”	
Distribution	
Nunc Dimittis	<i>LSB 199</i>
Thanksgiving	<i>LSB 200</i>

Post-Communion Collect

Salutation *LSB 201*

Benedicamus *LSB 202*

Benediction *LSB 202*

Hymn to Depart: 355 “O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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This Week at St. James

Today (12/3) Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM

Communion Service (Mites Sunday) - 9:30 AM

Voters Meeting – 11:00 AM

Advent by Candlelight -6:00 PM

Monday (12/4) **Communion Service - 6:30 PM**

Wednesday (12/6) Darrell Bible Study – 10:00 AM

Advent Meal (Friends in Faith Hosting) - 5:30 PM

Advent Service – 6:30 PM

Thursday (12/7) Adult Bells – 6:00 PM

Adult Choir – 7:15 PM

Saturday (12/9) Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study – 8:30 AM

Sunday (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

Looking Ahead

Serving Today (12/3)

Officiant Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector Cherie Hood
Organist Beth McKay
Deacon(s) Bryan Ensing / Craig Popma
Ushers Caleb Butler / Sherry Schmidt / Dale & Grace Rosema
Video/Sound/Recording Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
December Altar Guild Butler Family
KidzTime Sandra Schaeffer

Serving Next Sunday (12/10)

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 Cindy McAuliffe

Financial Discipleship: November 26 & 27, 2023

General Fund	\$3,485.88
<i>Needed each week for budget</i> \$5,769.00	<i>(-\$2,283.12)</i>
TOTAL Contributions	\$3,485.88

Announcements

Newsletter: The paper copies of the newsletter are out on the table in the lobby.

ADVENT by CANDLELIGHT" ~ LWML invites you and your friends, and children 6+, to our annual event tonight Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 6 pm! This year's program will focus on 3 seasons of Mary's life, and how Christ's everlasting Light shines in us and through us. *Please RSVP on the table by the office, or by email or phone, no later than Friday, 12/1.*

A Voter's meeting will be held today, December 3rd following the service. We will be passing our budget for 2024 and we will be appointing members to our governing board. There will also be reports shared.

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

Parent Night Out: December 8th from 5:30-9:00. Come for a fun-filled Christmas night! Dinner is served! All children from birth to grade 8 are welcome to attend. Cost is \$15 per child. All proceeds go to support the ministry of ISJ Academy. Register: www.immanuelgr.org/upcoming-events No kids at home? Love our families with children and fill a spot to serve during the event! Sign Up here: <http://bit.ly/23PNO> Email Emily Gustafson with questions at kidmin@immanuelgr.org.

The members of St. Matthew's (5125 Cascade Road SE Grand Rapids) invite you to attend the installation service of Rev. Jonathan Meyer on Sunday, December 10th. The service begins at 4:00 p.m. A catered dinner will be served immediately following Pastor Meyer's Installation. There is no cost, but please complete the RSVP by Sunday, November 26th. To RSVP go to: <https://stmatthewgr.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2023859>.

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.

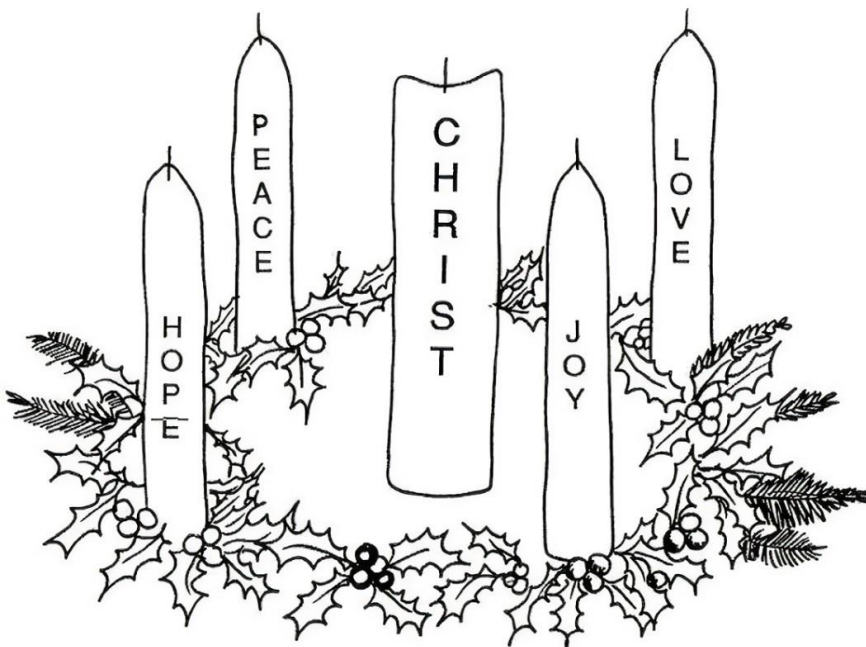
Are you able to help Pastor Eldaphonce rebuild his damaged home? Pastor Eldaphonce's house was damaged by torrential rain. He has provided Pastor Schaeffer with a list of the estimated cost of repairs. He is estimating that it will cost about \$1400.00 (US) to repair his home and toilet. Are you able 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.

Advent Calendar there are about 7 “How Lovely are they Branches” Advent Calendars in the lobby. Please feel free to take one.

“The Clothing of our King” will be the theme of the midweek Advent services. This first midweek Advent service will be this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. A meal will be served by Friends in Faith beginning at 5:30 p.m.

“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.



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition used during the four weeks of Advent and the season of Christmas. The lighting of an Advent wreath is a custom that began in 16th-century Germany among Lutherans and Catholics.

The wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches. It has no beginning or end. The circular nature of the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of God and His promise that all believers in Christ will live forever.

The wreath is made of evergreens, signifying continuous life. These greens remain vibrant even in winter, pointing to the life we have in Christ.

Usually there are three purple/blue candles; one pink candle; and one white candle which is in the center of the wreath. The color **Purple** symbolize/represent ROYALTY, REPENTANCE (Sorrow over sin), and FASTING. The color **Blue** represent HOPE and ETERNITY.

Each candle has a different meaning. The meanings of the purple/blue candles varies but usually they symbolize:

HOPE
PEACE
LOVE

The pink candle symbolizes:

JOY

The white candle represents:

CHRIST JESUS

The white candle is known as the Christ Candle. On Christmas Eve, the Christ candle is lit because Christ is the Light who has come into the world. The color white also represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior and those who trust in Christ as their Savior are washed clean of their sins and made whiter than snow.

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 who 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 refrain from 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.

NOTE: We provide gluten-free communion host and non-alcoholic grape juice. Just let the Pastor and/or the assistants know when you come for Holy Communion.