

**First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023**

Divine Service, Setting One (p.151)

The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, and Welcome

**The Opening Hymn: 353 "Jesus Came, the Heavens
Adoring"**

Exhortation

LSB 151

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

Absolution

LSB 151

A Hymn: Ding Dong Merrily on High

Verse 1

Ding dong! Merrily on high,
in heaven the bells are ringing;
Ding dong! verily the sky
is filled with angels singing:

Chorus

Glo-----oria, hosanna in excelsis! (2X)

Verse 2

Ding dong! Merrily on high,
they bring good news of jo-oy:
this shall be for you a sign ~
you'll find a baby bo-oy.

Verse 3

Ding dong! Merrily on high,
the bells peal out God's favour:
In a manger there He lies,
the baby who's our Saviour!

George Ratcliffe Woodward, Hugh George Wetmore

CCLI Song #4712530

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Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 393 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

The Epistle Reading

Galatians 4:4–7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 373 “See amid the Winter’s Snow”

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

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

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not

depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Hymn of the Day: 369 “Where Shepherds Lately Kneel”

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!)

Prayer of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 896 “Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year”

Announcements & Blessing of Online Worshipers

A Hymn: 366 "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

The Words of Our Lord

Distribution

The Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction

LSB 166

Hymn to Depart: 385 “From East to West”

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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This Week at St. James

Today (12/31) Gizmo on FB - 8:00 AM
Communion Service - 9:30 AM
Sunday (1/7)..Communion Service(Mites Sunday) - 9:30 AM

Looking Ahead

Serving Today (12/31)

Officiant Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector Jim Spears
Organist Beth McKay
Deacon(s) Craig Popma / Bryan Ensing
Ushers Dale & Grace Rosema / Jim & Nancy Spears
Video/Sound/Recording Nathan Urbanski / John & Marjie Weiss
December Altar Guild Butler Family
KidzTime -

Serving Next Sunday (1/7)

Lector Cindy McAuliffe
Organist Beth McKay
Deacon(s) Craig Popma / Bryan Ensing
Ushers Dale & Grace Rosema / Walt & Karen K
Video/Sound/Recording Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
December Altar Guild Butler Family
KidzTime -

Announcements

Sometimes silence is golden. Other times it is a relationship killer. Two people are estranged. Angry. At odds. A friend intervenes with the suggestion, “Well, have you tried talking about it?” Reconciliation takes conversation, verbal interaction, words. Under the theme *Love Talks: Daring*

Conversations Toward Reconciliation, the 2024 Theological Conference is designed especially for laity of all ages. The conference, which will take place on February 3 in Lansing, will equip you to engage in the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). The world around us needs us to engage with others in the ministry of reconciliation, both with people and with God. At the very heart of all reconciliation is the Word Himself, the Word made flesh, Jesus. Let's get started with daring conversations of reconciliation. After all, love talks

WHEN & WHERE

- **February 3, 2024**
- Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing
7910 E. St. Joe Hwy
Lansing, MI, 48917

For more information, visit:

<https://michigandistrict.org/event/theological-conference-2024/#overview>. If interested in attending this conference, please talk with Pastor Schaeffer.

Lord, Teach Us To Pray! This was the question the disciples asked Jesus and he responded by teaching them The Lord's Prayer. Pastor Schaeffer will begin a new Bible study on The Lord's Prayer on Sunday, January 7th. Not only will this study help you appreciate The Lord's Prayer but it will equip you and motivate you to be a person of prayer.

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.

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.