The First Sunday after Christmas/New Year's Day January 1, 2023

The Preservice Music, The Call to Worship & Welcome (Please stand)

The Hymn of Invocation: LSB 376 "Once in Royal David's City"

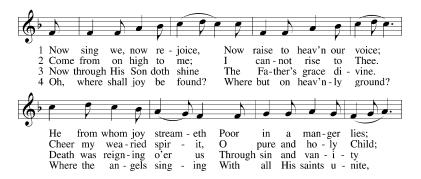


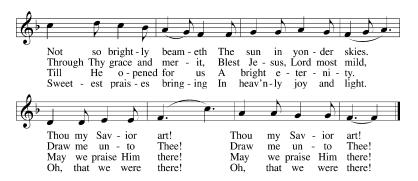
- Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76
 Text and tune: Public domain
- A In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.
- A Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father,

- beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- A Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- A O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- A Upon this your confession, as a fellow believer in Christ, I announce to you the good news that in Christ Jesus, all our sins are forgiven!
- C Amen.

A Hymn of Praise: LSB 386 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"





Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt. Tune: German, 14th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

The Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- A The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- A Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

(Please be seated.)

The Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 90:1–17

A: I invite you to read this psalm responsively.

A: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. C: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had forAed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

A: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

C: For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

A: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:

C: In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

A: For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.

C: You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

A: For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C: The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

A: Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

C: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

A: Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants!

C: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

A: Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

C: Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

A: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

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

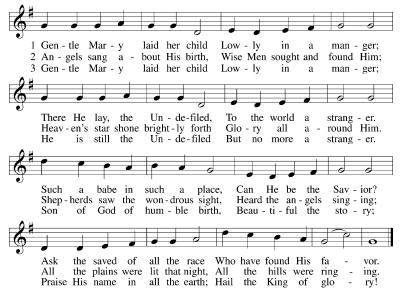
The Epistle Lesson: Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption

as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So 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.
- Thanks be to God.

A Hymn: LSB 374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"



Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933 Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald Text and tune: Public domain

(Please stand)

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:13–23

- The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

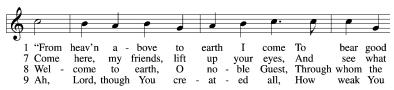
¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take

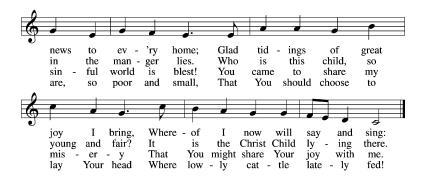
the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." 19But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

- A This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 358 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (**All**: Verses 1, 13-15; **Men**: 7, 9; **Women**: 8, 12)





- 12 And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me: That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;My lips no more can silence keep.I, too, must sing with joyful tongueThat sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n! While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

The Offering

A Hymn: LSB 733 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"



- Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 Soon bears us all away;
 We fly forgotten as a dream
 Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727 Text and tune: Public domain

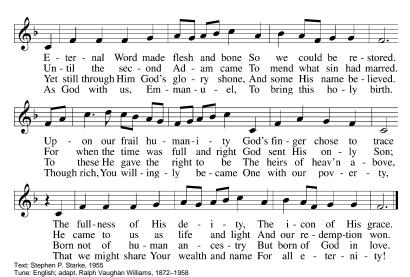
(Please stand)

The Prayer of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

A Hymn: LSB 362 "O Sing of Christ"



- 1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord, 2 What Ad-am lost, none could re-claim, And Par-a-dise was barred
- 4 Lord Je-sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A mong us here on earth



Tune: Public domain

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A Closing Prayer

 $[\mathbf{A}]$ Let us pray. Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through

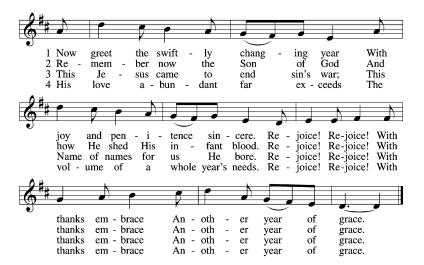
 \mathbf{C} Amen.

Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Blessing

- \mathbf{A} Now, may the God of peace grant you His peace as you live daily in the love and forgiveness that is yours in Christ Jesus.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

The Closing Hymn: LSB 896 "Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year"



- With Him as Lord to lead our way In want and in prosperity, What need we fear in earth or space In this new year of grace!
- 6 "All glory be to God on high, And peace on earth!" the angels cry. Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace.
- 7 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear! To all our pleas incline Your ear; Upon our lives rich blessing trace In this new year of grace.

Text: Cithara Sanctorum, 1636, Levoca; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008, alt. Tune: Alfred V. Fedak, 1953 Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553 Tune: © 1990 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553

The Postlude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Five from Lutheran Service Book

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Events of the Week: January 2-8, 2023

Monday 6:30 p.m. Communion service

Thursday 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. Adult Choir

Friday THE DAY of Epiphany

Pastor's Day off

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Gizmo on FB

9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Bible study 6:00 p.m. LWML meeting

Announcements

Discovery Class with Pastor Schaeffer Begins Tuesday, January 10th. Discovery 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 12-session course will begin on Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30 p.m. The class will be held in the Gathering Room at the church, but we will also make the course available via Zoom for those who can't be present in person. Please send an email to Pastor if you want to receive the Zoom link.

The Dorcas Society invites all women to join us on Thursday, January 12 at 1:30 pm in the Gathering Room. Our program is "A Look into the life of a Pastor's Wife". Our special guest is Ashley Beffrey. Ashley and her husband Pastor Ryan Beffrey serve Epiphany Lutheran Church in Dorr MI. Ashley will share the challenges, joys, humorous and heartwarming experiences she has had as a pastor's wife. It will be an enjoyable time together. All women are welcome to join us. Contact Rachel Palmer (616-883-6949) if you have questions or want more detail.

Paper copies of the January 2023 St. James newsletter is available on the table in the church foyer.

New Year's brings an opportunity to decide to do something new! St. James' LWML invites all the ladies who haven't traditionally participated in our Bible study and fellowship to join us in 2023! We typically meet on the first Sunday evening of each month. However, the first two months of 2023 will see the ladies gathering on the second Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m.! We hope you will join us, whenever you are able! On Sunday, January 8th we will be led in a study of trusting in God for future plans. Sandra Schaeffer will lead the Bible study and Nancy Dome will be the hostess.

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.

The Word works – Building an Ethic of Bible Reading
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.

A Christmas greeting from Arlene Schwartz: My dearly beloved sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ. Mere words cannot express my deep gratitude for your messages of love and encouragement in my last years. My Good Shepherd walks with me through the green pastures, still waters, and the valley of the shadow of death. But we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Always with love, hugs, and prayers. – Arlene Schwartz (Note: Arlene's Christmas card is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.)