

Grow ... Go ... Gather
December 20, 2020



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Advent

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)

2040 Oakwood Avenue N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505



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The Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Order of Service (DS 3)

Please turn off your wifi
Please wear your mask when singing



The Preservice Music, Call to Worship, and Welcome

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: God of Peace, we are grateful for the gift of home, and of belonging. In this season of waiting and watching, we remember our neighbors who long for the peace of mind and heart that can only come from knowing you as Creator and Savior. May we be participants in bringing the peace of your Kingdom into the world. God of Promise, God of Peace:

C: Into our weary world, come.

P: God of Peace, the world around us threatens our sense of safety and security. Call us back to you, reminding us to be rooted in your love, and that the peace you give surpasses all of our logic and comprehension. God of Promise, God of Peace:

C: Into our weary world, come.

P: God of Peace, today we remember our neighbors in Latin America who fled their own homes, and who wait uncertain of safe shelter and a place to belong. Anchor their hearts in your perfect peace, protect and comfort them, and make a way for who seek safety to find sure footing in a new home. God of Promise, God of Peace:

C: Into our weary world, come.

P: God of Peace, amid the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. Lead us from despair to hope and

from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love and from civil unrest to peace. Fill our world with peace and make a safe place for all who seek refuge. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One we long for in this season of hope.

C: Amen.

(As we sing the opening hymn, we light all the advent candles, including the fourth candle which symbolizes, "love.")

The Opening Hymn: LSB 333 "Once He Came in Blessing" (verses 1, 2, and 4)



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠
 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 184

- P** 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.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **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.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

The Introit

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

C let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

P The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

C In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

P Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

ALL: 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.

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

C let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

A Hymn: LSB 342, "What Hope! An Eden Prophetied" (verses 1, 3, 4)



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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The Salutation and Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠ The Readings ✠

The Old Testament Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies

from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father
 Almighty. From thence He will come to
 judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church, the communion of
 saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
 resurrection of the body, and the life
 † everlasting. Amen.**

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 349, "Hark the Glad Sound" (verses 1-3)

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.

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The Sermon

The Offering Prayer

The Prayer of the Church and The Lord's Prayer

**☐ Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us; and lead us
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and
the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

A Hymn: LSB 357, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Verses 1, 4, 5, 6)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y,
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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Announcements and Blessing for Online Worshippers

✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

A Hymn: LSB 624, "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born" (verses 1, 2, 5, 6, 7)



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see, As at the
6 The bod - y of God's Lamb we eat, A priest - ly
7 With cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Our voic - es



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
rail on bend - ed knee Our hun - gry mouths from
food and priest - ly meat; On sin - parched lips the
join the end - less hymn, And "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
Him re - ceive The bread of im - mor - tal - i - ty.
chal - ice pours His quench - ing blood that life re - stores.
ho - ly" sing To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of

The Closing Hymn: "LSB 376, "Once in Royal David's City" (1, 2, 4, 5)



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God - and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text and tune: Public domain



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: December 20 – 27, 2020

- TODAY:** 11:00 a.m. Bible Study on Facebook Live
- Monday:** 10:00 a.m. Registration for **December 27**
Worship begins
6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Worship Service
with Holy Communion
- Tuesday:** Noon: "Ponder His Coming" Devotional FB
- Thursday:** 5:00 p.m. **CHRISTMAS EVE**
7:00 p.m. **CHRISTMAS EVE**
- Friday:** 10:00 a.m. **CHRISTMAS DAY**
- Saturday** 6:00 p.m. Registration for Sunday Worship
is closed
- Sunday:** 9:30 a.m. Worship at St. James (for
registered members) and on Facebook Live

Today's Deacons: Bryan Ensing and Craig Popma

Ushers: Walt & Karen Kryzanowski

December Altar Guild: Marjie Weiss and Melissa
Ensing

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP (December 13, 2020)

General Fund	\$7,496.00
Plate Collection	621.00
Roof Repair Fund	75.00
Sound System	100.00
Mission Fund	100.00
Lutheran Witness	11.60
Total:	\$8,403.60



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE QUOTE: December 20

“As we look forward to Christmas dinner and the celebration of our Savior’s birth, let us remember that Christ’s coming into the world began with an unexpected pregnancy. Mary of Nazareth was unmarried and certainly had reason to be confused and afraid when she was asked to carry the Son of God. But she courageously let God’s plan unfold for her and her Child and brought our Savior into this world, despite her uncertain circumstances.”

Right to Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

REGISTRATION TO ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER IS REQUIRED:

To register for worship, please go to:

1. Go to bit.ly/stjamesgr
2. Click on the worship service you wish to attend.
3. Click on the green “**register**” box.
4. Put in the **number attending**.
5. Click on the orange “**register**” box.

Enter **your first name** and **ALL** the **first names** of those attending with you in the “first name” box.

First Name* Martin, Katie,
Margarete, Magdalena,
Elisabeth, Paul, Hans, Martin Jr.

Enter **only one last name, e-mail address and confirm e-mail address.**

6. Click on the orange “**register**” box.
7. Your ticket(s) will arrive in your e-mail inbox confirming your sign-up.

Last Name* Luther