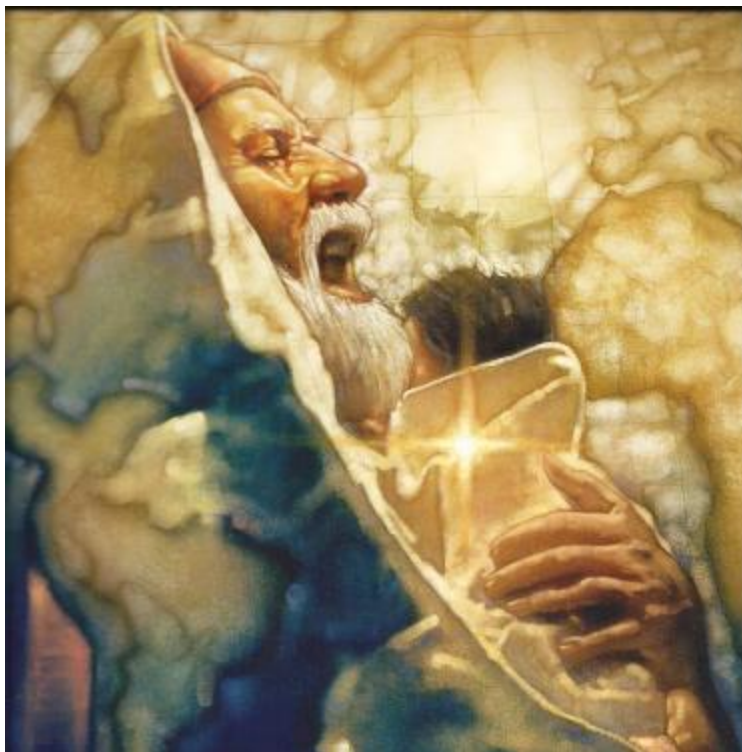


Grow ... Go ... Gather
December 27, 2020



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)

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



Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer

glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com

St. James Church Office: 363-7718

Secretary e-mail: office@stjamesgr.com

Website: www.stjamesgr.com

The First Sunday after Christmas

The Order of Service (DS 213)

Please wear your mask when singing

Please turn off your wifi



The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, the Welcome

The Opening Hymn: "Oh, Come, All Ye Children"

1. Oh, come, all ye children, oh, come, one and all
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night,
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.
2. He's born in a stable for you and for me,
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,
And purer than angels, the heavenly Child.
3. See Mary and Joseph with love-beaming eyes
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies,
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.
4. Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,
Lift up little hands now, and praise Him as they;
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly host.

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Exhortation

LSB 213

- 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.**

Kneel/stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Confession of Sins

LSB 213

- 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. Amen.**

The Gloria In Excelsis *LSB 204*



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



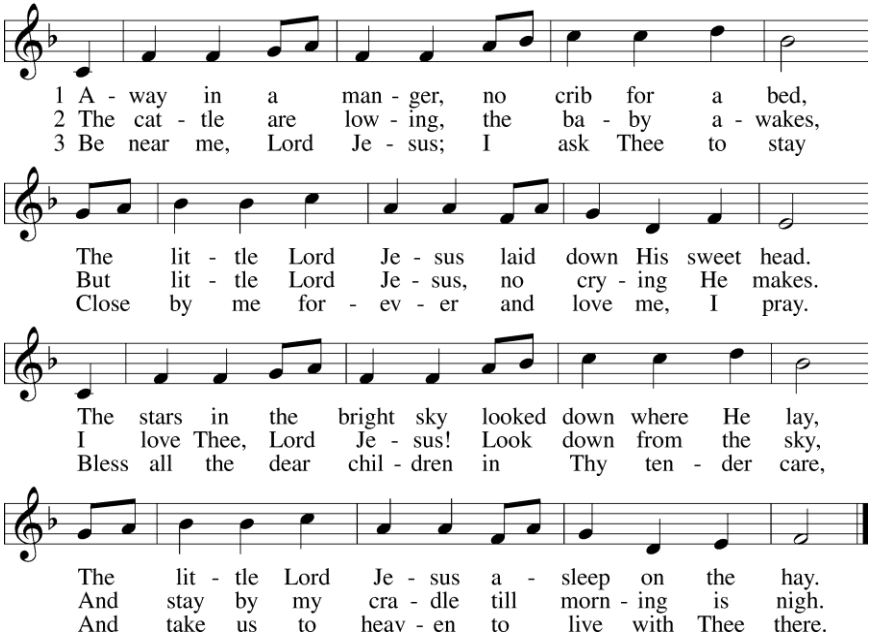
Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

The Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

A Hymn: LSB 365, "Away in a Manager"



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Old Testament Lesson: 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A Hymn: LSB 362, "O Sing of Christ" (verses 1, 2, 4)



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



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB

Hymn License no. 110002553

Tune: Public domain

The Epistle Lesson: 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

A Hymn: "The Huron Carol" (Written in the Huron language by Jesuit priest Father Jean de Brébeuf in 1643 with the title *Jesous Ahatonhia* ("Jesus, he is born"), and set by him to an old French tune, "*Une Jeune Pucelle*" ("A Young Maid"), this is considered the first Canadian carol. It is considered a national treasure and has been celebrated on a set of Canadian postage stamps. In re-telling the story of the Nativity, Father de Brébeuf used symbols that could be easily understood within the culture of the Hurons; it is said that the hymn entered the tribe's oral tradition.)

1. 'Twas in the moon of winter-time
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wandering hunter heard the hymn:

Refrain:

***"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria."***

2. Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapp'd His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high. **Refrain**

3. O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. **Refrain**

Public Domain

The Gospel Lesson: 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 that 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.

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.**

A Hymn: LSB 358, "From Heaven Above to Earth I
Come" (verses 1-3, 7, 14, 15)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
young and fair? It is the Christ Child ly - ing there.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That 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 and tune: Public domain

A Sermon: Galatians 4:4-7, "A Christmas Gift: From Slavery to Sonship"

A Hymn: LSB 390, "Let Us All With Gladsome Voice" (verses 1, 3, 4)



1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - jice, His own Son hath giv - en.
There - fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Offering, 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.**

The Benediction

P: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: LSB 386 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (verses 1 and 2)



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!

Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: December 27 – January 3

- Monday:** 10:00 a.m. Registration for **January 3**
Worship begins
- Tuesday:** Noon: "Ponder His Coming" Devotional FB
- Thursday:** Noon: "Ponder His Coming" Devotional FB
7:00 p.m. **New Year's Eve Worship**
Service at St. James and on FBL
- Saturday** 6:00 p.m. Registration for Sunday Worship
is closed
- Sunday:** 9:30 a.m. Communion Worship at St.
James (for registered members) and on
Facebook Live
11:00 a.m. Bible Study on Facebook

Today's Deacons: Craig Popma

Ushers: Jim & Nancy Spears

December Altar Guild: Marjie Weiss and Melissa
Ensing

January Altar Guild: Cindy McAuliffe

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP (December 20, 2020)

General Fund	\$4,367.00
Plate Collection	197.00
Roof Repair Fund	75.00
ISJ Academy	150.00
Staff Christmas	50.00
<u>Lutheran Witness</u>	<u>11.00</u>

Total: \$4,850.00

REGISTRATION TO ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER IS REQUIRED:

To register for worship, please go to:

1. Go to bit.ly/stjamesqr
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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please note in your church directories that **Loren Harper** will have a new address in the beginning of January. He will be moving to:

**5901 Leisure South SE
Kentwood, MI 49548**



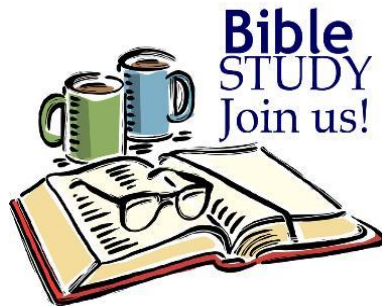


LUTHERANS FOR LIFE QUOTE: December 27

“The slaughter of the innocents continues in our time ... done not out of anger, but because the arrival of these little ones is deemed inconvenient or too expensive or sometimes simply because they are not the ‘right’ sex. We, like Rachel, weep over our lost children. But mourning their loss does not mean that we do not fight to end this assault on the sanctity of life. The holy birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, which has transformed the world for the good in so many ways, gives us hope that abortion, too, can be ended.”

Steven Mosher, Population Research Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •

www.lutheransforlife.org



New Bible Studies will begin in the New Year:

Starting in January, Pastor Schaeffer will begin two new Bible studies. Did you know that the Second Person of the Holy Trinity appears in the Old Testament? It's true! Starting Sunday, **January 3rd** at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Schaeffer will discuss some of those Old Testament appearances. Pastor Schaeffer will also begin a six-week Bible study starting the first week of January on St. John's First Epistle. The title for this study is "*Established in Truth ... Marked by Love.*" This study will be offered twice during the week: **January 6 at 10:00 a.m.** (in person at the church and on ZOOM). And, the same study will be offered on **Thursday evenings**, beginning **January 7** at 7:30 p.m. on ZOOM. If you plan to participate in the Bible study via ZOOM, please register with Pastor Schaeffer (glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com) by letting him know which ZOOM study you want to attend and he will send you the connection information. NOTE: If government regulations forbid groups of people from meeting in person, the 1 John study will only be available online.