

Grow ... Go ... Gather
December 6, 2020



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)

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



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The Second Sunday in Advent

(Please turn off your wifi)

The Order of Service (DS 4, LSB 203ff)

The Pre-service Music, The Call to Worship, and the Welcome

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." (Isaiah 40:1-2)

P: God of Love, our weary world cries out for Your divine comfort. As we are comforted in Christ, teach us to speak tenderly to our neighbors near and far, proclaiming Your love to all. God of Promise, God of Love:

C: Into our weary world, come.

P: God of Love, as we light this second candle, we remember with gratitude the love You pour out for us and for all people. May we dwell in that love today, and be watchful for the light of that love in all whom we encounter. God of Promise, God of Love:

C: Into our weary world, come.

P: God of Love, today we remember our siblings in Asia for whom rivers bring forth both life and death. We pray that Your love would show up in safety, shelter, and systems that protect and allow our neighbors to live in peace. God of Promise, God of Love:

C: Into our weary world, come.


P: God of Love, You draw near to us like a shepherd feeding his flock. Gather all people into Your arms and create new possibilities that promise a hope-filled future. Provide safety through early warning systems, feed the hungry with bountiful harvests, and comfort all who fear natural disasters in our world. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One we long for in this season of Hope.

C: Amen.


The Advent candle is lit as we sing our opening hymn.

(Please wear your mask when singing)


The Opening Hymn: LSB 334, "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" (verses 1, 4, 6)




1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.
 6 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror to His foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 A light of con - so - la - tions And bless - ed hope to those



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace
 Who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.
 Send forth Your beams so cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

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Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Exhortation

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins & Absolution

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Introit

P: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

C: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

P: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

C: You brought a vine out of Egypt; it took deep root and filled the land.

P: Restore us, O God of hosts;

C: Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

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: Restore us, O God;

C: let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Epistle Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-14

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any

should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Hymn: LSB 344, "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" (verses 1, 3, 4)



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

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

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,"'

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Nicene Creed

G **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things

were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 347, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" (verses 1-3)



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!



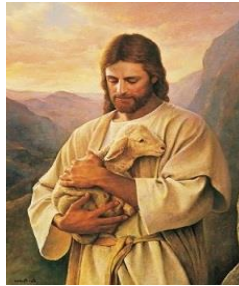
Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.

Tune and text: Public domain

The Sermon: Isaiah 40:1-11, "Comforting Words for My People"



The Offering Prayer, The General Prayers 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 346, "When All The World Was Cursed"



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na - tion,
 2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
 Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
 Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
 The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
 By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
 That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

Tune: Public domain

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Announcements and Dismissal Blessing

✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the

kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

C: Amen.

A Hymn of Preparation: "Behold the Lamb"
(Townend/Getty)

Verse 1

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King

Verse 2

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ
Torn for you eat and remember
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King

Verse 3

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
Shed for you drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King

Verse 4

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King

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The Words of Our Lord

The Distribution

The Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Closing Hymn: "The Blessing" (Brown, Carnes, Jobe)

Verse

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace **(2Xs)**

Chorus

Amen Amen Amen **(2Xs)**

Verse

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: December 6 – 13, 2020

- TODAY:** **11:00 a.m.** Bible study on Facebook Live
 11:00 a.m. Voters' Meeting
- Monday:** **10:00 a.m.** Registration for **December 13**
 Worship begins
 6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Worship Service
 with Holy Communion
- Tuesday:** **Noon:** "Ponder His Coming" Devotional on
 FB
- Wed.:** **7:00 p.m. Mid-week Advent Service**
- Thursday:** **Noon:** "Ponder His Coming" Devotional
 on FB
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bells
- Friday:** **12:00 Noon** Registration closes for phone-in
 Worship registration.
- Saturday** **6:00 p.m.** Registration for Worship
 is closed
- Sunday:** **9:30 a.m.** Worship at St. James (for
 registered members) and on Facebook Live

Today's Deacons: Craig Popma and Bryan Ensing
Ushers: The Urbanski Family
December Altar Guild: Marjie Weiss and Melissa Ensing

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP (November 29, 2020)

General Fund	\$7,870.00
Plate Collection	850.00
Roof Repair Fund	75.00
Tessaro Ministry Nigeria	10.00
<u>Covid Equipment</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total:	\$8,855.00

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the Coat Room.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE QUOTE: December 6

"This Christmas, let us continue to pray for mothers who are afraid and aren't sure where to turn when they discover they are unexpectedly pregnant. Let us pray that, like Mary, they may find the courage to bring life into the world."

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



CHRISTMAS CARDS

This is the time of year we normally set out cards for everyone to sign. This year, we are asking our members to remember those who are unable to get out & about and send them a card.

If you need addresses, contact the office.

Notify the office to subscribe to the **Lutheran Witness!** The deadline is **TODAY**. The cost is still **\$11.60**.

Praise God! Betty Mosies has a new room. You can send Betty cards and letters at:

Betty Mosies
1050 4 Mile Rd. NW
Room **#511**
Grand Rapids, MI 49504.



Loren Harper has a temporary new address. It is:

354 Stowell St.
Comstock Park, MI 49321

Please note these changes in your directory.

Voters Meeting



St. James is having a **Voters' Meeting Sunday, TODAY**. It will be following the worship service in the Sanctuary. We will be voting on the **2021 budget** as well as **elected positions in the church**.

If you have any questions regarding the Voters' Meeting or registration during the month of December, please contact Jim Spears or Craig Popma.

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

REGISTRATION TO ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER IS REQUIRED:

We are asking people who plan to attend worship services in the month of December to register everyone who plans on attending on Eventbrite.

The registration for 12/24 will **close on Saturday, December 19**. Worship attendance is limited to 75 people per service on a first come - first serve basis. Currently the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service is **sold out**. A 5:00 p.m. service has opened for registration. (Only the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service will be on Facebook Live)

All worship services (except Monday evening) will be broadcast live on our St. James Facebook page.

Registration is needed for Sunday worship, Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve services. Thank you.