

Grow ... Go ... Gather
November 29, 2020



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)

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



Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer

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THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(Please turn off your wifi)

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

(Please wear your mask when singing.)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Source: Lutheran World Relief)

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Corinthians 1:4

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

C: Amen.

P: God of Hope, we come to this new season of Advent weary from months of changes and uncertainty. As we enter into this season of waiting and watching, guide our hearts to a place of grace and thankfulness, even and especially when we cannot see clearly the road ahead. God of Promise, God of Hope:

C: Into our weary world, come.

P: God of Hope, as we light this first candle, we remember with gratitude the hope you gave us in Jesus. Open our hearts and our eyes to recognize the glimmer of your presence in our lives in ways both big and small. God of Promise, God of Hope:

C: Into our weary world, come.

P: God of Hope, we remember today our siblings in Africa, for whom rain is scarce and feeling hope is an act of faith beyond our comprehension. We pray for your presence, creativity, and protection for our neighbors amid all the challenges they

face this and every day. God of Promise, God of Hope:

C: Into our weary world, come.

P: God of Hope, giver of all things, we have so much to be thankful for. Thank you for being in the midst of the challenges of this past year. Guide us to focus on your Word as we look forward to the hope that Jesus brings. Help us to give thanks in all circumstances. 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.

The Hymn: LSB 343, "Prepare the Royal Highway"



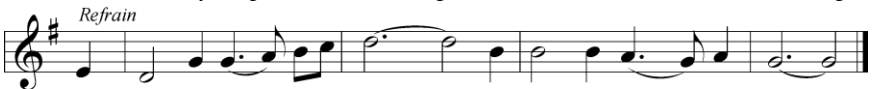
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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The Confession and Absolution *LSB 151*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have**

sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

LSB 151

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.

The Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,

that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24-37

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

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

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the

Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

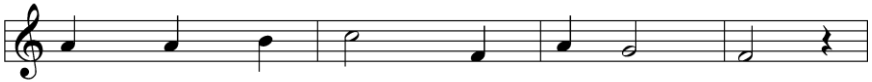
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 355, “O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide” (1, 4, 6, 7)



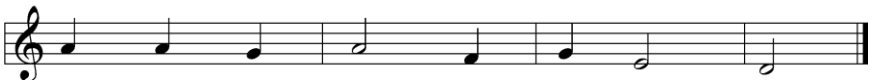
1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
 6 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies;
 7 There shall we all our prais - es bring



Come down, come down with might - y stride;
 When will You come with com - fort strong?
 Grim death looms fierce be - fore our eyes.
 And sing to You, our Sav - ior King;



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;
 O come, lead us with might - y hand
 There shall we laud You and a - dore



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.
 From ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

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The Sermon: Isaiah 64:1-9 "Rend the Heaven....No Wait! Forgive Me!"

The Apostles' Creed

☩ 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 Offering Prayer and General 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.

Announcements and a Blessing for the FB Worshippers

“The Blessing” – Carnes and Jobi

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

CCLI Song # 7147007 Chris Brown | Cody Carnes | Kari Jobe | Steven Furtick © 2020 Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)Kari Jobe Carnes Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Writer's Roof Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 20021974

The Service of the Sacrament *LSB 160*

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 161

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . .
evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

The Words of our Lord

- 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 you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Pax Domini *LSB 163*

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

A Hymn: LSB 618, "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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The Distribution

The Post-Communion Canticle *LSB 164*



☑ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 Benediction *LSB 166*

P: To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! (Jude 24-25)

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” (LW 15)

1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev’ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

- 2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of his Passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: November 29 – December 6

- TODAY:** 11:00 a.m. Bible study on Facebook Live
- Monday:** 10:00 a.m. Registration for **December 6**
Worship begins
6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Worship Service with Holy Communion
7:30 p.m. **Council Meeting**
- 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. Communion Worship at St. James (for registered members) and on Facebook Live
11:00 a.m. **VOTERS' MEETING** in person and on-line (details to follow)

Today's Deacons: Bryan Ensing and Craig Popma

Ushers: Jim & Nancy Spears

November Altar Guild: Sherry and Jennifer Schmidt

December Altar Guild: Marjie Weiss and Melissa Ensing

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP (November 22, 2020)

General Fund	\$3,290.00
Plate Collection	745.00
Roof Repair Fund	75.00
ISJ Academy	150.00
Memorial – Ardis	50.00
Lutheran Witness	11.60
Total:	\$4,321.60

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the Coat Room.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE QUOTE: November 29

“Christians engage in adopting not only because we desire to raise children but also—and above all—because the Most High desires their survival and salvation. We adopt because we have been so adopted. We adopt because little ones need homes. We adopt because we have homes and families to share. Life issues mean more than just political debates. Life issues involve more than just personal choices or someone else’s problems. Life issues are always people and Gospel.”

Rev. Michael W. Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •

www.lutheransforlife.org

To register for worship, please go to:

1. Go to bit.ly/stjamesqr
2. Click on the worship service you wish to attend.
Worship Service – December 6, 9:30 am
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.

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.



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.



Virtual **Advent by Candlelight** is **TONIGHT!!** If you have any questions, please contact Grace Rosema.

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS: Please note there are **2021 schedules** in your church mailboxes. The monthly assignment is the same as 2020. If you are unable to serve, please contact the office.

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

**REGISTRATION TO ATTEND
WORSHIP SERVICES IN
DECEMBER IS REQUIRED:**

We are asking all people who plan to attend the Christmas Eve service (7:00 p.m.) to register on Eventbrite. The registration will open on Monday, November 30th and will **close on Saturday, December 19**. Worship attendance will be limited to 75 people. If we find that there is a greater demand than 75 worshippers, then we will consider having a second Christmas Eve service. All worship services (except Monday evening) will be broadcast live on our St. James Facebook page. **To register for Sunday worship, Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve** services, go to <http://bit.ly/stjamesgr>. You can also register by calling the church office.

Notify the office to subscribe to the **Lutheran Witness!** The deadline is **December 6th**. Cost is still **\$11.60**.

If you call the church and try to leave a message, do not wait for a beep but press 2 # for Pastor Schaeffer or 0 # for the church office.
Thank you.



Praise God! Betty Mosies is not in a covid care room anymore! Her new room is #511. 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, December 6th**. 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**.

The meeting will be held in-house and on-line. Details of how you can join the Voters' Meeting will be sent via e-mail on Tuesday or Wednesday. If you have any questions, please contact President Jim Spears or Deacon Chairman, Craig Popma.

Reminder **Council members**: There is a meeting **TOMORROW** at 7:30 p.m.

