

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"

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 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
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 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
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 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.
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
 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: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.
 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.
- C** Amen.
- A** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father,

beseeking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

A Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

A I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

A 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.**

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”




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.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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 formed 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.

C 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.

C Thanks be to God.

A Hymn: LSB 374 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;

There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

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

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C 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 ¹⁵and 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.

C 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)



1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the
9 Ah, Lord, though You cre - at - ed all, How weak You

news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my
are, so poor and small, That You should choose to

joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
young and fair? It is the Christ Child ly - ing there.
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.
lay Your head Where low - ly cat - tle late - ly fed!

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.

13 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 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: 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”



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 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
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
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.
 Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
 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;
 To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
 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.
 Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
 That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Tune: Public domain

A Closing Prayer

- 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 Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The Blessing

- 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.

C Amen.

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

1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year With
 2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God And
 3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; This
 4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds The

joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joice! Re-joice! With
 how He shed His in - fant blood. Re - joice! Re-joice! With
 Name of names for us He bore. Re - joice! Re-joice! With
 vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re-joice! With

thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.

- 5 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. T. Tune: Alfred V. Fedak, 1953
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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.)