

# Fourth Sunday in Advent

## December 20, 2020

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Confession & Absolution

- P** Holy, Holy, Holy you are, O LORD of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.
- C** **Your holiness frightens us. It fills us with awe. It fills us with wonder.**  
**What else can we do but fall down before you and confess our woe?**  
**We are lost. We are a people of unclean lips and unclean thoughts.**  
**The light of your holiness only reveals the darkness of our sin.**
- P** Holy, Holy, Holy, you are, O LORD of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.
- C** **Your holiness is white hot, converting our sin.**  
**Send your seraphim to us with burning coals from your altar,**  
**that our guilt be taken away, and our sin forgiven.**
- P** Holy, Holy, Holy you are, O LORD of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glory.
- C** **Your holiness is frightening, all consuming.**  
**Sanctify us to your service.**  
**Make us holy, that we might be your people,**  
**that we might reflect your glory and serve you forever.**  
**In the name of Jesus we pray, who ever stands before the altar of heaven,**  
**our mediator, who presents before your holy majesty our prayer and supplication,**  
**now and evermore. Amen.**
- P** Because of Jesus, God has forgiven all our sin. Hear the gospel of Christ from Romans 5:  
"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- C** Amen.

- P** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all  
generations.
- C** For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”
- P** You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:
- C** ‘I will establish your offspring forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.’”
- P** Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
- C** 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.

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?”’” <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>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. . . .

<sup>16</sup>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.

## Epistle

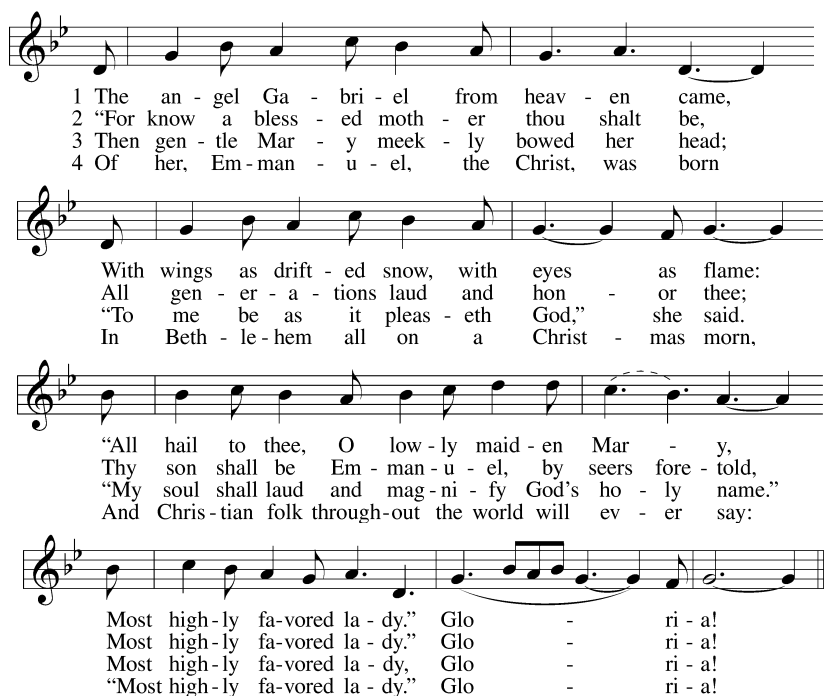
*Romans 16:25–27*

<sup>25</sup>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 <sup>26</sup>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— <sup>27</sup>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.

## Sermon Hymn #356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text & tune: Basque, 18<sup>th</sup> century; text & tune: public domain

## Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26–38

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

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

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>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 to You, O Christ.

## Sermon

### Prayer

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

## 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.

## 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.

## Holy Communion

# Distribution Hymn #392

# God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and  
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did  
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



*Refrain*  
 There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me

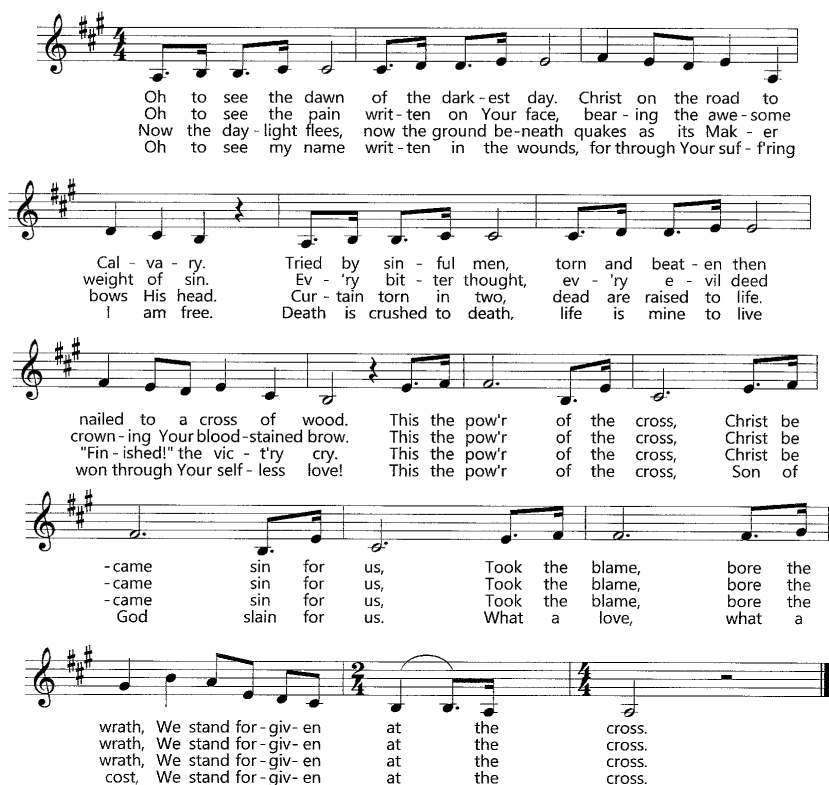


dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, tune: German, text & tune: public domain

## Distribution Hymn

## The Power of the Cross



Oh to see the dawn of the dark-est day. Christ on the road to  
 Oh to see the pain writ-ten on Your face, bear-ing the awe-some  
 Now the day-light flees, now the ground be-neath quakes as its Mak-er  
 Oh to see my name writ-ten in the wounds, for through Your suf-f'ring

Cal - va - ry. Tried by sin - ful men, torn and beat - en then  
 weight of sin. Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought, ev - 'ry e - vil deed  
 bows His head. Cur - tain torn in two, dead are raised to life.  
 I am free. Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live

nailed to a cross of wood. This the pow'r of the cross, Christ be  
 crown - ing Your blood - stained brow. This the pow'r of the cross, Christ be  
 "Fin - ished!" the vic - t'ry cry. This the pow'r of the cross, Christ be  
 won through Your self - less love! This the pow'r of the cross, Son of

- came sin for us, Took the blame, bore the  
 - came sin for us, Took the blame, bore the  
 - came sin for us, Took the blame, bore the  
 God slain for us. What a love, what a

wrath, We stand for - giv - en at the cross.  
 wrath, We stand for - giv - en at the cross.  
 wrath, We stand for - giv - en at the cross.  
 cost, We stand for - giv - en at the cross.

Text and tune: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, © 2005 Thankyou Music. Used by permission: CCLI no.

11373734



# Announcements

## **Bible Study \***

Sunday @ 12:30 p.m. (Zoom)

\* Please text Pastor Mueller if you have not yet attended and would like a Zoom invitation link sent to your email.

## **Sunday School**

Students in preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited downstairs immediately after Communion for a brief (5-10 minute) period where they can grab a pre-packaged snack, hear a short message and take home materials to work on at home.

**Special Voters Meeting** - We will have a special voters meeting today at 11:30 a.m. to discuss moving forward with the Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) micro-school. At this meeting, the congregation will decide if we wish to engage in an exploratory phase along with CCLS to determine the feasibility/possibility of opening the school for the 2021-2022 school year.

**New Member Class** - Tonight 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

**Christmas Eve Service** - Thursday @ 11:30 p.m.

**Christmas Morning Service** – Friday @ 9:00 a.m.

If you are unable to attend in person, these services will be available on our YouTube channel.

## **Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Group (6th-12th Grade)**

Join us Tuesday nights here at the church from 6:30-8:00pm. We have a lot of exciting things happening - come check it out. Adult helpers are always welcome. Any questions, contact the church office.

## **Mercy Ministries**

### **Mosaic Baby Bottle Campaign – Coming Soon!**

Now is a great time to start saving change for the Mosaic Baby Bottle Campaign (change drive). Mosaic transforms lives by providing free, life-affirming pregnancy & sexual health services, education & Christ-centered support. Watch for bottles to be distributed mid-January.

**2021 Offering Envelopes** – All congregation members – Your 2021 offering envelopes are available on the credenza in the narthex. If you are not currently attending in person, but would like to pick up your

envelopes, please call Cheryl in the office to arrange curb-side pickup or delivery if needed.

## **2021 Officers, Elders and Deacons**

At the December 6, 2020 voters' meeting, the following members were approved in their respective roles for the year 2021.

### Elders

Joe Rathert (Chairman)  
Dave Moldenhauer (Vice Chairman)  
Jarrod Frey (Secretary)  
Doug Rohrer  
Pastor Jon Lange

### Treasurer

Elaine Eberhart

### Deacons

Shanna Covarrubias (head of mercy ministries)  
Sandy Hall (GCES ministry)  
Eric Robinson (education)  
Stacey Staae (youth group)  
Judy Reese (altar guild)  
Bill & Pat Brink (outside facility)  
Scott & Monica Harding (inside facility)  
Larry O'Leary (website, livestream, technology)  
Chuck Rathert (music ministry, podcast)  
Jen Weber (Fellowship)



**SAINT JAMES**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
— GLEN CARBON —

**St. James Lutheran Church**

146 North Main

Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

Office: 618.288.6120

Email: [contact@stjamesglencarbon.org](mailto:contact@stjamesglencarbon.org)

[www.stjamesglencarbon.org](http://www.stjamesglencarbon.org)