

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023

Hymn of Invocation # 379

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786; Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Kyrie

To the tune New Britain ("Amazing Grace")

Look down in mercy on us, Lord.
Receive our prayers and praise,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,
For your amazing grace.

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

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us confess our sin to God:
O Lord, great God, all holy, Father most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love,
- C** **We are embarrassed to come before you,
for we have rebelled against your wisdom and have gotten into trouble,
for we have rejected your fatherly guidance and have gotten lost altogether.
And therefore we are embarrassed.
To you belongs righteousness, O Lord, and to us confusion of face.**
- P** O Lord, great God, all holy, Father, most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love.
- C** **Incline your ear to our troubles.
Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you.
Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness,
but on the ground of your great mercy -
on the ground of your great mercy in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.
It is in his name that we pray,
for He is our Savior and the mediator of the covenant of grace.
Amen.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Savior Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen**

Reflection on God's Forgiveness

Romans 8:35-39

- P** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
- C** **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**
- P** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth,
- C** **Nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
-

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 85

- P** LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C** **You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**
- P** You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.
- C** **Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!**
- P** Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- C** **Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**
- P** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.
- C** **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** **Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- P** Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- C** **Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**
- P** Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.
- 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.**



Gloria

To the tune Mendelssohn ("Hark the Herald Angels Sing")

Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"
God who flung the stars in space, God who formed the human race,
God the mind and God the cause, God the source of nature's laws,
God of wisdom, pow'r, and love, God of gods, all gods above.
Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"

Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"
God who saw your creatures fall, loved them still, and loved them all,
Gave your only Son to prove what is mercy, what is love;
And the Spirit, given free, recreates your family.
Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"

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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

⁸But 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. ⁹The 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. ¹⁰But 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.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting 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! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, 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.

Sermon Hymn # 343

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 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!
 Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 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:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



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

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

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

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Credo

To the tune St Denio (“Immortal, Invisible”)

Great God, our Creator, from whom all receive
Their being and blessing, in you we believe.
Almighty, all-knowing, all-gracious, all-true,
Provider and Father, our trust is in you.

And you, Jesus Christ, we affirm as our Lord,
True son of the Father, by angels adored;
Redeemer incarnate, you paid for our sins,
And, joined in your rising, our new life begins.

Free Spirit of wisdom and power and love,
On us, as on Christ, you descend from above;
You call us, you cleanse us, you open our eyes,
You keep us in peace, you restore paradise.

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Sermon

Offering

Please take a moment to sign and pass the “Record of Friendship” booklet or use the QR code located on the inside cover of the booklet.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

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.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- 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.
P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing...
-

Sanctus

To the tune Nicaea ("Holy, Holy, Holy")

"Holy, holy, holy!" all the saints in glory
Fill your temple with their song around your golden throne;
"Holy, holy, holy!" with them we adore Thee;
God in three persons, all in Christ as one.

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Lord's Prayer

C 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 Words of Our Lord

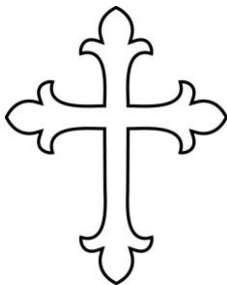
Agnus Dei

To the tune Olivet ("My Faith Looks Up to Thee")

Meek, slaughtered lamb of God, Bearing the sinners' load To buy our peace:
Now risen and enthroned, With life and glory crowned, To all the lost and found
Please grant your peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda; Text: © 1990 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734

Distribution



Distribution Hymn # 347

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



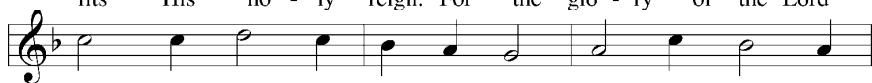
1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



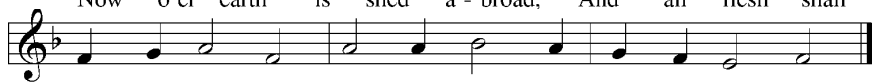
saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'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!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



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
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



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.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois; Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

By Grace Alone

Out of the depths I cry to You; Lord, hear my voice of
 Your par - don is a gift of love; Your grace a - lone must
 Though great our sins and sore our woes, His grace much more a -

plead - ing. Bend down Your gra - cious ear, I pray, Your hum - ble
 save us. Our works will not re - move our guilt; the strict - est
 bound - eth. His help - ing love no lim - it knows; our ut - most

ser - vant heed - ing. If You re - mem - ber each mis -
 life would fail us. Let none in deeds or mer - its
 need it sound - eth. Our kind and faith - ful Shep - herd

deed, and of each thought and word take heed, who can re -
 boast, but let us own the Ho - ly Ghost, for He a -
 He, who will set all His peo - ple free from all their

main be - fore You? On - ly by grace, by grace a - lone.
 lone can change us: On - ly by grace, by grace a - lone.
 sin and sor - row: On - ly by grace, by grace a - lone.

Text: Martin Luther; Tune: David Ward; Text and tune: © 2002 ThousandTongues.org. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734



Distribution Hymn # 542

When I Behold Jesus Christ



1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,
 2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;
 3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;
 4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.



I won - der much at His love As He hung on the tree.
 I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.
 On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.
 My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.



Refrain
 What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3): tr. Hartmut Schoenherr, with Jim and Aurelia Keefer; (st. 4): Joseph Herl, 1959; Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3) and tune: Almaz Belhu; Text (st. 4): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001220; Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3) and tune: © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001220

The Dismissal



Closing Hymn # 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

Benediction

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**



This Week at-a-Glance

Today

- Worship Service 9:00 AM
- [Sunday School](#) – 10:45 AM
- [Adult Bible Study](#) – 10:45 AM
- [Annual Congregational Meeting](#) – 11:45 AM
- [Discovering Christianity](#) – 6:30 PM, Downstairs

Wednesday

- [Men's Bible Study](#) 6:30 – 7:30 AM
- Fellowship Meal – 6:30 PM

Friday

- Youth Group Christmas Party – 7:00 – 10:00 PM, Downstairs

Saturday

- Women's Bible Study – 9:00 AM - Ephesians 3:14-21, Lesson 10
"Power"

Announcements

Fellowship Meal – Please join us for a fellowship meal, this Wednesday, December 13 in the fellowship hall at 6:30 PM.

[Family Christmas Breakfast](#) – Join us, next week, December 17th St. James' family Christmas Breakfast following the worship service.

Mercy Ministries

Glen-Ed Pantry is currently collecting Fixings for Christmas Dinner Baskets. Please consider donating instant potatoes, gravy mixes, yams, pineapple, canned mixed vegetables or carrots or canned fried onions. If you wish to donate toward the purchase of perishable items such as pies, hams and turkeys please visit www.glenedpantry.org/donors. Thank you.

December Ministry Spotlight: [St. James Prayer Team](#) – Did you know St. James has a prayer team? This team is devoted to continually praying for our church family, community, leaders and individual prayer requests. If you would like more information about becoming a part of our prayer team, or if you have an individual prayer request, please don't hesitate to reach out through the church office or at prayer-team@saintjamesglencarbon.org.

Please mark your calendars for the **Children's Christmas Program** which will be next Sunday morning, December 17th at the beginning of worship service. Practice will be held during Sunday School today.

- Parents please have your children to the church by 8:40 AM on December 17th for costuming as the program will begin sharply at 9:00 AM.
- The Christmas program will be livestreamed as part of the normal Sunday morning service. If anyone has any questions regarding this or would not like their child to be a part of the live-stream please contact McKenzie Brakenhoff or William Ellington to sign the opt-out form for the Christmas program.

The decorations in the church have been changed to blue to mark the Season of Advent. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope. Blue, the color of the sky, helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago.



Statistical data shows that in the early 1990s, about 90% of American adults identified as Christians. As of 2021 that percentage is now 63%. Do you find that to be alarming? It's the subject of discussion on the most recent episode of [Craving Answers Craving God](#). Check out our bi-weekly podcast and let us know what you think!

In addition to our Sunday morning services, please join us for Mid-week Advent and holiday worship:

Wednesdays – Dec. 13 (Fellowship Meal); Dec.20 (Advent Service)– 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve – 9:00 AM (No Bible study/Sunday school)

Christmas Eve – 11:30 PM

Christmas Day Service – 9:00 AM

St. James Guiding Statement

Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises.

St. James Mission Pillars

**Healing
Community
Restoration**



[St. James Attendance](#)



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— GLEN CARBON —

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