

# The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023

Hymn of Invocation # 357

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

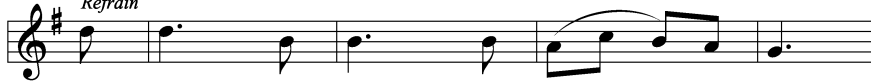


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y  
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

## Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; Tune: French, 15th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

### Invocation

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

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

Text: Jaroslav Vajda, Music: *Columbian Harmony*, © 1990 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: One License, no. 728607-A.

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

## Confession and Absolution

### Confession

- P** Let us confess our sin to God:  
 O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, be the God of your people today!
- C** **We confess that we have worshiped too many other gods.  
 We have devoted ourselves to all too many different values.  
 Turn our hearts to you again!**
- P** O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, be the God of your people today!
- C** **We confess that we have visited all too many sanctuaries.  
 We have tried to find the sources of life in all too many other places.  
 Turn our hearts to you again!**
- P** O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, be the God of your people today!
- C** **We turn to you, and to you alone, to be our God, our only God.  
 Forgive our sins. Give us spiritual integrity. Give us wholeness and holiness.  
 Answer us in the name of Christ, for he has promised to intercede for us.  
 It is in him that we pray in the fellowship of his body.  
 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  $\text{✠}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen**

### Reflection on God's Forgiveness

*Psalms 86:3-5*

- P** Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you I cry all the day.
- C** **Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.**
- P** For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
- C** **Abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.**

# Service of the Word

## Psalm

*Psalm 89:1–5*

- 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.**

## 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!"

Text: Jaroslav Vajda, Music: Felix Mendelssohn, © 1990 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: One License, no. 728607-A.

---

<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: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924; Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain



**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.**



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.

Text: Jaroslav Vajda, Music: Welsh, © 1990 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: One License, no. 728607-A.

## 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 meet, 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.

Text: Jaroslav Vajda, Music: John B. Dykes, © 1990 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: One License, no. 728607-A.

## 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

## In Christ Alone



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help - less babe!
3. There in the ground His bo - dy lay, light of the world by dark - ness slain.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death this is the pow'r of Christ in me.



This cor - ner - stone, this so - lid ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.  
This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the grave He rose a - gain!  
From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.

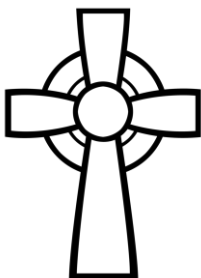


What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease!  
Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sa - tis - fied;  
And as He stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can e - ver pluck me from His hand;



My com - for - ter, my all in all here in the love of Christ I stand.  
for ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.  
for I am His and He is mine bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
Till He re - turns or calls me home here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text and tune: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend; Text and tune: © 2001 Thankyou Music. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734



## Distribution Hymn # 384

## Of the Father's Love Begotten



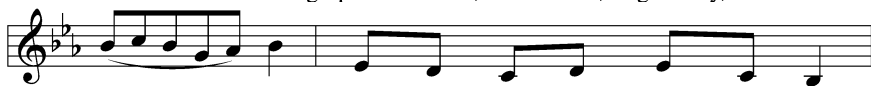
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4); tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5); tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77; Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V; Text and tune: Public domain

## Distribution Hymn # 370

## What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98; une: English, 16th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain

## The Dismissal

## Closing Hymn # 380

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47; 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
- Christmas Eve Worship Service – 11:30 PM

### Wednesday

- Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 7:30 AM

### Monday, December 25

- Christmas Worship Service – 9:00 AM

## Announcements

Thank you to Jen Weber and the Fellowship Team for a wonderful Family Christmas Breakfast last Sunday morning. It was such a blessing to come together as a community for a beautifully set meal and fellowship.

**Women's Bible Study** will not meet Saturday, December 30. We will resume on Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. We will be studying 1 Samuel 1:1-20, Lesson 11 "Life."

**Youth Group** will not meet Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Meetings will resume on January 3, 2024.

**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](mailto:prayer-team@saintjamesglencarbon.org).

---

**Christmas Altar:** Beginning Christmas Eve 11:30 PM Service through January 7th, the decorations in the church will be changed to white to mark the Season of Christmas. White symbolizes divinity, eternity, purity, light, and joy. Therefore, white is the color used to celebrate the good news of great joy that our Savior was born in Bethlehem. The Second Person of the Trinity has become man in order to redeem man.

## **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](#)



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

**St. James Lutheran Church**  
146 North Main  
**P.O. Box 644**

Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034  
Office: 618.288.6120

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