

# The First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

Hymn of Invocation # 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!

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## Confession and Absolution

### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  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.

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

- P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father:  
Holy and merciful God,
- C** **in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.**  
**You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.**  
**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you.**  
**Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways,**  
**for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**  
**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

*Zephaniah 3:14-17*

- P** Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!
- C** **The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.**
- P** On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.
- C** **The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."**

# Service of the Word

## Psalm

*Psalm 111*

- P** Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- C** **Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**
- P** Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.
- C** **He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**
- P** He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.
- C** **He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**
- P** The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;
- C** **they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**
- P** He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!
- C** **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**
- 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!"

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 61:10—62:3*

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

<sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Galatians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



Sermon Hymn # 387

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
 play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.; Text and tune: Public domain



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

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

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **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, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for you gave Jesus Christ your only Son to be born at this time for us; who, by the work of the Holy Spirit, was made true man of the substance of the virgin Mary his mother; and that without stain of sin, to make us clean from all sin. 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 # 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*

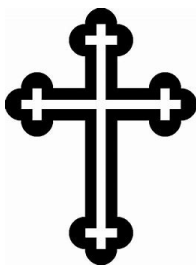


There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



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

Text: August Rische, 1819-1906; tr. Composite; Tune: German; Text and tune: Public domain



## Distribution Hymn # 359

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text (sts. 1-2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt.; (sts. 1-2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808-59;  
 (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876-1948; Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche  
 Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln; Text and tune: Public domain

## Distribution Hymn # 373

## See amid the Winter's Snow



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,  
 2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,  
 3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,  
 4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
 He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
 Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!  
 Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.; Tune: John Goss, 1800-80; Text and tune: Public domain

## The Dismissal

### Nunc Dimittis

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

### 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

## Wednesday

- [Men's Bible Study](#) 6:30 – 7:30 AM
- [Youth Group](#) – 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

## Saturday

- Women's Bible Study – 9:00 AM, Matthew 6:9-13; Lesson 12  
"Kingdom"

## Announcements

**January Ministry Spotlight: Life Team** – Please watch for the [Mosaic Baby Bottle Campaign](#). This fundraiser will begin on January 14<sup>th</sup> and end on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Baby bottles will be available in the narthex on January 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please see Janice Lanto or contact the church office.

**2024 Member Giving Envelopes** are available in the entryway. If you no longer need envelopes, or you prefer to give online through your financial institution or Tithe.ly, please contact Cheryl in the church office.

### 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)