

# The Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024

Opening Hymn # Opening Hymn # 343

Prepare the Royal Highway



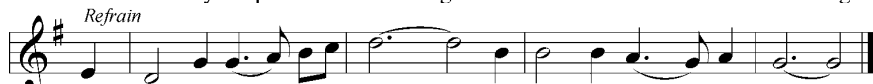
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



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:



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

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.; Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001220; 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

- P** Lord, have mercy upon us.
  - C** Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.
-

## Exhortation

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

## Confession and Absolution

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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

*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

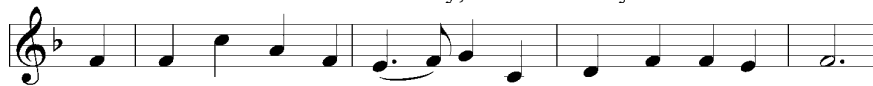
## Psalm

- P** Shout for joy to God, all the earth;  
**C** **sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!**  
**P** Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come ringing to you.  
**C** **All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name."**  
**P** Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.  
**C** **He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him,**  
**P** who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let not the rebellious exalt themselves.  
**C** **Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,**  
**P** who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.  
**C** **For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.**  
**P** You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;  
**C** **you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.**  
**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 in Excelsis



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Old Testament Reading

*Habakkuk 2:1–4*

<sup>1</sup>I will take my stand at my watchpost  
and station myself on the tower,  
and look out to see what he will say to me,  
and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

<sup>2</sup>And the LORD answered me:

“Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so he may run who reads it.

<sup>3</sup>For still the vision awaits its appointed time;  
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it;  
it will surely come; it will not delay.

<sup>4</sup>“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,  
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Philippians 1:2–11*

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

<sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

<sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

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

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

## Nicene Creed

**☐** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.





1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



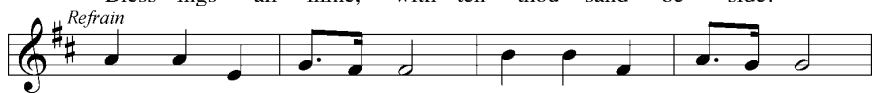
There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.  
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960; Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870–1957; Text: Public domain; Tune: Public domain

## Sermon

### Offering

*Please take a moment to register your attendance in either the "Record of Friendship" booklet, using the QR code located in the "Week-at-a Glance" section at the end of this bulletin, or on the inside cover of the Record of Friendship Booklet.*

## Prayer of the Church

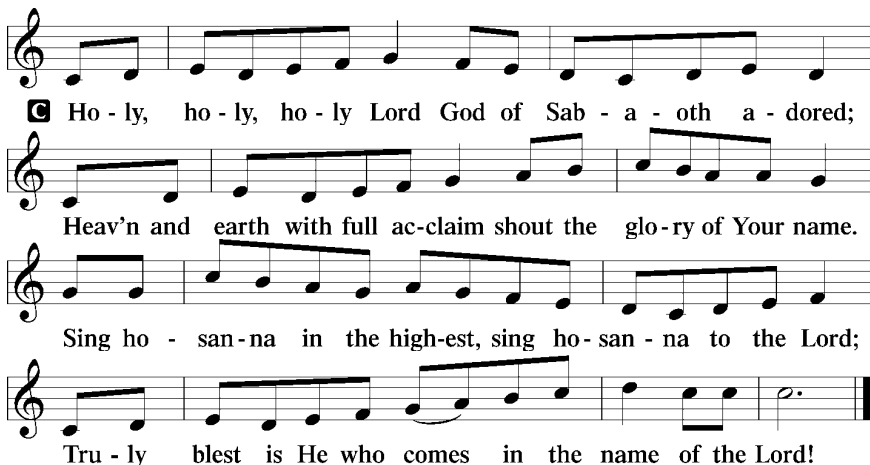
- P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## 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



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

### 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

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymn #

### Blessed Assurance

Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a fore - taste of glo - ry di -  
Per - fect for - give - ness, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of rap - ture now burst on my  
Per - fect for - give - ness, all is at rest, I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and  
vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his  
sight; an - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of  
blest; watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his  
blood.  
love. This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day  
love.  
long; this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Tune: Phoebe P. Knapp; Tune: Public domain

## Distribution 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



# Distribution Hymn # 570

# Just as I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 Because Thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871; Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68; Text and tune: Public domain

## The Dismissal

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## Nunc Dimittis



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to 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
- Congregational Meeting (following worship)
- Youth Confirmation – 11:45 AM

### Tuesday

- [2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Women's Bible Study](#) – 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

### Wednesday

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

## Announcements

Please join us for an **Advent Fellowship Dinner** this Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be prepared by the Jr. & Senior Youth Group, who will accept a free will offering that will be applied to St. James youth ministry.

### Farewell Celebration

A farewell celebration for Pastor Mueller and his family will be held on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at noon at Metro East Lutheran High School and will be catered by Ravenelli's. Please RSVP by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Weber or Tina Enke.

### Youth Group Schedule

Please mark your calendars:

- Regular Youth Group Wednesday meetings will be paused during Advent and resume January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Staake home.
- Jr & Sr High Youth Christmas Party will be held Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at the Staake home 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM.

### Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at the beginning of worship service. **The last practice will be held during the Sunday School hour December 15<sup>th</sup>.** Senior High students are encouraged to assist with practice or attend adult Bible study.

### Christmas Brunch

Please mark your calendars for the annual St. James Christmas Brunch to be held immediately after worship on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Altar Colors:** The decorations in the church have 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 from the same blue sky he ascended to long ago.

## Christmas Flowers

Help Saint James' altar look beautiful for Christmas! Order your Christmas Poinsettia In Honor of, or In Memory of your loved one(s). We will list the donations in our Christmas service bulletin. You are welcome to take the poinsettia home after our Christmas Service or leave it for the rest of the season. To order your poinsettia, please complete the form in the narthex no later than December 15th. questions? Contact Nic Schatte at [nic@stjamesglencarbon.org](mailto:nic@stjamesglencarbon.org)

## Youth Confirmation

There will be a meeting of all youth confirmation families on December 15th immediately following worship. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

## St. James Guiding Statement

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



## St. James Mission Pillars

[Healing](#)  
[Community](#)  
[Restoration](#)

[St. James Attendance](#)



SAINT JAMES  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
— GLEN CARBON —

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