

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

Opening Hymn # 331

The Advent of Our King



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.; Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76; 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

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** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** Amen.

Reflection on God's Forgiveness

1 Corinthians 15:20, 54-57

- P** Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- C** Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?
- P** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
- C** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



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 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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
 shout, O Israel!
 Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
 O daughter of Jerusalem!
¹⁵The 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.
¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
 “Fear not, O Zion;
 let not your hands grow weak.
¹⁷The 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.
¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
 so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
 with all your oppressors.
 And I will save the lame
 and gather the outcast,
 and I will change their shame into praise
 and renown in all the earth.
²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
 at the time when I gather you together;
 for I will make you renowned and praised
 among all the peoples of the earth,
 when I restore your fortunes
 before your eyes,” says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

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

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

Sermon Hymn # 338

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven; Text and 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

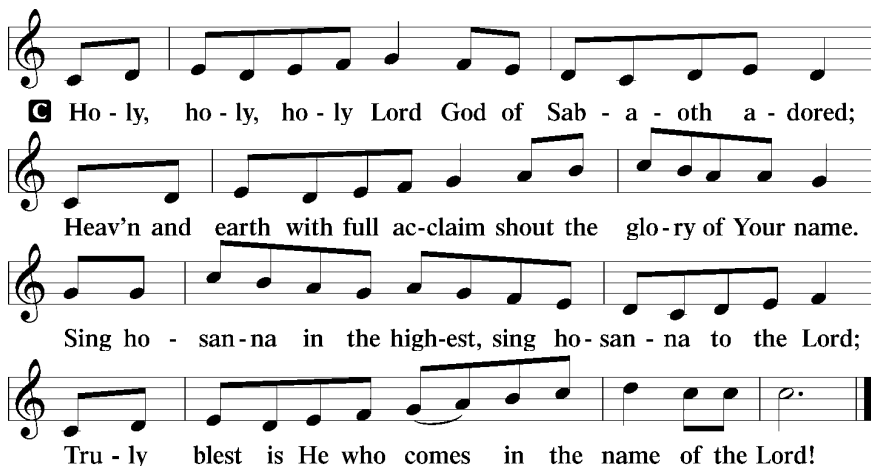
- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

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!

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



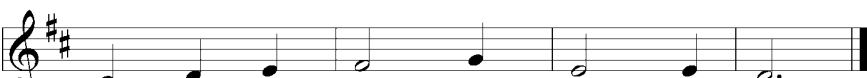
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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

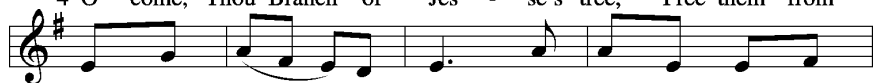
Distribution

Distribution Hymn # 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

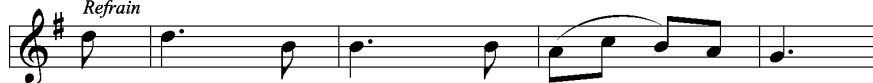


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



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.

Refrain



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



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

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

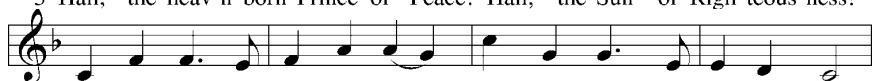
Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; Tune:
 French, 15th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn # 380

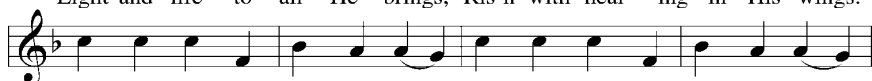
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



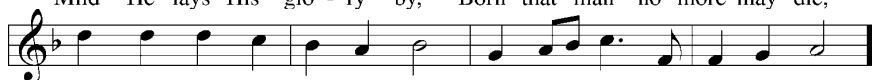
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



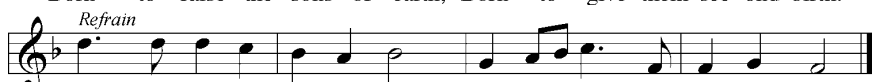
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47; Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn # 392

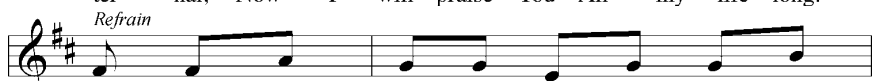
God Loves Me Dearly



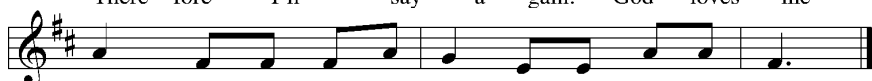
1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



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

Dismissal

Nunc Dimittis

C 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 now, Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
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
- Adult Bible Study & Children's Christmas Program Practice- 10:45 AM
- Youth Confirmation – 11:45 AM

Wednesday

- Men's Bible Study – 6:30 AM
- Mid-week Advent Service – 6:30 PM

Friday

- Jr & Sr High Youth Christmas Party @ The Staake Home – 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Christmas Events Schedule

- Midweek Advent Worship Service, Wednesday, December 18 – 6:30 PM
- Children's Christmas Program - Sunday, December 22 – 9:00 AM
- Christmas Brunch - Sunday, December 22 – Following Worship
- Christmas Eve Worship Service – 11:30 PM
- Christmas Day Worship Service – 9:00 AM

Announcements

Please join us for **Mid-week Advent Service** this Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

Farewell Celebration

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

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program is scheduled for next Sunday, December 22nd at the beginning of worship service. **The last practice will be held during Sunday School today.**

Christmas Brunch

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

The Metro East Lutheran High School Music Department invites you to our annual "Christmas at MELHS" concert Sunday, December 15th at 4 PM in Henschen Alumni Hall! Enjoy performances from our talented Chorale, Ritterchor, String Ensemble, and Concert Band! Plus, join our combined choir for a special rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus! If you can't attend in person, catch the live stream on our MELHS Fine Arts Facebook Page. Don't miss out on the dessert reception afterward!

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 today. questions? Contact Nic Schatte at nic@stjamesglencarbon.org

Youth Confirmation

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

Saturday Women's Bible Study begins January 11. We'll be using a CPH study titled: "Waiting: A Bible Study on Patience, Hope and Trust. We'll meet each Saturday at 10 am for 9 sessions. (Except the first Saturday of each month when LWML meets.) Let us know if you'll attend by signing up in the narthex or by texting Tina Barnard at 618-406-1932. Books, fellowship and childcare are free!

Metro-East Lutheran High School is now accepting applications for new students for the 2025-2026 school year. Apply online by clicking on the "Admissions" tab on our website at melhs.org. For more information, email admissions@melhs.org. Apply today for your student to be a part of our growing school community!

LWML Circle of Friends

Ladies of St. James.... join us for our meeting in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 4th. Our topic will be "Your Life is Sacred," and we will have a hands-on mission project of making blankets of Love!

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

www.stjamesglencarbon.org