

# The First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2024

## Opening Hymn # 793

## Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your  
2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple  
3 Fa - ther - like He tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble  
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore Him; You be - hold Him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,  
frame He knows; In His hand He gent - ly bears us,  
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him,



Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia,  
Res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia,  
All who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.  
al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows.  
al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; Tune: John Goss, 1800–80; 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.

### 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

*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.**

ΑΩ

## Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . .

<sup>11</sup>“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Colossians 3:12–17*

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**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 second chapter.

**C** 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.

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

## Rite of Baptism

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## 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  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.

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## Sermon Hymn

## O Church, Arise

O Church, a - rise, and put your ar - mor on; hear the  
Our call to war; to love the cap - tive soul, but to  
Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the  
So Spi - rit come, put strength in ev - ery stride, give  
call of Christ our Cap - tain, For now the weak sword can say that  
rage a - gainst the cap - tor; And with the sword that makes the  
Son of God is strick - en; Then see His foes lie crushed be -  
grace for ev - ery hur - dle, that we may run with faith to  
they wound - are strong in the strength that God has gi -  
neath His feet, we will fight with faith and val -  
win the prize of a Con - quer - or has and ris -  
ven. With shield of faith and belt of Truth, we'll stand a -  
or. When faced with trials and on ev - ery side, we know the  
en! And as the stone old still line the way, and Christ e -  
ful. As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing  
gainst the de - vil's lies, An ar - my bold, whose bat - tie  
out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for  
mer - ges from the grave, this vic - tory march con - tin - ues  
tri - umphs of His grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger  
cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness,  
which He died: an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.  
'til the day ev - ery eye and heart shall see Him,  
for the day when with Christ we stand in Glo - ry.

A - rise! Shine for your light has  
comel A - rise! Shine for the Ris - en  
Son! Lift your eyes, we are His ra - di - ant  
bride! A - rise! O Church, a - rise!

# Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

## 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.**

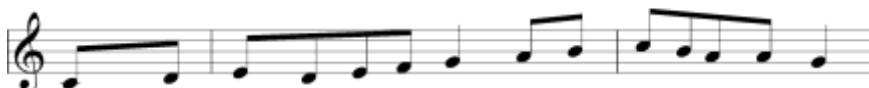
Preface

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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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

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

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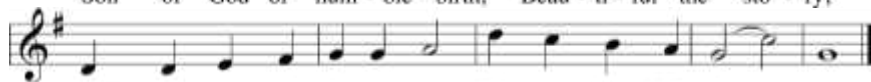
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933; Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald; Text and tune: Public domain





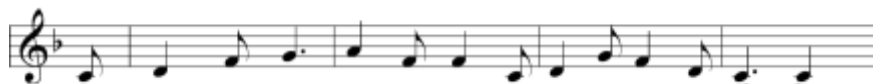
1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,  
 2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;  
 3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;  
 4 What love is this? Great-er love No one has ev - er known.



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



## Distribution Hymn # Come

## Ye Souls by Sin Afflicted



Come ye souls by sin a - fflic - ted, Bowed with fruit - less, sor - row  
 Take His ea - sy yoke and wear it; Love will make your o - be - dience  
 Bless - ed are the eyes that see Him, Bless the ears that hear His  
 Sweet as home to pil - grims wea - ry, Light to new - ly o - pened



down; By the bro - ken law con - vic - ted, Through the  
 sweet; Christ will give you strength to bear it, While His  
 voice; Bless - ed are the souls that trust Him, And in  
 eyes, Like full springs in de - serts drea - ry Is the



cross, be - hold the crown; Look to Je - sus, Look to  
 grace shall guide your feet; Safe to glo - ry, Safe to  
 Him a - lone re - joice; His comm - and - ments, His comm -  
 rest the cross sup - plies. All who taste it, All who



Je - sus, look to Je - sus; Mer - cy flows through Him a - lone.  
 glo - ry, Safe to glo - ry, Where His ran - somed cap - tives meet.  
 and - ments, His comm - and - ments Then be come their hap - py choice,  
 taste it, All who taste it Shall to rest in - mor - tal rise.

Tune: Kevin Twit; Tune: © 2013 Kevin Twit Music. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734



## 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!



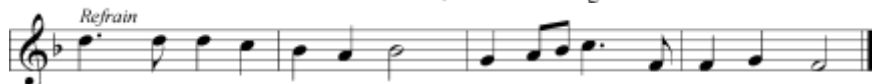
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be-hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



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.



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

## The Dismissal

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## 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 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
  - C** Amen.
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# This Week at-a-Glance

## Today

- Worship Service – 9:00 AM
- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study - 10:45 AM

## Saturday

- LWML Circle of Friends – 10:00 AM

## Sunday, January 5

- Special Congregational Meeting – Immediately following worship

## Announcements

### We need You!

The Altar Guild is asking for at least one person to serve the congregation by helping clear the altar and clean the communion vessels following the service. The commitment is about twice per month and is done between the service and Sunday School. Children are welcome to join provided they are assisted by a parent. Please contact Nic Schatte ([nic@stjamesglencarbon.org](mailto:nic@stjamesglencarbon.org)) or call the church office with any questions.

**Saturday Women's Bible Study begins Saturday, January 11.** 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!

### LWML Circle of Friends

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

### Second Tuesday Women's Bible Study

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in the fellowship hall.. Text Shala Baker with any questions at 618-315-0788.

### Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a special congregational meeting next Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship service. Per the Annual Congregational Meeting, the St. James Elders and Budget Team have reviewed all the input from the December 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and all submitted concerns regarding the budget and will resubmit the 2025 budget for approval. All members are encouraged to attend.

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## St. James Guiding Statement

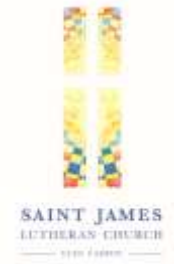
*Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises.*

### St. James Mission Pillars

[Healing](#)

[Community](#)

[Restoration](#)



### [St. James Attendance](#)

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