

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

- L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ 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

- L** Let us confess our sin to God:
O Lord, merciful Father, you keep covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments.
- C** **We confess that we have not listened to your servants the prophets. We have not heeded your law nor have we rejoiced in your gospel. We confess that things have fallen apart.**
But Lord, you keep covenant even when we do not. Your love is steadfast when ours is frail and fallible. You are faithful even when we are faithless. We want you to be our God and we want to be your covenant people. Grant us the gift of faith.
By your Holy Spirit work in us steadfastness and singleness of heart, that we might manifest your love in the keeping of your commandments and the living of your gospel.
- L** O Lord, merciful Father, hear our prayers in the name of your well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the mediator of the new and eternal covenant, to whom be glory forever and ever.
- C** **Amen.**
- L** 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

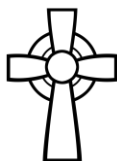
- L** God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- C** **Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.**
- L** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
- C** **More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.**
-

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7

- L** Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- C** **May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**
- L** Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- C** **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**
- L** May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- C** **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**
- L** In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- 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**



¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—
of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

L This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

¹⁰And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

L This is the word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death? Christ a -
 What truth can calm the trou - bled soul? God is
 Un - to the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, He
 lone, Christ a - lone. What is our on - ly con - fi -
 good, God is good. Where is His grace and good - ness
 lives; Christ, He lives! And what re - ward will heav - en
 dence? That our souls to Him be - long. Who holds our days with - in His
 known? In our great Re - deem - er's blood. Who holds our faith when fears a -
 bring? Ev - er - last - ing life with Him. Then we will rise to meet the
 hand? What comes, a - part from His com - mand? And what will
 rise? Who stands a - bove the storm - y trial? Who sends the
 Lord, Then sin and death will be de - stroyed, And we will
 keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.
 waves that bring us nigh un - to the shore, the rock of Christ?
 feast in end - less joy, When Christ is ours for - ev - er - more.
 O sing ha - le - lu - jah! Our hope springs e -
 ter - nal; O sing ha - le - lu - jah! Now and
 ev - er we con - fess Christ our hope in life and death.

Text: Keith Getty; Matt Boswell; Matt Papa; Jordan Kauflin; Matthew Merker
 Tune: Keith Getty; Matt Boswell; Matt Papa; Jordan Kauflin; Matthew Merker

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L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

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

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume 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. ¹⁰Even 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.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord

C **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.

Sermon

Offering

Please take a moment to sign and pass the "Record of Friendship" booklet or use the QR code located on the back of this bulletin.

Prayer of the Church

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

Nicene Creed

- C** 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.
-

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- L** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
L Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
L 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

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

- L** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Agnus Dei

Faith Looks Up to Thee")

To the tune Olivet ("My

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

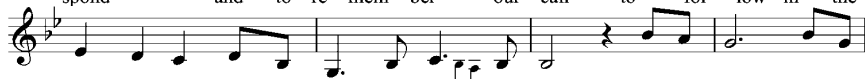
Behold the Lamb



1. Be hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for
2. The bod - y of our Sav - iour, Je - sus Christ, torn for
3. The blood that cleans - es ev - 'ry stain of sin, shed for
4. And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to re -



us: And we re - mem - ber the prom - ise made that all who
you: Eat and re - mem - ber the wounds that heal, the death that
you: Drink and re - mem - ber He drained death's cup that all may
spond and to re - mem - ber our call to fol - low in the



come in faith find for - give - ness at the cross. So, we share in this
brings us life, paid the price to make us one. So, we share in this
en - ter in to re - ceive the life of God. So, we share in this
steps of Christ as His bod - y here on earth. As we share in His



Bread of Life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice, as a sign of our
Bread of Life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice, as a sign of our
Bread of Life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice, as a sign of our
suf - fer - ing, we pro - claim: Christ will come a - gain! And we'll join in the



bonds of peace a - round the ta - ble of the King.
bonds of love a - round the ta - ble of the King.
bonds of grace a - round the ta - ble of the King.
feast of heav'n a - round the ta - ble of the King.

Text: Keith Getty; Kristyn Getty; Stuart Townend

Tune: Keith Getty; Kristyn Getty

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341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly

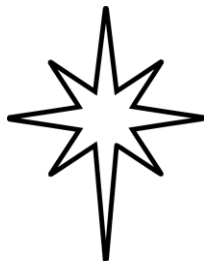


va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913
 Text and tune: Public domain



342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

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Tune: Public domain

The Dismissal

- L** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.
- C** Amen.

Call to Christian Community

- L** "For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another" (1 John 3:11). After the last song, please take time to greet one another, and if you see someone you don't know, introduce yourself. The Christian life isn't meant to be lived alone, but in community. Now receive God's Blessing:

Benediction

- L** Let us bless the Lord
- C** Thanks be to God
- L** 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.
-

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel



1. Sing we the song of Em - man - u - el; this, the Christ, who was
 2. Come we to wel - come Em - man - u - el, King who came with no
 3. Go spread the news of Em - man - u - el. Joy and peace for the



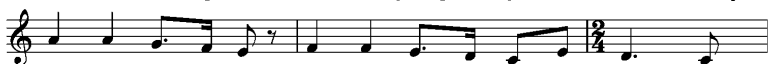
long fore - told. Lo, in the shad - ows of Beth - le - hem,
 crown or throne. Help - less, He lay, the In - vin - ci - ble.
 wea - ry heart. Lift up your heads for your King has come.



prom - ise of dawn now our eyes be - hold. God, Most High, in a
 Mak - er of Mar - y, now Mar - y's son. O, what wis - dom to
 Sing, for the Light o - ver - whelms the dark. Glo - ry shin - ing for



man - ger laid. Lift your voic - es and now pro - claim, "Great and glo - ri - ous,
 save us all. Shep - herds sag - es be - fore Him fall. Grace and maj - es - ty,
 all to see. Hope a - live, let the gos - pel ring. God has made a way.



Love has come to us." Join now with the hosts of heav -
 what hu - mil - i - ty. Come on bend - ed knee, a - dore
 He will have the praise. Tell the world His name is Je -



en. (To 2nd Verse)

Him. Glo - - - - - ri - a. Glo -
 sus.



- - - - - ri - a. (Repeat Glorias; then to Verse 3)

Text: Keith Getty; Matt Papa; Matt Boswell; Stuart Townend

Tune: Keith Getty; Matt Papa; Matt Boswell; Stuart Townend

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This Week at-a-Glance

Today

- Worship Service (Pastor John Lukomski) – 9:00 AM
- [Adult Bible Study](#) – 10:45 AM (Downstairs)
- [Sunday School](#) – 10:30 AM (Downstairs)

Tuesday

- [Second Tuesday Women's Bible Study](#) – 6:00 (Downstairs)

Wednesday

- Men's Bible Study – 6:30 AM (Downstairs)
- Midweek Lenten Worship Service – 6:30 PM (Downstairs)

Thursday

- AA Meeting – 6:30 PM (Downstairs)

Saturday

- CPR & AED Training 9:00 AM – Glen Carbon Fire Station #1
- AA Meeting – 1:30 PM
- Women's Bible Study – 10:00 AM (Downstairs)

Announcements

[St. James Annual Congregational Meeting](#)

Please join us today for the St. James Annuyal Congregational Meeting immediately following service.

[Christmas Brunch](#)

Please mark your calendars for the annual St. James Christmas Brunch to be held immediately after worship on Sunday, December 21st.

[Second Tuesday Women's Bible Study](#)

Join us December 9th at 6:00 PM for a Christmas Cookie Exchange and Appetizer Party! Bring a tray of your favorite cookies and an appetizer to share. For more information, call Shala Baker or contact the church office.

[Holiday Worship Schedule](#)

Wednesday, Dec 10 – Midweek Advent 6:30 PM

Sunday, Dec. 14 – Third Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM

Wednesday, Dec 17 – Midweek Advent 6:30 PM

Sunday, Dec. 21 – Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM

– Children's Christmas Program (during worship)

– Family Christmas Brunch – Immed. Following Service

Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve 11:00 PM

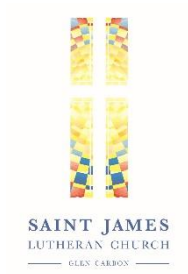
Thursday, Dec. 25 –Christmas 9:00 AM

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



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