

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

Holiday Choir Performance

349 Hark the Glad Sound

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
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 J. Vajda
Text: © 1990 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: One License no. A-728607

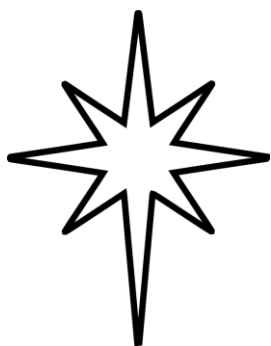
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Confession and Absolution

- L** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- L** Because of Jesus, God has forgiven all our sin. Hear the gospel of Christ from Psalm 103:
- "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagles."
- 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 146

- L** Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 - C** **I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
 - L** Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
 - C** **When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.**
 - L** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,
 - C** **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;**
 - L** who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;
 - C** **the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**
 - L** The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
 - C** **The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!**
 - 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.**
-

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

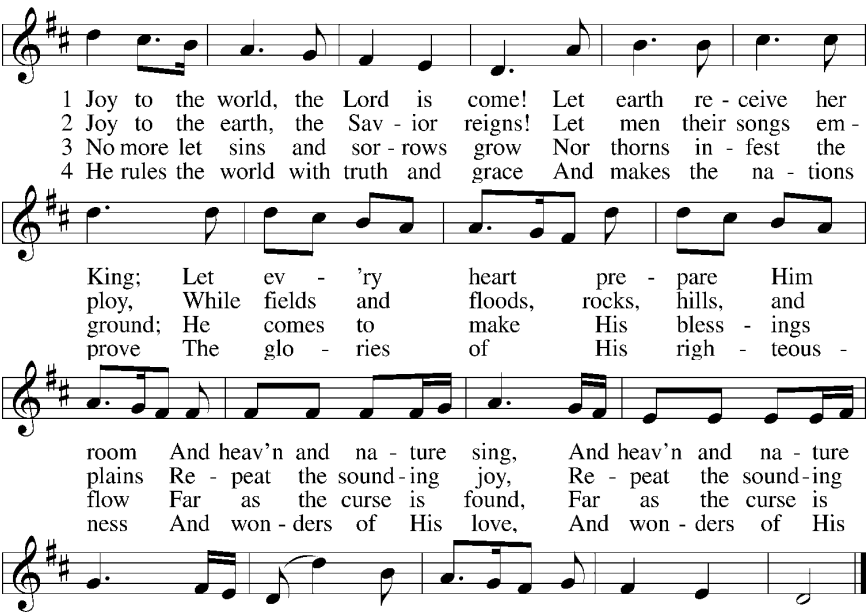
L This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

- L** This is the word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God

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
ploy, 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

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

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

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

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

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

Credo

To the tune St Denio ("Immortal, Invisible")

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Rite of Confirmation

Sermon

Offering

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

Prayer of the Church

- L** 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

- 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

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
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Distribution

343 Prepare the Royal Highway



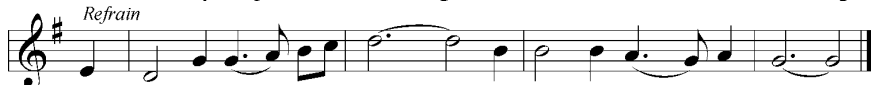
- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



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

Keep the Feast



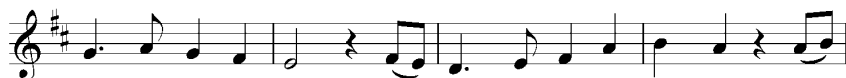
1. Joy - ful - ly we join You at Your ta - ble, plead - ing not our
2. Who is fit to feast with such a Sav - ior? Who His san - dals
3. Hap - py sign of friend - ship and re - un - ion with the bless - ed



right - eous - ness. By Your wealth of mer - cy we are a - ble
could un - tie? Who are we that He would show us fa - vor,
Three in One. Fore - taste of that glo - ri - ous com - mun - ion.



now to feast in con - fi - dence. Take this bread and eat.
grant - ing us this gift of life?
vis - ion of the world to come.



Take this cup and drink. Re - mem - ber how He loved us. Re -



joice and keep the feast.

Text: Skye Peterson; Ben Shive
Tune: Skye Peterson; Ben Shive

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Tune: © 2023 Getty Music. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734

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

The Dismissal

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

Call to Christian Community

- L** The apostle Paul reminds us that we belong to each other. He wrote, “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Rom. 12:4-5). We aren’t meant to live our lives alone, but in community. Please take time after the last song to greet one another and introduce yourself to anyone you don’t know. Don’t feel embarrassed if you can’t remember their name, it happens all the time. Give each other some grace. And 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.

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 Righteous-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!

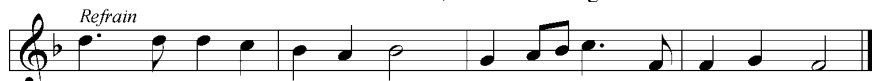
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



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

This Week at-a-Glance

Today

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

- AA Meeting – 6:30 PM (Downstairs)

Saturday

- AA Meeting – 1:30 PM
- Women's Bible Study – 10:00 AM (Downstairs)

Announcements

[Christmas Brunch](#)

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

[Holiday Worship Schedule](#)

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



Today we live in an increasingly troubled world. There is religious conflict around the globe that is deadly. Specifically, how do we understand the current conflict between Christianity and Islam? How would you share the Gospel with a Muslim? Episode 132 addresses this topic. It's the most recent offering on our **Craving Answers Craving God** podcast.

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 20th. questions? Contact Nic Schatte at nic@stjamesglencarbon.org

Christmas Brunch

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

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program is scheduled for next Sunday, December 21st at the beginning of worship service.

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

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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