

# The Fourth Sunday in Advent

## December 21, 2025

### Children's Christmas Program

#### Holiday Choir

#### 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

#### Invocation

- L** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  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.

## **Confession and Absolution**

- L** Let us confess our sin to God:  
O Lord, great God, all holy, Father most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love,
- C** **We are embarrassed to come before you,  
for we have rebelled against your wisdom and have gotten into trouble,  
for we have rejected your fatherly guidance and have gotten lost altogether.  
And therefore we are embarrassed.  
To you belongs righteousness, O Lord, and to us confusion of face.**
- L** O Lord, great God, all holy, Father, most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love.
- C** **Incline your ear to our troubles.  
Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you.  
Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness,  
but on the ground of your great mercy -  
on the ground of your great mercy in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
It is in his name that we pray,  
for He is our Savior and the mediator of the covenant of grace.  
Amen.**
- L** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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**

- L** 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.**
- L** 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

*Psalm 24*

- L** The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,
- C** **for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**
- L** Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?
- C** **He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.**
- L** He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- C** **Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**
- L** Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- C** **Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**
- L** Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- C** **Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**
- 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.**
-

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 7:10–17*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God

## Epistle Reading

*Romans 1:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God

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# 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



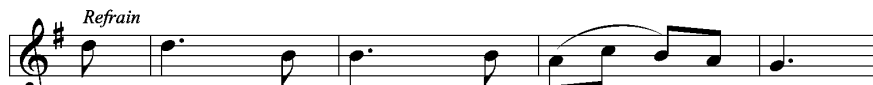
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



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

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

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

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**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.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda  
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**Sermon** – Pastor William Engfehr

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## 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.

## 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  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

# 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.
- 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

**☐** 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

**☐** 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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 The")*

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.

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## Distribution

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# The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



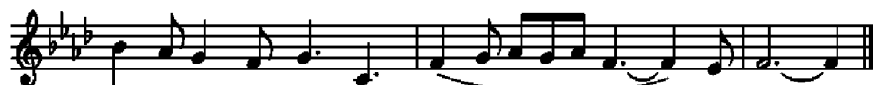
1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2. "For know a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be, All
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head; "To
4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All  
 gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your  
 me be as it pleas - es God!" she said. "My  
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn; And



hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"  
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told."  
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name." } "Most  
 Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



1-4. high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain; Used by permission: One License no. A-728607

### 373 See amid the Winter's Snow



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,  
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,  
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,  
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!  
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
Tune: John Goss, 1800–80  
Text and tune: Public domain

Christus Victor

1. O Most High, King of the ag - es, Great I AM, God of  
2. O Most High, dwell - ing a - mong us, Son of man, sent for  
3. O Most High, King of the na - tions, robed in praise, crowned with

won - ders, by the blood, You have re - deemed us, led us  
sin - ners, by Your blood, You have re - deemed us, Spot-less  
splen - dor, on that day, who will not trem - ble when You

through might - y wa - ters, our strength, our song, our sure sal - va - tion. Chorus 1  
Lamb, might - y Sav - ior who lived, who died, who rose vic - to - rious. Chorus 2 & 3  
stand Christ the Vic - tor, who was and is and is for - ev - er. Chorus 2 & 3

**CHORUS**

(Chorus 1) Now to the Lamb up - on the throne,  
(Chorus 2) Now to the Lamb up - on the throne,  
(Chorus 3) With ev - 'ry tribe and ev - 'ry tongue,

be bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, pow - er, for the bat - tle You have  
be bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, pow - er, for the bat - tle You have  
we join the an - them of the an - gels in the tri - umph of the

won. Hal - le - lu - jah! A - men. (To Verse 2)  
won. Hal - le - lu - jah! (To Chorus 3)  
Son. Hal - le - lu - jah! A - men. (To Verse 3)

Text: Bryan Fowler; Keith Getty; Kristyn Getty; Matt Papa; Matt Boswell  
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Dismissal

Call to Christian Community

**L** Jesus once said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). Jesus calls His followers to live in community. After our last song, please take time to greet one another, and if you see someone you don’t know, introduce yourself. 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.**

## 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.



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

## This Week at-a-Glance

### Today

- Worship Service (Pastor William Engfehr) – 9:00 AM
- Christmas Brunch Immediately Following Service

### Wednesday

- Christmas Eve Worship Service (Pastor William Engfehr) – **11:00 PM**

### Thursday

- Christmas Worship Service (Pastor Tony Boos) – 9:00 AM
- AA Meeting – 6:30 PM (Downstairs)

### Saturday

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

## Announcements

### Congregational Voter's Meeting

All St. James members: Please join us for a congregational meeting to be held on January 4<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship. The Call Committee will present recommendations, and we will vote on the pastoral call.



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 Brunch

Join us today for the annual St. James Christmas Brunch to be held immediately after worship.

### Sunday School Christmas Program

Thank you to Suzie Robinson and her team, the music team, and all the children for a wonderful Christmas program today. Through their gifts and talents, they beautifully share God's love, the joy of Christmas, and the hope we have in Christ. Please take a moment to thank and encourage them after the service today!

### [LWML Circle of Friends](#)

Ladies of St. James.... join us for our meeting in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will have a Bible study followed by some hands-on small mission work: refreshing the kid's activity bags and make hygiene bags for District 7 students. We will also kickoff the baby bottle collection for Mosaic Health.

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## Discovering Christianity Classes – Starting January 11th

You're Invited to Discovering Christianity at St. James! Curious about what we believe? Want to grow in your faith or just connect with others in a welcoming space? Discovering Christianity is the perfect opportunity! These classes are open to everyone—not just new members. Whether you're considering membership, recently transferred, or simply want to learn more about the Christian faith and life at St. James, we'd love to have you join us. No pressure, no prerequisites—just good conversation and the chance to grow together. Classes will be held following Sunday fellowship at 10:45 AM. Please contact the office to reserve your spot!

If you have any questions or would like to share a comment, please feel free to reach out to one of our St. James Elders at [elders@saintjamesglencarbon.org](mailto:elders@saintjamesglencarbon.org). We are always glad to connect with you

## 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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