

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

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
play, 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

Invocation

- L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Kyrie

- L** Lord, have mercy upon us.
C Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Exhortation

- L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**

- L** 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.**

- L** 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.**
- 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 T 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

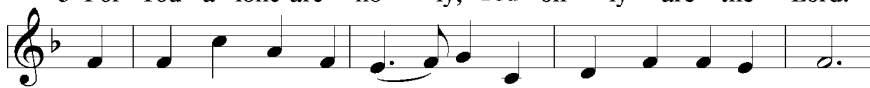
Psalm 111

- L** 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.**
- L** 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.**
- L** 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.**
- L** 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.**
- L** 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.**

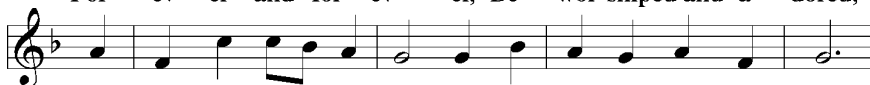
Gloria in Excelsis



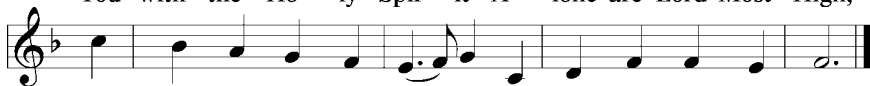
- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



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-shiped 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 63:7–14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

L This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death

of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

676 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White



1 Be - hold a host, ar - rayed in white, Like thou - sand
2 De - spised and scorned, they so - journed here; But now, how
3 O bless - ed saints in bright ar - ray Now safe - ly



snow - clad moun - tains bright! With palms they stand; Who
glo - rious they ap - pear! Those mar - tyrs stand, A
home in end - less day, Ex - tol the Lord, Who



is this band Be - fore the throne of light? These are the
priest - ly band, God's throne for - ev - er near. On earth they
with His Word Sus - tained you on the way. The steep and



saints of glo - rious fame, Who from the great af -
wept through bit - ter years; Now God has wiped a -
nar - row path you trod; You toiled and sowed the



flic - tion came And in the flood Of Je - sus' blood
way their tears, Trans - formed their strife To heav'n - ly life,
Word a - broad; Re - joice and bring Your fruits and sing



Are cleansed from guilt and shame. They now serve God both
And freed them from their fears. They now en - joy the
Be - fore the throne of God. The myr - iad an - gels



day and night; They sing their songs in end - less light. Their
Sab - bath rest, The heav'n - ly ban - quet of the blest; The
raise their song; O saints, sing with that hap - py throng! Lift



an - thems ring As they all sing With an - gels shin - ing bright.
Lamb, their Lord, At fes - tive board Him - self is host and guest.
up one voice; Let heav'n re - joice In our Re - deem - er's song!

Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Norwegian, 17th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

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; 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:

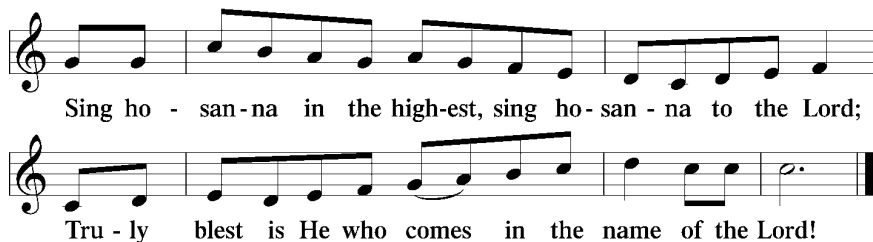
Sanctus



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.



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Lord's Prayer

- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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.

Distribution

763 When Peace, like a River



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
 3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
 4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt.
 Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–76
 Text and tune: Public domain

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

375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the
 2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in
 3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with
 4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -
 love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -
 com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -
 fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
 tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
 ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
 tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
 When by faith we grasp this blessing,
 And to You we come confessing
 That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
 From Your lowly manger cheer us,
 Gently lead us and be near us
 Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001220

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 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.**

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel



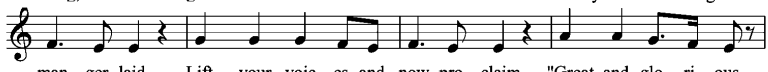
1. Sing we the song of Em - man - u - el; this, the Christ, who was
2. Come we to wel - come Em - man - u - el, King who came with no
3. Go spread the news of Em - man - u - el. Joy and peace for the



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)

This Week at-a-Glance

Today

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

Thursday

- AA Meeting – 6:30 PM (Downstairs)

Saturday

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

Announcements

Congregational Voter's Meeting

All St. James members: Please join us for a congregational meeting to be held next Sunday immediately following worship. The Call Committee will present recommendations, and we will vote on the pastoral call.

[LWML Circle of Friends](#)

Ladies of St. James.... join us for our meeting in Fellowship Hall this Saturday, January 3rd. 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.

[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 during the Bible study hour at 10:45 AM. Please contact the office to reserve your spot!

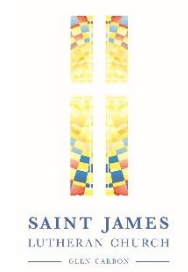
If you have any questions or would like to share a comment, please feel free to reach out to one of our St. James Elders at elders@saintjamesglencarbon.org. We are always glad to connect with you

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



St. James Lutheran Church

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