



SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH | stjamesgp.org | 313.884.0511
170 McMillan Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Pastor Denise M. Grant | pastor@stjamesgp.org

Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME

Welcome to Saint James, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Southeast Michigan Synod. Thank you for being part of this gathered assembly as we worship God and receive the sacrament. If this is your first time worshipping with Saint James, we extend a special greeting to you and invite you to introduce yourself to your neighbor in the pew. If you have questions about Saint James or are looking for a spiritual home, please reach out to Pastor Grant (pastor@stjamesgp.org). **WELCOME** to Pastor Fred Harms, our preacher and presider for today. We thank you for your leadership and the proclamation of the good news.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

WORSHIP & HOLY EUCHARIST

All of the materials needed for this liturgy can be found in this bulletin and in the cranberry red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) book found in the pew rack. The celebration of the sacrament, **Holy Eucharist** (also called the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion), is central to our worship. As host of the meal, Jesus extends a wide welcome for all to participate. Distribution information is found on page 10. If you would prefer to commune in the pew, please alert an usher prior to the start of worship.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Paul Manz

*STAND and face
the entering
procession*

GATHERING

HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249

red songbook in pew rack

*The sign of the
cross is made in
remembrance of
our Baptism.*

INVOCATION & GREETING

In the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*The second
candle of the
Advent wreath,
called the
**BETHLEHEM
CANDLE,**
reminds us of
the humble
place where
Jesus was born.
Jesus brought
PEACE into the
otherwise
chaotic little
town and into
the world.*

SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Let us ask God to bless us and these candles, praying that each time we gather in their light, we would joyfully remember God's promise of salvation.

a brief silence

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe.
You call all nations to walk in your light
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

Bless us as we light the second Advent candle.

As we look toward Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth,
remind us of his coming to us in the Word made flesh.

Come, Lord Jesus.

*Come, Lord
Jesus is the
Church's cry for
our Lord Jesus to
come to us in His
grace, mercy
and love.*

Help us to prepare the way of the Lord this day –
in bread and wine, in community and fellowship,
in worship and song.

Come, Lord Jesus.

*In this Advent
season, may our
Lord find us alert
and ready as he
is made known.*

Open our ears to listen for the herald of good tidings and make us ready to receive our Lord when he comes again with glory and might.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Make us ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our lives and homes, for he is our light and our salvation.

Thanks be to God forever.

KYRIE

Cantor

Turn to us again, O God our Savior, let your anger cease from us. Lord, have mercy.

Assembly



In the Kyrie we ask for God's mercy and grace to be upon us both individually and as a community.

Cantor

Show us your compassion, O God our Lord, grant us your salvation. Christ, have mercy.

Assembly



Cantor

Come and bring salvation; we wait, O God; may your glory dwell in us. Lord, have mercy.

Assembly



Silence of 5 to 10 seconds may be kept between the invitation to pray and the prayer itself to give people time to collect their thoughts and focus on the presence of God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SIT

WORD

SIT **THE FIRST LESSON** *see page 11 of this bulletin*

PSALM *see page 12 of this bulletin*

SECOND LESSON *see page 13 of this bulletin*

STAND & SING **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*as the
procession
moves to the
center of the
sanctuary.*



Verse *Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:4, 6)*

REPEAT ALLELUIA

*The Holy Gospel
is read in the
midst of the
people as a sign
of our Lord's
presence is in
our midst in
worship.*

HOLY GOSPEL *see page 14 of this bulletin*

RETURN ACCLAMATION *He Came Down* **ELW 253:1 & 3**



**3. He came down that we may have peace:
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forever more.**

SIT **HOMILY**

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

*In the Creed,
we profess our
faith in God,
who is Father,
Son and Holy
Spirit, and we
remember that
the covenant
God made with
us in Baptism
can never be
taken away.*

*In the season of
Advent, take
special note of
the words 'he
came down
from heaven,
was incarnate of
the virgin Mary,
and became
truly human.
' This is Jesus'
incarnation—
the Word made
flesh.*

*God has assured
us of eternal life,
and the
presence of the
Holy Spirit
throughout our
earthly life*

*The sign of peace
is a greeting
between believers
that invites the
peace of God to
dwell within and
between each
person. This
means that
sharing the peace
is much more
than an act of
hospitality.*

INTERCESSIONS

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.


SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you
The peace is shared within the assembly


TABLE SETTING

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence


ELW 490



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a repeat sign after the first measure. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating long notes.

The Great Thanksgiving is understood as an act of praise and thanksgiving. Following Jewish customs, the emerging Christian liturgies blessed God (that is, thanked God) for God's kindness and love.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts in heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

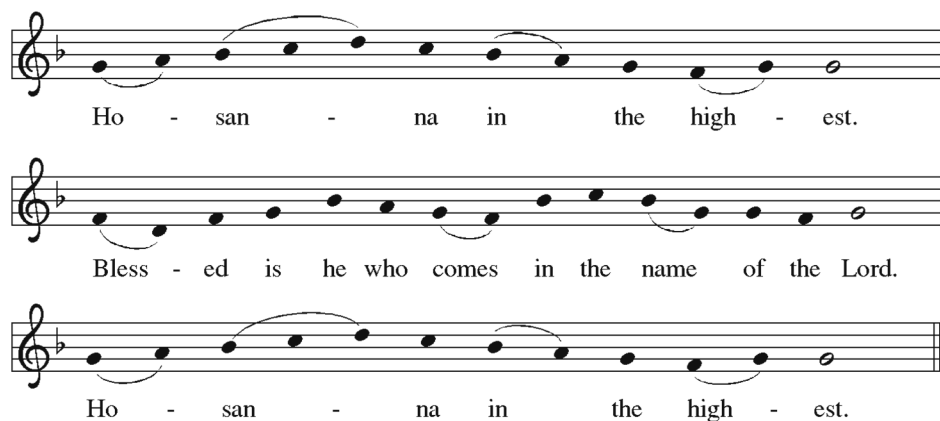
SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating long notes.

The Sanctus (sanctus, Latin, means holy) is a series of angelic acclamations which accompanied Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3 also Psalm 118:26).



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the Eucharistic Prayer, the church gives thanks for God's mighty works in the past, in creation and redemption through Jesus Christ, and thereby proclaims its faith in the blessings that come in the future both in this life and in eternal life yet to come.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Holy God, Mighty Lord, Prince of Peace, We give you thanks that on the first day of all creation you dispelled the raging chaos, bringing forth order and peace and making way for the coming of your kingdom.

We give you thanks for the prophets who proclaim the coming of the one who will usher in a new day, a day filled with trust and hope for the fulfillment of all of God's promises.

We give you thanks for Jesus the righteous branch of David, the Son of Man coming in the clouds with power and glory, the one for whom we watch and wait this Advent season.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord took bread and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.



Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that nourished by your presence
we may be made all the more aware of the coming of your Kingdom.

We praise you O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

*We pray as Jesus
taught his first
disciples.*

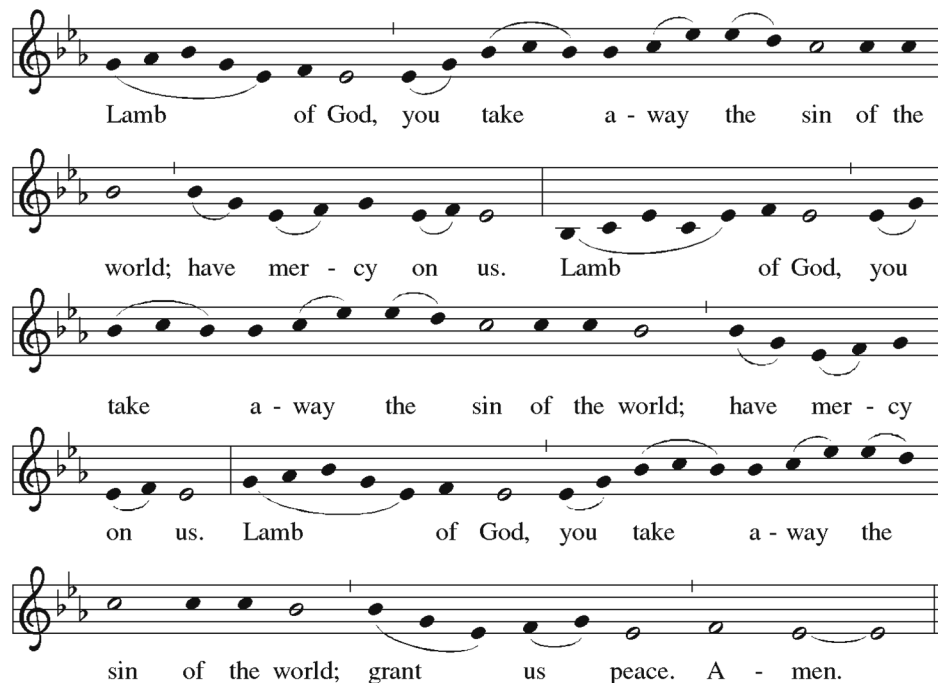
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lord whose advent we await,
who will come in glory on the day of judgment.

Blessed are those who are called to this holy meal.

*The bread is
broken and
distributed for all.
We share in the
body and blood of
Jesus, who is
really present to
us in this
sacred meal*

LAMB OF GOD



SAINT JAMES COMMUNION PRACTICE

Welcome	Saint James practices an open table for Holy Communion, which means that <u>all people are invited to participate in the sacrament</u> . Jesus is the host of the meal and extends a wide welcome. Children are welcome to participate, but may also come forward with folded arms to receive a blessing.
Benefit	What is the benefit of sharing in the meal? The words “given for you” and “shed for you” show us that the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament. (Luther’s Small Catechism)
Distribution	<p>Come forward via the central aisle.</p> <p>Receive the host (bread/Jesus’ body) in the hand, then dip it into the cup with wine (Jesus’ blood). Or consume it and take an individual cup of wine (purple) or juice (golden).</p> <p>A gluten free host is offered by saying “gluten free” to the pastor.</p> <p>Return to your place via the outside aisles for private prayer.</p>

SIT **DISTRIBUTION**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

CHOIR	<i>Prepare the Way Before Him</i>	Burck
HYMN	<i>Comfort, Comfort Now My People</i>	ELW 256

SENDING

STAND **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

SENDING PRAYER

*We are blessed
and sent into
the world to
proclaim
the glory of
God’s kingdom.*

O God, in this sacred meal you have given us a foretaste of that day when all the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us now to comfort those in need, keep us alert to the signs of your presence in the world around us, and make us bold to proclaim your coming Grant this through the one whose advent is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The sign of the
cross is made in
remembrance
of our baptism.*

BENEDICTION

HYMN***Hark, the Glad Sound!*****ELW 239****DISMISSAL**

The Lord is coming soon.
Come, Lord, and do not tarry.
Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

POSTLUDE***Hark, the Glad Sound!***

Healey Willan

SIT

ADVENT 2 LESSONS**December 7, 2025**

FIRST LESSON**Isaiah 11:1-10**

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;

the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
 the calf and the lion will feed together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain,
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

Mark Mummert



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Give the king your justice, O God,
 and your righteousness to the king's son;
² that he may rule your people righteously
 and the poor with justice;
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
 and the hills, in righteousness. **Refrain**

⁴Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

Refrain

¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- men. Amen. **Refrain**

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SECOND LESSON Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”
¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may
abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Return to page 4 for Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet
Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.’ ”

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

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said
to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸

Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We
have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up chil-
dren to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree
that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more
powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy

Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

following the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Return to page 4 for the Gospel Acclamation

The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church For the Week of December 7, 2025



WELCOME This morning we are happy to welcome back **Pastor Fred Harms** to Saint James. Thank you Pastor Harms for your worship leadership this morning!

ALTAR FLOWERS Flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard Moellering by his family.



CHRISTMAS PARTY The Saint James Christmas Party will be held on **Sunday, December 14 at 5 PM** in the Gathering Area. Children and adults are welcome to attend. Bring a dish to pass, either an appetizer or a dessert. Please sign up on the kiosk and let us know what you will be bringing. We also plan to have the Lions game on for those who want to see the game. Thank you to Congregational Care for hosting—please reach out to **Sue Stieber** with questions or to help with setup and cleanup.

VACATION Pastor Grant will be away on vacation through **Friday, December 12**. Please contact Council President **Andrew Picek** or the office if you have a pastoral emergency and we will connect you with our emergency pastoral support.



CHRISTMAS EVE worship will be held at **3 PM** on **Wednesday, December 24th** at Saint James. A **5 PM** service will be held at **St. Paul**. Invite a friend or neighbor to celebrate Christ's birth with us!

MISSIONS This month, we are once again collecting money in partnership with **Genesis** now through **December 12** to fund Christmas dinner food baskets for Detroit families in need. To participate, take a tag off the tree in the Welcome Area — \$25 buys a turkey and \$15 buys all the fixings that go with it. **Please make checks payable to SAINT JAMES.** Mark your calendars, **December 19 at 6 PM** is the day we will pack the baskets at Genesis.

Saint James is also sponsoring **two** children through **Samaritas'** Christmas Wish program for our Angel Tree. Simply take a gift tag off the tree in the Welcome Area and shop for the item. Gifts must be returned to Saint James unwrapped **by TODAY December 7th**. Questions about our Samaritas sponsorship can go to **Sarah Sutherland** or **Emily Richardson**.



HANGING OF THE GREENS Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 13th** to join the Hanging of the Greens Celebration in preparation for Christmas. All are invited to lend a hand inside or outside to hang wreaths, make swags and string roping as you are able or simply visit with others in fellowship. We will begin at **9 AM** and end by noon. Bring a friend and enjoy the morning of decorating as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth!

SCRIPTURES You may have noticed that the scripture text in the bulletin does not exactly match what is being read on Sunday mornings from the lectionary. This is due to Augsburg Fortress changing to an updated version of the texts in June. An updated lectionary that matches the updated texts is not available for purchase, so we continue to use our old lectionary. Thank you for your patience & understanding!