

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 the Risen Lord 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).

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

WORSHIP & HOLY EUCHARIST

All of the materials needed for this liturgy can be found in this bulletin and in the 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. Come forward by the central aisle. Receive the host, then either *dip it* in the cup (wine) or take a small glass with wine (purple) or juice (golden). If you would prefer to commune in the pew, please alert an usher prior to the start of worship.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & GATHERING

PRELUDE *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* Scott Hyslop

STAND

ENTRANCE HYMN ***Wake, Awake*** **ELW 436**

INVOCATION & APOSTOLIC 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.**

AN INVITATION TO ADVENT

The prophet Jeremiah speaks the Word the Lord and proclaims the coming of the Messiah:

> The days are surely coming when I will make a new covenant with all God's people. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, says the Lord. But this covenant, I will place within them, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. I will forgive their unfaithfulness and remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

In hope and expectation of Christ's Advent, his coming to us,
we remember that our Lord came to earth at the incarnation—
the time when Jesus was born and became truly human.
Come, Lord Jesus.

In hope and expectation,
Christ comes now in daily events:
in the eyes of any who are in need,
in the reading of scripture and sharing of the sacrament,
in music, art, silence, prayer, and dreams.
Come, Lord Jesus.

In hope and expectation, we look to the time when Christ will come again,
with great power and glory, to bring to perfect fulfillment all that is promised.
Come, Lord Jesus.

In this season of Advent, keep awake,
be alert for the signs of God's divine presence,

and pray that your eyes would be open to gaze upon light of the world that pushes back the shadows of despair, and illuminates the path along which we travel.
Amen and Amen. Thanks be to God.

BLESSING ADVENT WREATH & LIGHTING FIRST CANDLE
Let us ask God to bless this wreath and 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.

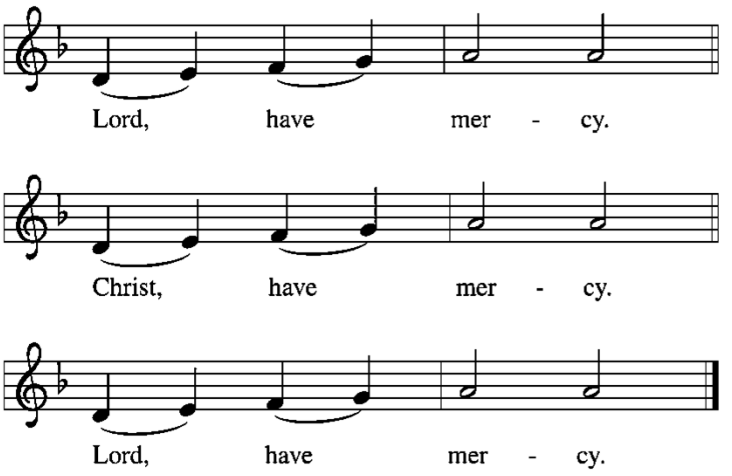
Bless this wreath + around which we gather,
and bless us as we light the first candle.

Rouse us from sleep,
keep us alert,
open our ears to hear the words of the prophets
who point to the promise of love made flesh
for the sake of the world.

Make us ready to greet our Lord when he comes
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,
for he is our love and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

KYRIE

The cantor will sing an intercession before each line



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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WORD

SIT

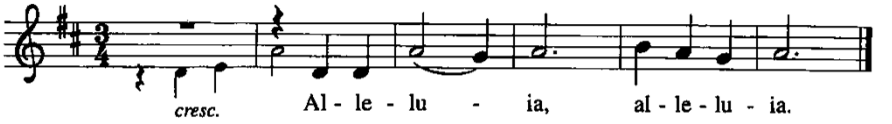
FIRST LESSON *see page 13 of this bulletin*

PSALM *see page 14 of this bulletin*

SECOND LESSON *see page 16 of this bulletin*

STAND

ALLELUIA



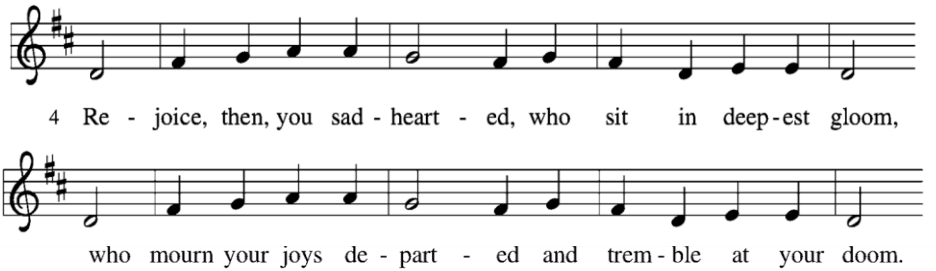
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VERSE: *Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.* (Ps. 85:7)

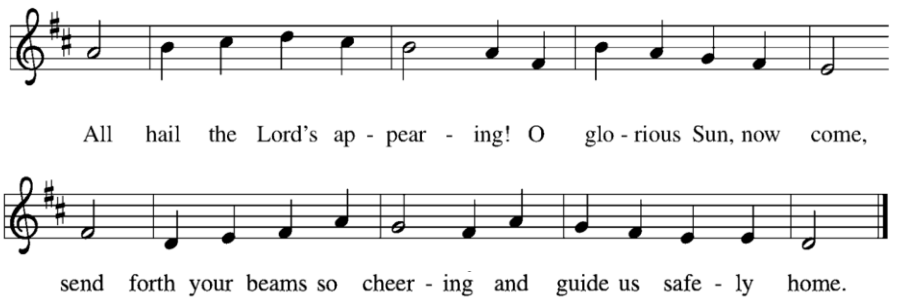
REPEAT ALLELUIA

GOSPEL *see page 17 of this bulletin*

ACCLAMATION ***O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*** **ELW 241:4**



Continued on next page →



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite
Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

SIT

HOMILY

STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY ***Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*** **ELW 435**

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.

INTERCESSIONS

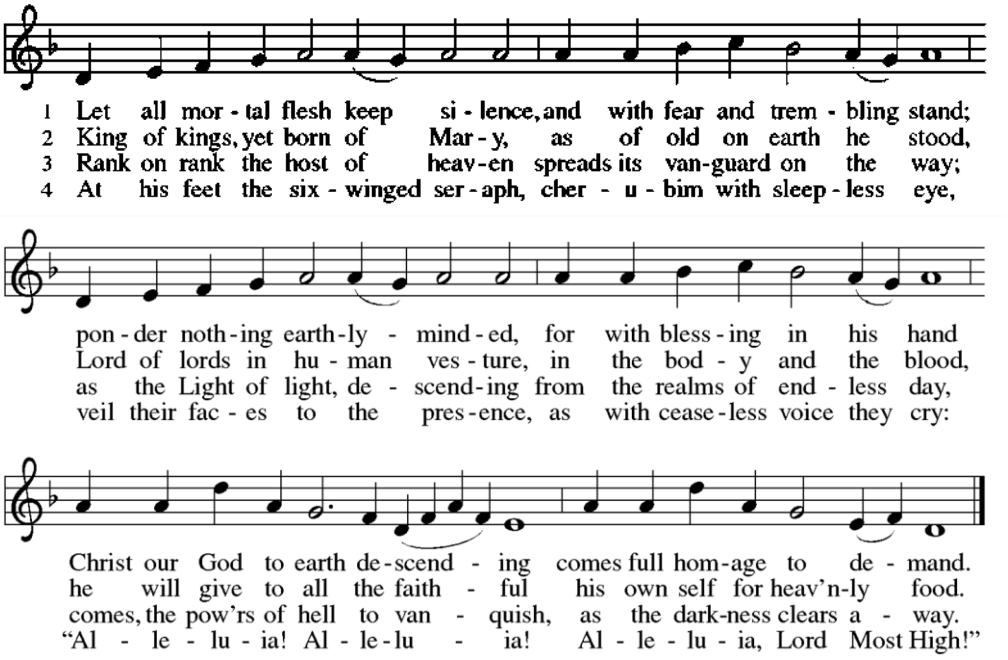
after each petition
Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

REMAIN STANDING

TABLE SETTING ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*** **ELW 490:1-2**



Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

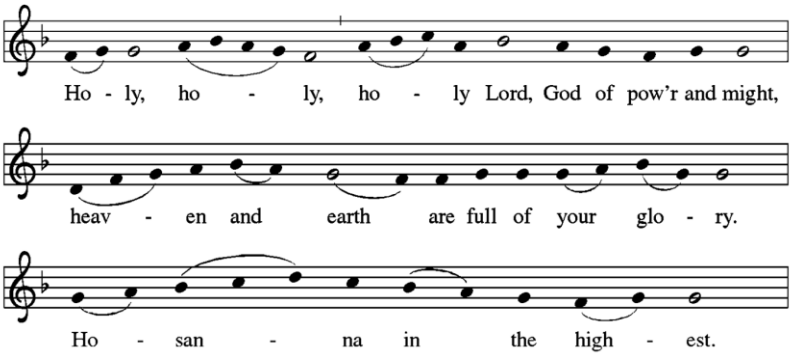
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

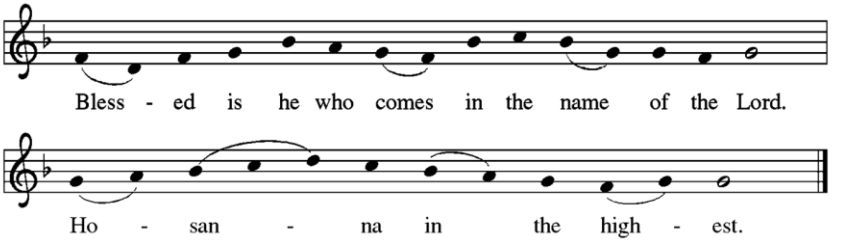
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 a redeemer
through whom you will make all things new
in the day when comes to judge the world with righteousness
And so with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

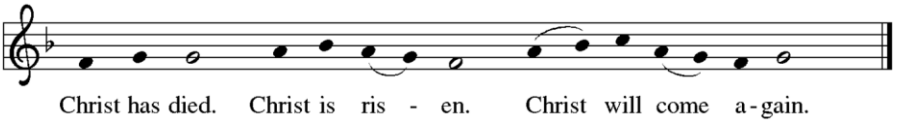
Holy God, Mighty Lord, Prince of Peace,
We give you thanks that on the first day of all creation
you dispelled the raging chaos,
bringing forth order and peace
and making way for the coming of your kingdom.

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
with eager expectation
in this Advent season.

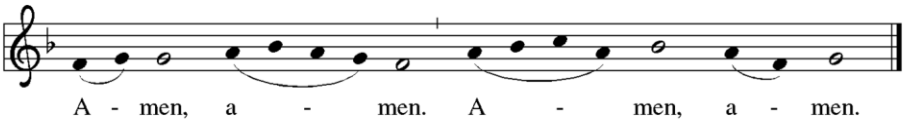
The Words of Institution

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 your presence now and at the coming of your Kingdom.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



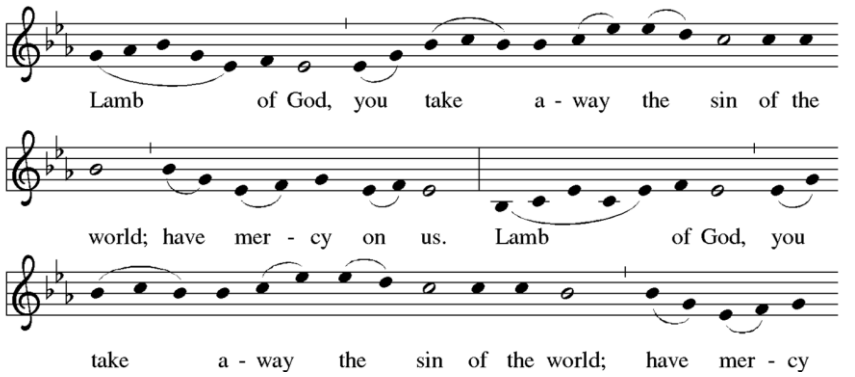
LORD'S PRAYER

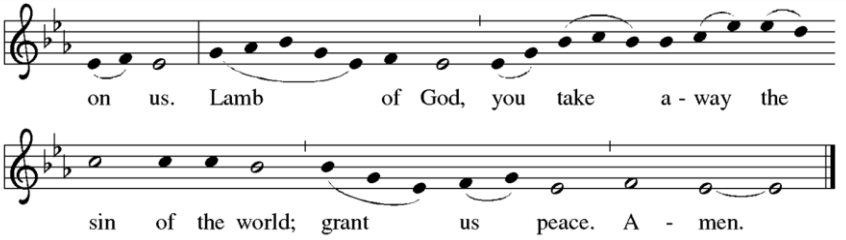
Our Father, who art in heaven….

BREAKING OF BREAD

Come to the table,
for in this meal Christ is truly present for you.
Come, O long expected Jesus;
come to set your people free.

LAMB OF GOD





SIT

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN ***Creator of the Stars of Night*** **ELW 245**

STAND

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

SENDING PRAYER

O God, in this Eucharist you give us a foretaste of that day when all the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us now as healing oil and sheltering comfort for 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.**

BENEDICTION

HYMN ***The King Shall Come*** **ELW 260**

DISMISSAL

Beware, keep alert. Keep Awake.
The Lord is coming soon.
Thanks be to God.

SIT

POSTLUDE *Wake, Awake* Paul Manz

ADVENT 1 **November 29, 2026**

FIRST READING **Isaiah 64:1-9**

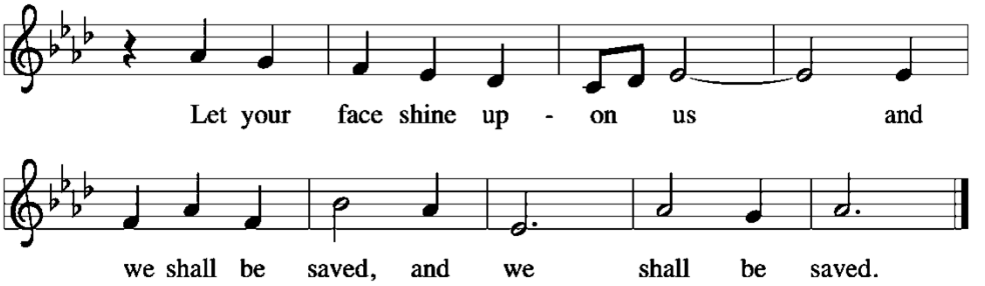
This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,

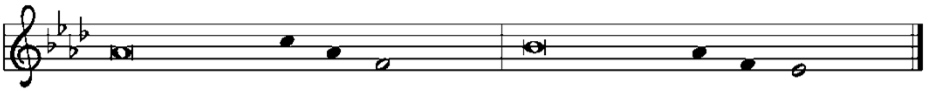
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1–7, 17–19



Psalm 80:7
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Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4**O LORD | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? ***Refrain***

5You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
6**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
17**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. ***Refrain***

18And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. ***Refrain***

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SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

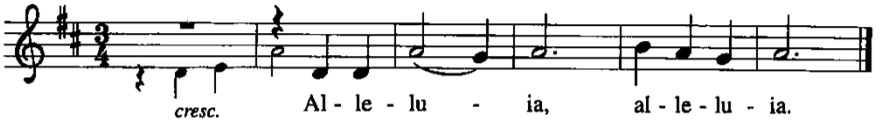
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

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

[4] I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, [5] for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—[6] just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—[7] so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. [8] He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA



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HOLY GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

RETURN ACCLAMATION ***return to page 5***

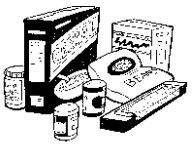
The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church

For the Week of November 29, 2026



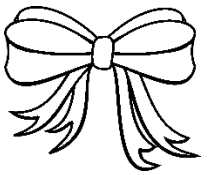
SAINT JAMES would like to remind all to please ensure that your phones and other electronic devices are silenced, switched to vibrate, or turned off before worship begins. Thank you for your cooperation!

GIVING STATEMENTS October 31, 2026, Giving Statements were sent electronically on 11/10/26. Paper statements for those not choosing email delivery will be available in the church office on **Tuesday** from **9-12**, **Wednesday** from **9-1**, **Thursday 9-12** and **Sunday**. Please contact **Susan Allison** with any questions.



FILL PASTOR'S OFFICE Don't forget to fill Pastor's office to support the Iroquois Food Pantry! If we fill Pastor's office with needed items like **cereal, paper towel, and toilet paper,** she will make a **$250 donation** to help Iroquois purchase the perishable groceries they hand out on Fridays! Matching monetary donations are also encouraged, if you prefer to donate that way. We will be collecting donations through the end of **November**.

BOOK CLUB Meets next on **Tuesday, December 1** at **1 PM** at Emily Moellering's home (see your directory for the address). This month's selection is *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. All are welcome! Contact **Nancy Kopka** for more information.



SAMARITAS This year Saint James is once again sponsoring wish lists for 2 at-risk children in **Samaritas**' Christmas Wish program. Simply pick a tag off the tree in the Welcome Area, shop for the item, and return your gift in a gift bag by **Sunday, December 6.** Please contact **Emily Richardson** or **Sarah Sutherland** with any questions.



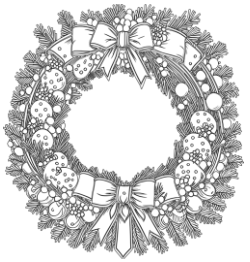
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS Each year, the purchase of indoor and outdoor greenery and floral arrangements is made possible through donations designated specifically for this purpose. The funds for Christmas greens are nearly depleted. To help Saint James recoup the cost of these non-budgeted expenses, please consider making a donation for the 2026 season.

Gifts for Christmas greens should be designated on the Special Christmas Gift form, found on the front pews. Instructions for returning donations can be found on the Special Christmas Gifts form. Gifts received by **Sunday, December 20** will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Thank you in advance for these gifts!

WOMEN OF THE WORD meets next on **Tuesday, December 8** at **1 PM** in the Meditation Room. All women are welcome to join any month's discussion. We use the monthly bible study in *Gather* magazine. Please contact **Nancy Kopka** with any questions.

BLOOD DRIVE St. Paul is hosting a blood drive on **Tuesday, December 8** from **12-6 PM** in their basement. Let's help our partners in ministry make an impact! To schedule an appointment to donate, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: gpbloodcouncil or call 1-800-733-2767.

GENESIS HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS Once again, Saint James is collecting money in partnership with **Genesis** to fund Holiday Food Baskets! To participate, simply fill out a Special Christmas Gifts form & return it and your enclosed contribution to the office -- $35 buys a turkey. Your donation towards Genesis food baskets can be designated on the Special Christmas Gifts form, found in the front pews. Please make checks payable to SAINT JAMES. We will be collecting money until **Friday, December 11.** Assembly of the food baskets will take place at **Genesis** (7200 Mack Ave, Detroit) on **Friday, December 18** at **6 PM.** Please contact **Sarah Sutherland** with any questions.



HANGING OF THE GREENS Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 12** 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 at noon. Bring a friend and enjoy the morning of decorating as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth!

CHRISTMAS PARTY The Annual Saint James Christmas Party will be held on **Sunday, December 13** from **5-7 PM** in the Gathering Area. Children and adults are welcome to attend. Bring a dish to pass, either an appetizer or dessert. Please sign up on the kiosk and let us know what you will be bringing. Drinks will be provided. Thank you to Congregational Care for hosting again this year. Please reach out to **Sue Stieber** with any questions or to help with setup and cleanup.

JOINT PARISH COUNCIL The next meeting of the Joint Parish Council will be held at St. Paul on **Monday, December 14** at **5:30 PM.** All members are welcome to attend.

CHURCH COUNCIL The next church council meeting will be held **Thursday, December 17** at **6 PM** in the Gathering Area. All members are welcome to attend any council meeting.



CHRISTMAS EVE worship will be held at **3 PM** on **Thursday, December 24** 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!

LESSONS & CAROLS A joint Lessons & Carols service will be held at **10 AM** on **Sunday, December 27** at **St. Paul**. There will be NO worship at Saint James that Sunday.

EPIPHANY A joint worship service will be held at **10 AM** on **Sunday, January 3** at **Saint James**. There will be no worship at St. Paul that Sunday. This will mark the feast of Epiphany and Pastor Grant's last Sunday at Saint James.

Worship Leaders for November 29
Assisting Minister: Richard Ferrara
Crucifer: Richard Ferrara
Communion Assistant: Emily Richardson
Lector: Jim Lingscheit
Altar Guild: Emily Richardson
Livestream: Susan Allison
Ushers: Barb & Ray Radtke

Worship Leaders for December 6
Assisting Minister: Susan Allison
Crucifer: Emily Richardson
Communion Assistant: Gini Bunchek
Lector: Jim Lingscheit
Altar Guild: Sue Carson
Livestream: Lena Picek
Ushers: Joel & Julie Humphries

Offering Plates
Saint James places offering plates at each entrance to the sanctuary. For more information about offerings, including electronic giving, see the bulletin. Thank you for your faithfulness in stewardship. Every contribution helps to support Saint James' mission and the proclamation of the gospel in the world.
Find us on Zelle using: giving@stjamesgp.org

Remember in Prayer –Tom Kressbach - All deployed military and their families.

Contact Emily Moellering or Pastor to add a name to the Prayer List or to ask the Prayer Team to pray for a specific need.

Got News? Please send items. for inclusion in the Saturday email newsletter to Alicia Taub no later than Thursday at noon of that week. All items for the Sunday bulletin must be sent to Emily Richardson at office@stjamesgp.org no later than Tuesday.

Coffee Hour Please join us each Sunday after service for Coffee Hour in the Welcome Area (beyond the municipal parking lot doors near the nursery.) Grab a cup of coffee or juice and a goodie and enjoy some Christian fellowship.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, November 29
Advent 1
11am: Holy Eucharist
Fellowship immediately following worship

Monday, November 30
Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, December 1
8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)
1pm: Book Club (at Emily Moellering's home)
9am-12pm: Office Hours

Wednesday, December 2
6am: Morning Walk (Meet on McMillan)
9am-1pm: Office Hours | *Pastor's Office Day*
4pm: Handbells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
4:40pm: Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Thursday, December 3
9am-12pm: Office Hours

Friday, December 4
Pastor's Day Off | Office Closed on Fridays

Sunday, December 6
Advent 2
11am: Holy Eucharist
Fellowship immediately following worship

Monday, December 7
Office Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, December 8
8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)
9am-12pm: Office Hours
1pm: Women of the Word (Meditation Room)

Wednesday, December 9
6am: Morning Walk (Meet on McMillan)
8am: Men's Bible Breakfast (Coney Island)
9am-1pm: Office Hours | *Pastor's Office Day*
4pm: Handbells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
4:40pm: Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

LOOKING AHEAD:
Dec 12: 9 AM – Hanging of the Greens
Dec 13: 5-7 PM – Christmas Party
Dec 14: 5:30 PM Joint Parish Council (at St. Paul)
Dec 17: 6 PM – Church Council (Gathering Area)
Dec 18: 6 PM – Holiday Food Basket Assembly (at Genesis)
Dec 24: 3 PM – Christmas Eve Worship