

# **St. John-St. James**

**Ev. Lutheran Church & School**



**Second Sunday after Christmas**

**January 3, 2021**

## WELCOME

*The true Jesus divides or holds together*

## *Opening Hymn:*

# Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

## Christian Worship, Hymn # 42

**C** Verse 1 ♫ Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing his love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.

**C** Verse 2    ♫ See how God, for us providing,  
Gave his Son and life abiding;  
He our weary steps is guiding  
From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.

**C** Verse 5      ♫    Gracious Child, we pray, hear us;  
From your lowly manger cheer us.  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join th'-angelic choir.

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSON OF SINS

- M** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- M** God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C** **Amen.**
- M** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

*(Hymn response printed on next page.)*

**C** Verse 1

♪ **God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Savior  
Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray:**

**Oh, \_\_ tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
Oh, \_\_ tidings of comfort and joy.**

**C** Verse 2

♪ **Fear not then said the angel  
Let nothing you affright  
This day is born a Savior  
Of a pure virgin bright  
To free all those who trust in Him  
From Satan's pow'r and might:**

**Oh, \_\_ tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
Oh, \_\_ tidings of comfort and joy.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## *Old Testament Lesson*

Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace.

## CONFESSTION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Gospel Lesson

John 7:40-44

<sup>40</sup> On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.”

<sup>41</sup> Others said, “He is the Messiah.”

Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee? <sup>42</sup> Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” <sup>43</sup> Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. <sup>44</sup> Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

**Hymn of the Day:** God Has Spoken By His Prophets

**c** Verse 1 ♫ **God has spoken by his prophets,**  
**Spoken his unchanging Word,**  
**Each from age to age proclaiming**  
**God the one, the righteous Lord.**  
**In the world's despair and turmoil**  
**One firm anchor holds us fast:**  
**God is king, his throne eternal,**  
**God the first and God the last.**

**c** Verse 2 ♫ **God has spoken by Christ Jesus,**  
**Christ, the everlasting Son,**  
**Brightness of the Father's glory,**  
**With the Father ever one,**  
**Spoken by the Word incarnate,**  
**God from God, before time was,**  
**Light from Light, to earth descending—**  
**He reveals our God to us.**

Hebrews 6:13-20a

### **“God Gives His Word”**

<sup>13</sup> When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” <sup>15</sup> And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. <sup>16</sup> People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. <sup>17</sup> Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. <sup>18</sup> God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. <sup>19</sup> We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

**c** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## BLESSING

**M** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.  
**c** Amen.

## Closing Hymn:

Peace Came to Earth

Christian Worship Supplement, Hymn # 707

Organist plays through once

**C** Verses 1,2, Congregation:



1. Peace came to earth at last that chos-en night  
2. And who could be the same for hav-ing held  
3. You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
4. How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And  
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The  
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In  
How else could I have loved you, O my God How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but  
Wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis-pelled— Who could but  
Bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but  
else could I em-brace you, O my God!— Who could but



gasp: Im-man-u-el! Who could but sing: Im- man -u - el!  
sigh: Im-man-u-el! Who could but shout: Im- man -u - el!  
see: Im-man-u-el! Who could but thrill: Im- man -u - el!  
pray: Im-man-u-el! Who could but praise: Im- man -u - el!