

St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021



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WELCOME

When the Lord Comes near, He Humbles his enemies.

Opening Hymn:

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Christian Worship, Hymn # 493 (#7 in old CW)

G Verse 1

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**

G Verse 3

**You saints, who here in patience Your cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb you shall behold;
In triumph lay before him Your shining crowns of gold.**

G Verse 4

**Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,
The Hope and Expectation Of ev'ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free.**

INVOCATION

M In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

M Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C **Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

M God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilty by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY--*Kyrie*

M In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

C Verse 1 

**Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit:
Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory while eternal ages run!**

C Verse 2 

**Glory be to him who loved us,
Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to him who bought us,
Made us kings with him to reign!
Glory, glory to the Lamb who once was slain.**

(CW #608; #239 in old CW)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BE SEATED

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

M The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

M The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of the Day:

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Christian Worship, Hymn # 316 (#16 in old CW)

Verse 1  **On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.**

Verse 2  **Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin
And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

Verse 3  **We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

Verse 4  **Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.**

Verse 5  **All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

Zephaniah 3:14-17

“Cleaning House for Royalty”

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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 fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

(Nicene Creed continues on the next page.)

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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Loving God and lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

C **Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.**

M Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

C **Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.**

(Our prayer concludes on the next page.)

M The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

C **Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.**

M Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

C **Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.**

M Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. *(Special intercessions may be offered here.)* Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

C **Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

M Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

(Silent prayer.)

M Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

C **Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C Verse 1  **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heavenly hosts:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he,
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin. We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

G **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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C Verse 1  **O Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.**
**O Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.**
**O Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world;
Grant us your peace. A-men.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

A PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Lord, I am a sinner. I do not deserve to commune with you, my holy God. But because of your Son and through faith in him, you graciously invite me to not only pray to you but also to come to your Table. Use this sacrament to reassure me of your forgiveness and strengthen me to live a new life of thanksgiving and joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(After all those communing have received Lord's Supper, we conclude our celebration)

M Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the one true faith unto life everlasting. Be assured, your sins are forgiven.

C Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

M Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C His mercy endures forever.

M Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

M O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

M 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: Jesus Came the Heavens Adoring
Christian Worship, Hymn # 319 (#26 in old CW)

Verse 1  **Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.**

Verse 2  **Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.**

Verse 3  **Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv'n.**

MLHS News

MLHS Campaign-Building Our Future on Christ -We thank you Lancer Family! We not only met our goal to raise \$75,000 in the month of November, but we surpassed it! Thank you for prayers, support, and donations you gave to Month of Giving promotion! Our job as a federation is not done! We are moving forward with our plans. We have a final design (cf. the latest video with the 3-D rendering at www.mlhslancers.org/campaign.) The more we can raise up front the better! To find out more about that, please call our mission advancement office at 920-682-0215. Thank you for your support and for considering a generous contribution to the campaign!

MLHS Christmas Concert: The music department of Manitowoc Lutheran High School will be holding its annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 22nd at the Capitol Civic Centre in downtown Manitowoc. The concert, entitled “Joy Has Dawned!” will feature the three high school choirs and the MLHS Symphonic Band. Also featured will be the Lakeshore Lutheran Chorale, an adult ensemble made up of members from the WELS Lutheran Churches along the Lakeshore. The concert’s closing anthem, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”, will feature a special Christmas orchestra and the combined voices of the MLHS choirs and the Lakeshore Lutheran Chorale. All students from the area WELS Lutheran Elementary Schools and Churches are invited to join in singing this anthem that they learned for the recent choral festival at MLHS. Concert times at the CCC are 4:30 and 7:30. The concert is free and open to the public; however, a free will offering will be gathered.

Jr. Lancer Band & MLHS Jazz Ensemble Concert-Sunday, December 12th at 3PM in the MLHS Gymnasium- Join the Jr. Lancer Beginner Band, Concert Winds, Jazz Kids and the MLHS Jazz Ensemble for some Holiday Fun!

Junior Lancer Basketball -Registration is OPEN for Jr. Lancer Basketball. Please register today! Go to: www.mlhslancers.org/juniorlancers. Then click on Junior Lancer Basketball!

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/22-Christmas Concert

1/14-1/16/2022-Grade School B-Team Bball Tournament-January 14-16, 2022

1/21/2022-Lancer for a Day

1/21-1/23/2022-Grade School A-Team Bball Tournament

1/24 & 1/26/2022-Freshman Information Night

Our Father's Business

Today

Preacher, Pastor Darin Aden

Organ Today—Charmaine Wagner

Sunday School, CREW & Adult Bible Class at 9:15 am

Tue. 12/14

Praise Choir Practice at 6:30 pm

Wed. 12/15

Public School Confirmation Class at 3:30 pm

Fri. 12/18

Basketball at SJSJ vs. Sturgeon Bay, B-Boys—5:00pm. B-Girls—6:00, B-Boys—7pm

Sunday, December 12

SERVING YOU TODAY—Sunday—8:00 am Ushers—Mel Mangin, Tim Mangin, Jamie Mangin, Gary Waack ■ **Sunday—10:15 am Ushers—**Terry/Karen Prochnow, Fred Busse, Erwin Waack, Jon Waack, Randy/Sandy Waack, Dereck Waack and Todd Hickmann ■ **Church Cleaners—** Terry/Karen Prochnow, Dale Barnard, Rod Bubolz ■ **Flower Committee—** Joan Sheahan & Val Jean Link ■ **Communion Set-Up/Take-Down—**Karla Aden, Chantel Bastian, Joan Sheahan.

SERVING YOU NEXT WEEK—Sunday—8:00 am Ushers—Mel Mangin, Tim Mangin, Jamie Mangin, Gary Waack ■ **Sunday—10:15 am Ushers—**Terry/Karen Prochnow, Fred Busse, Erwin Waack, Jon Waack, Randy/Sandy Waack, Dereck Waack and Todd Hickmann ■ **Church Cleaners—**Adam/Melissa Bubolz, Andy/Bekah Bubolz, Nick/Amanda Schrubbe, Ray/Suzanne Bubolz ■ **Flower Committee—**Joan Sheahan & Val Jean Link.

DIVINE CALL—We are pleased to announce that Pastor & Mrs. Aden have returned the divine calls they received to serve at Resurrection Lutheran Church & School in Rochester, MN. We are blessed to have Pastor & Mrs. Aden continue their ministry here at St. John—St. James.

KWIK TRIP SCRIP—All Kwik Trip Scrip is back down to the same percentages that they originally were. Thank you for participating!

CHRISTMAS BAGS—It is that time of the year when we begin to think about filling the Christmas bags that the children receive after our Christmas Eve Worship Services. If you would like to donate towards the candy, oranges and apples for the bags please leave your donation in the box labeled "Christmas Bags" on the table in the West Church office. Thank you for your kindness!

KAY & KAYLA'S CREATIONS—SJSJ apparel is available for purchase at Kay & Kayla's Creations, 215 Main Street, Reedsville. Find them on Facebook or call (920) 754-1127 for store hours. Kay & Kayla's also offers scrip @ 10% available in the SJSJ scrip office.

HOME BOUND LIST—If you would like to send cards or letters to our home bound members there is an updated list provided for you in the West Church Office. Our home-bound members would love to hear from you!

OFFERING ENVELOPES—Just a little reminder to pick up your offering envelopes in the West Church office. Please pick them up as soon as you can, so we are cleaned up and ready for the Christmas Eve services. We also have some Jr. Offering envelopes out if you would like to take one for your child/children.

MINISTRY RESERVE FUND—We have started a fund for our Second Pastor to help defray costs involved in adding another Pastor. If you wish to give to the Ministry Reserve Fund please place your offering in an envelope and clearly mark it as **Ministry Reserve Fund or 2nd Pastor Fund** and place it in the offering plate. A letter and commitment form will be sent to all members.

BAKE SALE—The SJSJ Lutheran Young Adults will be hosting a Bake Sale (Free Will Donation) on Sunday, December 19th between services and following the late service in the SJSJ Commons Area. Come and get some Christmas goodies!

DIVINE CALL—Mr. Stuebs has received a divine call to serve as Staff Minister & Music Coordinator at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Tucson, AZ. Please keep Mr. Stuebs and his family in your prayers as he deliberates where the Lord can best use his talents and abilities.

CREATION MUSEUM—Trinity Lutheran, Brillion is hosting an Ark Encounter & Creation Museum tour April 25-29, 2022. The tour will be through Tom's Christian Tours and you will be traveling by Lamers Motorcoach. For more information or to sign up for the tour please contact Marcia Wendt—920-646-0063 or m.wendt@trinitybrillion.org. there is also some literature and registration sheets located on the table in the West Church office.

LADIES AID—There will be no Ladies Aid meeting until March of 2022.

JR LANCER BASEBALL—Registration is now open for 7th & 8th grade boys. If interested in registering go to www.mlhslancers.org/jrlancers.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING—There will be a Church Council Meeting on Monday, December 13th at 6:30 pm. See you there!

SCRIP LAY-A-WAY—Looking for easy gifts for Christmas? We can help you out with our annual Scrip Lay-A-Way program. All you need to do is fill out a scrip order form and hand it into the school office. When your order is ready we will give you a call and you can pay us then. Please allow us a week to fill your order. Thank you for using scrip!

ECONO FOOD SCRIP CARDS—You probably have heard that EconoFoods grocery store has sold to Coborn's Inc. So if you have a Tadych's gift or scrip card no worries, there isn't any expiration with them so you can continue using them next week and beyond.

MEMORIALS GIVEN—Terry Zeller, Dan & Audrey Duchow and some non Church members gave gifts to the Building Fund in memory of Mary Zeller. Non-members, Todd & Sue Rogola gave an undesignated gift in memory of Fritz & Mary Ann Hoepfner and Harvey & Deb Sobiech gave an undesignated gift in memory of Michael Sobiech. Thank you for your thoughtful gifts!

DECEMBER 26TH SERVICE—There is a typo in the newsletter on Sunday, December 26th. We will only be having one Worship Service at 9:00am on Sunday, December 26 and there will be no 8am or 10:15am Worship Services. Sorry for the mix-up!

GIFT GIVEN—A gift was given to the General Fund in memory of Lloyd & Florence Behnke (10-2-2006) 15 years & (12-31-1986) 35 years given by Mark, Darlene, Briana & Heidi Propson.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SET-UP—We will be setting up the gym on Sunday, December 19th following the 10:15am worship service for our upcoming Christmas Eve services. Please arrive in the gym around 11:15am. Any help would be greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Stuebs.

BASEKTBALL CONCESSIONS—Help is needed in the Concession Stand on Friday, December 17th! If you have any questions, please contact our Concession Stand Coordinator, Karie Robley at robley@tds.net. Your help is greatly appreciated!

USHER TEAMS—There is a signup sheet on the Usher's podium to fill our needs for the Children's Christmas Services listed below. We could really use your help at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services Thank you.

LWMS MISSIONS—Monetary Gift boxes are located at each entrance. A total of \$12.00 was collected in November. Thank you for supporting the LWMS mission projects.

SPECIAL DECEMBER SERVICES

Children's Christmas Eve Service Thursday, December 23—8:30 am
& Friday, December 24 at 5:30 pm (In the Gymnasium)

Candlelight Christmas Service, Friday, December 24 at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship Service, Saturday, December 25 at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve Worship Service, Friday, December 31 at 1:00 pm.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE—November 29-December 5

Sunday 8:00 am—113 10:15 am—89, Total—202

- Total Offerings: General Fund—\$ 9,199.00,* Synod—\$ 311.00,* MLHS—\$ 476.00,*
 - Special Offering—Building Fund—\$ 1,165.00,* (needed each week \$2,312)
 - *Electronic Offerings Included
 - Undesignated—\$ 1,000.00