

St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



**PRE
PARE
THE
WAY
FOR
THE
LORD,**

**SMOOTHEN
THE PATH
FOR OUR GOD**

Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2021

WELCOME

When the Lord Comes Near, He Humbles His People

Opening Hymn:

When Love Crossed Over

CCLI Song #7052252

CCLI License #20031593

🎵 Verse 1: (congregation with soloist)

**One glorious night When love crossed over
And cast aside Both crown and throne
To live beside The common man
As was foretold The promised One**

🎵 Verse 2: (congregation with soloist)

**And there He lay In humble straw
As angels sing "Goodwill to all"
A gift from God To reconcile
All men to Him This perfect child**

🎵 Verse 3: (congregation with soloist)

**Behold this day A Savior's born
And in whose fate This world has longed
Conceived in faith Received with love
Come kneel beside This child of God
Come kneel beside This child of God**

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

M The grace of our Lord (✝) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

G **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Dear friends, let us approach God in honesty, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

G **Lord of all, I confess that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed. I have not kept your commands. My actions, my words, and my thoughts have all fallen short of the perfection you deserve. I am sorry for my sin and seek your mercy in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

M It is only through the grace of our Triune God that we are saved from our sins. God the Father sent his Son in love. God the Son came and paid the price for our sins. And God the Spirit came to us and made the gift of eternal life ours through faith. Therefore, be assured: you are forgiven in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

G **Amen.**

M In peace, let us praise the Lord.

Gloria:

Praise Charts Song #7118914

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

CCLI License #20031593

Verse 1 🎵 **Messengers:**

Out of the depths I cry to You In darkest places I will call
Incline Your ear to me anew And hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

(Our Song continues on the next page.)

C Verse 2  **Were You to count my sinful ways
How could I come before Your throne
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze
I stand redeemed by grace alone.**

C CHORUS 1  **I will wait for You, I will wait for You
On Your Word I will rely.
I will wait for You, Surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.**

C Verse 3  **So put Your hope in God alone
Take courage in His power to save
Completely and forever won
By Christ emerging from the grave.**

C CHORUS 1  **I will wait for You, I will wait for You
On Your Word I will rely.
I will wait for You, Surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.**

C Verse 4  **Now He has come to make a way
And God Himself has paid the price
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice
That all who trust in Him today
Find healing in His sacrifice.**

(Our Song concludes on the next page.)

C CHORUS 2 

**I will wait for You, I will wait for You
Through the storm and through the night
I will wait for You, Surely wait for You
For Your love is my delight.** *(repeat CHORUS 2)*

C CHORUS 1 

**I will wait for You, I will wait for You
On Your Word I will rely.
I will wait for You, Surely wait for You
Till my soul is satisfied.** *(repeat CHORUS 1 twice)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BE SEATED

First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-7b

3 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, **4** and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. *(Lesson continues next page.)*

⁵“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

⁶“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Contemporary Creed

☐ I have faith in God and believe that He has created me and all that I have. All things belong to Him.

I have faith in Jesus and believe that He died for my sins, conquered death and was raised to life on the third day. His death and resurrection declared that He is God and that my sins are forgiven.

I have faith in the Holy Spirit and believe He has worked this faith within me. I believe He is present here among us and lives within each child of God. Through Him and the Word I have the power to stand in strength against all adversity.

And I believe that my mission on earth is to serve my God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He has equipped me with His gifts and motivated me by His love to reach out to the lost and to my fellow believers with the Gospel. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:1-6

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

Hymn of the Day:

CCLI Song #7101018

Make Room

CCLI License #20031593

Verse 1  **Messengers:**

Family hiding from the storm Found no place at the keeper’s door
It was for this a Child was born To save a world so cold and hollow.

 Verse 2  **The sleeping town, it did not know
That lying in a manger low
A Savior King who had no home
Has come to heal our sorrows.**

 **CHORUS**  **Is there room in your heart?
Is there room in your heart?
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story?**

(Song continues on next page.)

C Verse 3  **Shepherds counting sheep at night
Do not fear the glory light
You are precious in His sight
God has come to raise the lowly.**

C CHORUS  **Is there room in your heart?
Is there room in your heart?
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story?**

C CHORUS 2  **You can come as you are
But it may set you apart
When you make room in your heart
And trade your dreams for His glory
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart.**

C Verse 4  **Mother holds the Promise tight
Every wrong will be made right
The road is straight and the burden's light
For in His hands He holds tomorrow.**

C CHORUS  **Is there room in your heart?
Is there room in your heart?
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story?**

(Song concludes on next page.)



**You can come as you are
But it may set you apart
When you make room in your heart
And trade your dreams for His glory
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart.
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Darin Aden

Philippians 1:3-11

“A Loving Look at Ourselves”

1. See why we’re here
2. See what we need

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Sermon Response:

Praisecharts Song #275566

In the Bleak Midwinter

CCLI License #20031593

Verse 1  **Messengers:**

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter as stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

 Verse 2 

**Angels and archangels may have gathered here
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air
But his mother only in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a holy kiss.**

 Verse 3 

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wiseman, I would honor Him;
Jesus, the Messiah, born in Bethlehem.**

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

 **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

Praise Charts Song #74093

Christmas Amazing Grace

CCLI License #20031593

C Verse 1  **This Holy Child is born to us
For all the world to see
Peace on the earth, good will to men
To God all glory be.**

C Verse 2  **This couple traveled from afar
Arrived in Bethlehem
And in the inn they sought to stay
There was no room for them.**

C Verse 3  **They found a stable filled with hay
A manger for a bed
God's Son was born this winter night
Just as the angels said.**

(Hymn concludes on the next page.)



Verse 4



**The shepherds left to see this boy
They wandered through the night
The angels led the way to Him
A Savior wrapped in light.**



Verse 5



**A star shone bright up in the east
The wise men following
They brought Him gifts of gold and myrrh
To honor Christ the King.**



Verse 6



**Jesus grew into a man
He died for you and me
But in three days He rose again
With us He'll ever be.
With us He'll ever be.**

BE SEATED

POST SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Our thanks to the Messengers: Gene Rosera (guitar); Deb Bernhardt (vocals & technology); Gary Bernhardt (percussion & vocals); Abby Stuebs (vocals & keyboard); Phil Stuebs (vocals & guitar) and Pastor Aden (bass guitar).

Our Father's Business

Today	Preacher, Pastor Darin Aden Music Today—MESSENGERS Sunday School, CREW & Adult Bible Class at 9:15 am Praise Choir Practice at 6:30 pm
Tue. 12/7	Public School Confirmation Class at 3:30 pm
Wed. 12/8	Basketball at SJSJ - 4:30 pm - B-Boys, 5:30 pm-A-Girls
Fri. 12/10	6:30 pm - A-Boys vs. NEW

Sunday, December 5

SERVING YOU TODAY—Sunday—8:00 am Ushers—Jim Matznick, Tom Sebo, Norman Pantzlaff, Gary Bernhardt ■ **10:15 am Ushers—**Andy/Zac Bubolz, Ray Bubolz, Adam Bubolz, Bill Hillmann, Matt Hillmann, Nick Schrubbe ■ **Church Cleaners—**Terry/Karen Prochnow, Dale Barnard, Rod Bubolz ■ **Flower Committee—**Joan Sheahan & Val Jean Link.

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—** 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.

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!

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

POINSETTIA ORDERS—This year we will need 8 white and 8 blue Poinsettias for School. Red Poinsettias for church are unlimited. We will keep a tally of blue & white poinsettias in the bulletin announcements, so you know when we reach this amount. Cost of the poinsettias are as follows: \$17.50—Blue, \$12.00—White and \$10.50—Red. Please print clearly and put your order in an envelope provided for you, then place the envelope in the box on the table in the West Church Office. **Please have your order to us TODAY, Sunday, December 5th.** Checks can be made out to St. John-St. James. You are welcome to take your poinsettias with you after the Christmas Day services. Totals for purchased Blue and White Poinsettias are as follows: Blue—8, White—8 Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS—The Nominating Committee has met to nominate new people for Church Council positions. The following positions are open this year. 1. Administrative Secretary 2. Christian Education Chairman 3. Evangelism Committee Chairman 4. Worship Committee Chairman 5. Charities Treasurer. We try to nominate people who we feel will fit the position. If you receive a nomination letter, we ask that you prayerfully consider serving our God in a council position.

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!

HYMNALS TO RE-PURPOSE—As you can imagine there are a lot of congregations that need to find a purpose for all the nicely used hymnals that we are now left with. When I contacted the WELS offices about our situation they gave us a few guidelines as to what we can do with them. They are as follows: a. Use the pages of the hymnal for craft projects such as: 1. Christmas ornaments (shred pages of a hymnal and put them in glass ball ornaments). 2. Candle decorating. 3. Frame your favorite hymn. 4. Pinterest has many fun ideas! Simply search "hymnal" and you will find more than you know what to do with. 5. Keep them as a "resource" book instead of the main book. If you would like some hymnals for crafts or etc. they will be on the table in the West Church office. Thank you!

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.

OUR SYMPATHIES—Ronald “Ronnie” Duescher, age 77, went home to be with Jesus and his passed loved ones Sunday, November 28, 2021 at Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay. Our most sincere condolences to all family members and close friends. Ron’s funeral service was on Wednesday, December 1st at 11:00 am at St. John—St. James. We pray for peace in your hearts!

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!

MLC ADVENT DEVOTIONS—If you would like an emailed copy of the MLC Advent Devotions please send us an email at cbubolz@stjohnstjames.com and we will send you a daily copy.

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 a 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.

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!

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 22-28

Church Attendance: Wednesday 11/24—91, Thursday 9:00am—79, Total: 170

■ Offerings—General Fund—\$ 2,932.00, Building Fund—\$ 100.00. Church

Attendance: 11/28 Sunday 8:00 am—125, 10:15 am—91, Total:216 ■

Offerings—General Fund—\$ 4,784.00, Synod—\$ 183.00, MLHS—\$ 63.00, Total \$ 5,030.00, ■ Special Offering—Building Fund—\$ 1,370.00, (needed each week \$2,312) ■ MLHS Building Fund—\$ 100.00

Total of all Services: 11/25 & 11/28—386 Total Offerings: General Fund—\$ 7,716.00, Synod—\$ 183.00, MLHS—\$ 63.00, Building Fund—\$ 1,470.00