



The Season of Advent 2025

Saint James Lutheran Church – Johnston, Iowa
We're glad you're here and hope you will come again!

The Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ADVENT INTROIT

Please stand as you are able as the choir sings.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.
✝ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

Gathering Song

November 29/30	#438 – My Lord, What a Morning
December 6/7	#717 – Let Justice Flow Like Streams
December 13/14	#248 – People Look East
December 20/21	#265 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Greeting

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

Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus

Tú, Jesús, nuestra esperanza



Español: 1 Tú, Je - sús, nues - tra es - pe - ran - za, ven y
 2 Ven, y te - je un mun - do nue - vo ca - mi -
 English: 1 Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to
 2 Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the



li - bra nues - tro ser. Ni - ño,
 nan - do en la ver - dad, pa - ra
 set your peo - ple free. From op -
 road of ser - vant - hood; give new



na - ce en - tre no - so - tros, ven y da - nos tu po -
 que, por fin, el pue - blo vi - va en ple - na li - ber -
 pres - sion, come, re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er -
 life to ev - 'ry na - tion, chang - ing e - vil in - to



der. Ven li - ber - ta pri - sio - ne - ros de in - jus -
 tad. Ven, Je - sús, a - bre el fu - tu - ro de tu
 ty. Come, re - lease from ev - 'ry pris - on those who
 good. Come and o - pen our to - mor - row for your



ti - cia y a - flic - ción; ven, re - ú - ne nues - tros
 rei - no de a - le - grí - a. Ven, de - rrum - ba es - te gran
 suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the
 joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man



pue - blos en a - mor y en com - pren - sión.
 mu - ro que hoy se - pa - ra no - che y dí - a.
 rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.
 sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.

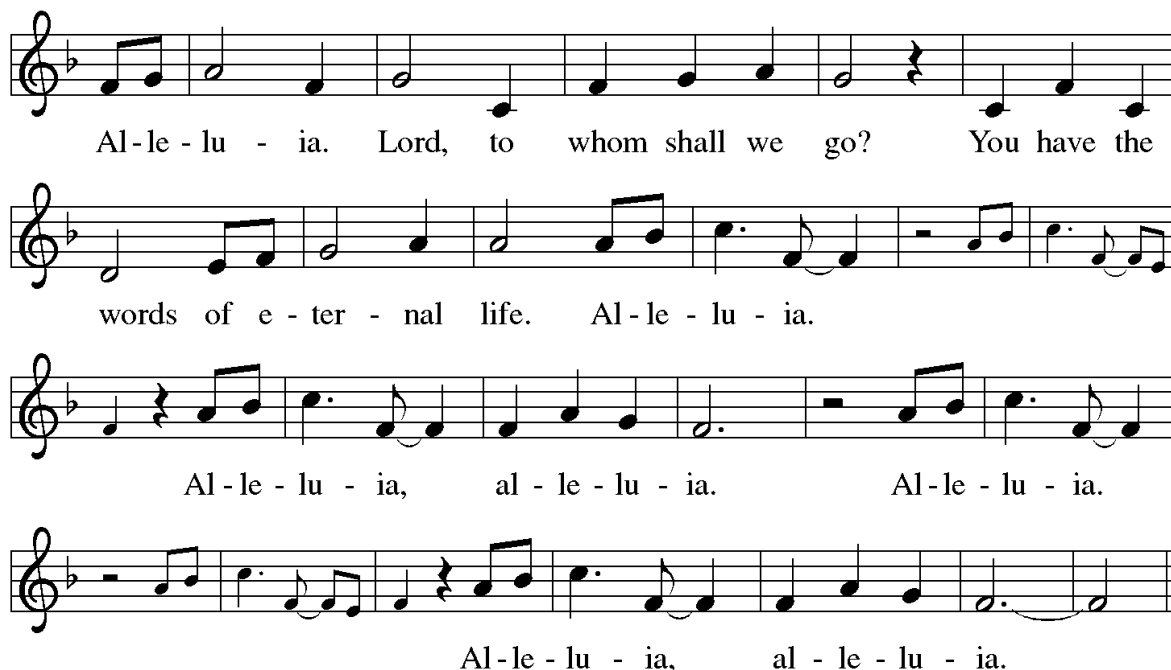
Prayer of the Day – see insert

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Lessons – see insert

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel – see insert

Before: The Holy Gospel according to Saint... **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

November 29/30	#244 – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
December 6/7	#249 – On Jordan's Banks the Baptist Cry
December 13/14	#715 – Christ, Be Our Light
December 20/21	#257 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Creed

Let us confess our shared faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayers of Intercession – see insert

Peace

On Saturdays the peace is shared after the dismissal.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

An offering is collected.

On Saturdays, the offering is collected as people gather for worship.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.**

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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim, and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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 sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. We receive communion by dipping the bread into the cup.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Communion Hymn

November 29/30	#263 – Savior of the Nations, Come
December 6/7	#487 – What Feast of Love
December 13/14	#253 – He Came Down
December 20/21	#723 – Canticle of the Turning

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Post Communion Prayer

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

November 29/30	#439 – Soon and Very Soon
December 6/7	#264 – Prepare the Royal Highway
December 13/14	#266 – All Earth is Hopeful
December 20/21	#267 – Joy to the World

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake!

Thanks be to God.

Holden Evening Prayer Worship

December 3 & 10 at 6:30pm

Soup supper at 5:45pm

Children's Christmas Program

December 17 at 6:30pm

Soup supper at 5:45pm

Christmas Eve, December 24

4:30pm & 6:30pm