



December 10/11, 2022

Saint James Lutheran Church – Johnston, Iowa

We're glad you're here and hope you will come again!

GATHERING

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

Choral Introit

As the choir sings, the assembly stands as the light is carried forward and the candles of the advent wreath are lit.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings, **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on † Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering Song #242 – Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

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.**

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The Kyrie: *The choir sings the verses. The assembly responds:*

Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

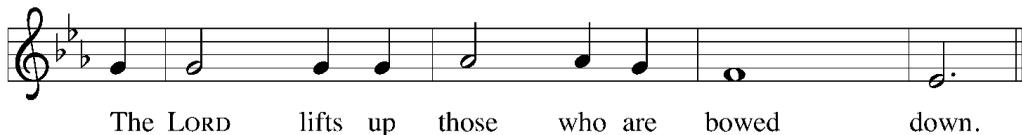
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the
 burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the
 haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall
 not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall
 go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they
 shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of
 the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be
 upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall
 flee away. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:5-10 (*Saturday, spoken responsively; Sunday, The Choir sings Antiphon
 once and congregation repeats it. The Choir sings the light verses and congregation will
 sing bold verses. All sing the Antiphon as marked by the R*)



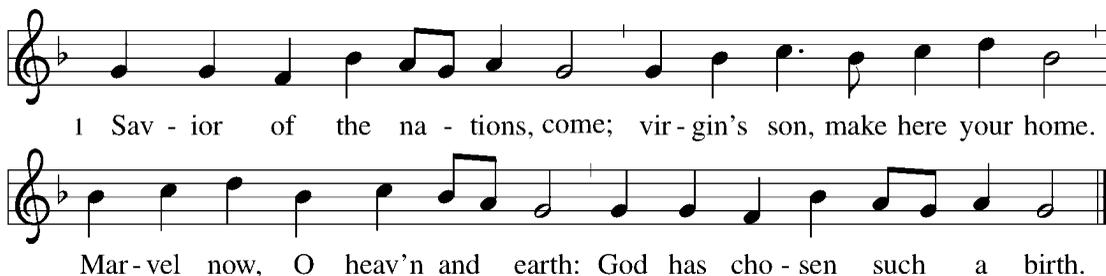
⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
 whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**
who keeps promis- | es forever;
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
 The LORD sets the | captive free.
⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are
 bowed down;**
the LORD | loves the righteous. R
⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;
 the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! R

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Savior of the Nations, Come



I Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-6

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

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

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

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

The assembly stands.

Hymn of the Day #241 – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation, ELCA Global Mission and our friends in the Ivuga Parish. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
The assembly may share a sign of God's peace and then be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

The offering plates are passed.
This QR Code will take you to online giving via Tithely.



Offering Music (Sunday only):

Choir, ELW 265, The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Please stand as you are able.

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.

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 the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Great Thanksgiving



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**

We will sing the Lamb of God before receiving communion.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

Communion Music (Sunday):

ELW 251 – My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW 258 – Unexpected and Mysterious

All are welcome at the Lord's table. We receive communion by intinction (i.e. dipping the wafer into the cup). Please use a little Purell on your hands before coming forward. For those who would prefer not to dip their wafer, you may be assured that the crucified and risen Christ is fully present for you in, with and under one element.

SENDING

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

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

Blessing

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

Sending Song #248 – People, Look East

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

This Weekend at Saint James:

- **Bible Study** after worship.
- **Fellowship for all in Gathering space.**

Coming Up at Saint James:

- **December 11 at 10:30am:** Christmas Program
- **December 18 immediately following Worship,** Isaac Rodenberg will meet with anyone interested in the 2023 trip to visit our partner congregation in Tanzania.
- **Christmas Eve Services:** 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Sign up to be a worship assistant at: [Saint James Lutheran Church: Worship Assistants October - December \(signupgenius.com\)](#) or contact Linda, 515-276-134. Bring your family and friends!