

St. James Lutheran Church

God calls us to follow Christ, make disciples and live the Gospel.



Lessons and Carols December 18, 2011

Service of Holy Communion

Welcome to St. James! Worship is at the center of our life as a congregation. We encourage you to participate fully in the service and in all our ministry opportunities. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome to join together at God's table of grace and receive our Lord's body and blood. Children may come and receive a blessing. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book and to take time to introduce yourselves to the pastor and others. Childcare is available in the nursery for children under five. St. James has hearing assistance equipment available for use during worship. The system works with or without a hearing aid. Speak to the pastor or an usher to try it out.

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

-Geistliche Kirchengesang

Wendy Unrath

Ecce virgo concipiet

-Christóbal Morales

St. James Brass

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.

Announcements

Processional Anthem

Of the Father's Love Begotten

-arr. Dale Warland

Festival Choir

Of the Father's love begotten ere the world began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He, the source, the ending He, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore. O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race. And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face, evermore and evermore. O ye heights of heaven adore Him. Angel hosts, his praises sing. Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.

(Please stand.)

Entrance Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

#643 (Blue Hymnal)

Verse 1 Christian Engelhardt, solo

Verse 2 Congregation

Verse 3 Festival Christmas Choir

Verse 4 Congregation

Apostolic 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.**

Prayer of the Day

☐ Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

(Be seated.)

First Lesson Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking

in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Grauer Family

Candle Lighting Hymn *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* verse 4

#34 (Green Book)

☑ **Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

☒ Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and salvation.

☑ **Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter
Stephanie Goebel
Wendy Unrath, piano

-arr. Donald Moore

Second Lesson Genesis 22:1-2, 9-18

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham,

Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have

sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Mary, Did You Know?
St. James Hand Bell Choir

-Lowe and Greene/arr. Page

Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a

child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Anthem

People, Look East
The Children's Choir

-arr. Tom Mitchell

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able. Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way. Stars, keep watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim. People, look east. The time is near. Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east, and sing today. Love, the Star, is on the way. Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Fourth Lesson Micah 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has

brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will

reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Magnificat
St. James Brass

-Johann Pachelbel

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of

David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Silent Night
Congregation with Damascus Road

#65 (Green Hymnal)

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace

among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Anthem

If This Child Were Born Today

-arr. Poorman and Poorman

Festival Christmas Choir

If this child were born today in a manger on the hay, would we see a King? Would we hear angels sing? If a star were shining bright, would we notice in the night? Would we be the ones to behold God's Son? (Noel, Noel) **Would we fall on bended knee worshipping this Babe? Would we praise with thankful hearts God's gift of salvation?** The first Noel the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay. The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. (Noel, Noel! Born is our Emmanuel. Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.) Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King. Come tenderly on bended knee; you will see the King.

Eighth Lesson John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light,

which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#55 (Green Hymnal)

Nicene Creed (Please stand)

☑ 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

Prayers (**Each week throughout the year we will pray for three St. James families by name. The names have been selected and appear in random order.)

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

The Assisting Minister will pray for those who are listed on the announcements page. The congregation is welcome to follow along.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(Greet one another in peace, sharing God's forgiveness and fellowship in Christ.)

(Be Seated.)

Offering

*I Wonder If He Knew
Damascus Road*

-Handt Hanson

In the silence of that holy night came the sound of angels singing. In the quiet of a manger lay the Savior of an unsuspecting world. **I wonder if he knew the cross was ahead, what he had to do; his blood would be shed. I wonder if he knew the pain he would suffer for people like me and you.** In the shadows of the stable light came this tiny flame's beginning. From the darkness of that humble place came light to illumine every heart. From the moment of that lowly birth all the world is somehow different. Out of Christmas and this time of love, the gift of new life is given through him.

(Stand)

Offertory Hymn

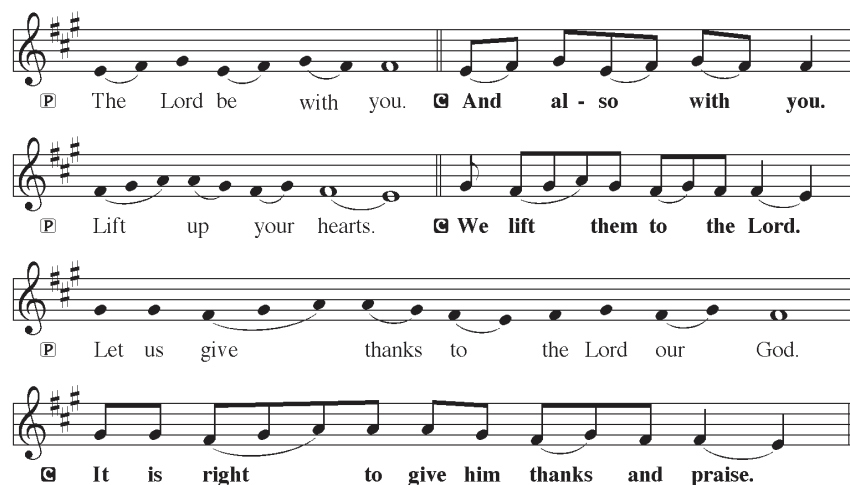
C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A God of abundance,

C **we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving



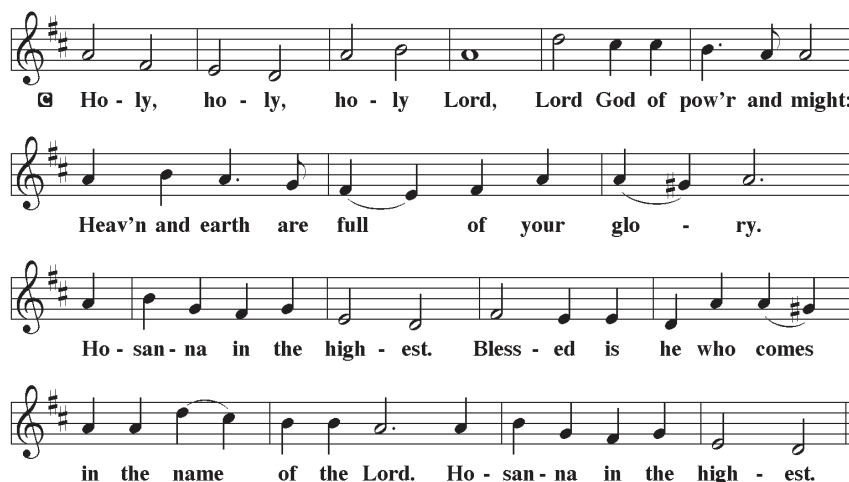
P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

- P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

- P** Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.
- P** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks...Do this for the remembrance of me.
- P** Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
- C** Amen.

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.

Invitation to Communion

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C Amen

(Be seated)

Distribution of Communion

All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome to join together at God's table of grace and receive our Lord's body and blood. Children may come and receive a blessing. We will commune at the head of the main aisle. Come forward in two lines up the main aisle. Communion will be by intinction. The wafer will be placed in your hand, then you may dip the wafer into the wine. Return to your seat using the side aisles.

Communion Hymns

What Child Is This
Away in a Manger
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

#40 (Green Hymnal)

#67 (Green Hymnal)

#44 (Green Hymnal)

(Stand)

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

A Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need, and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

(Silence for reflection)

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor † and give you peace. **C** Amen.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

#39 (Green Hymnal)

Sending

A Go in peace to follow Christ, make disciples and live the Gospel.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Joy to the World

-Gordon Young