

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday, December 22, 2024
8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

St. James Lutheran Church

109 York Street, Gettysburg, PA
www.StJamesGettysburg.org

Welcome to St. James. Here are some tips for worshipping with us.

Large print bulletins and hearing-assist devices can be found on the welcome table in the main hall. Please stand as you are able for parts of the service noted with an asterisk (*). Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

In this bulletin, ELW# refers to hymns in the back half of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (cranberry color). ACS# refers to hymns in the back half of *All Creation Sings* (purple color). Both books are found in the chair rack in front of you. Other symbols used throughout this bulletin:

P Presider **C** Congregation **A** Assisting Minister **L** Lay Reader

The 8:15 worship service will be livestreamed to our YouTube Channel and made available for public viewing. Please note that you may be recorded during worship. You can visit our YouTube Channel at [StJamesGettysburg.org/YouTube](https://www.stjamesgettysburg.org/YouTube). If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with a member of the staff.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING



Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-sh dark-ness.
He is com-ing, tell the glad tid-ings. Let your lights be shin-ing!

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of mercy,

C we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P God of might,

C we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P God in our midst,

C we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C Amen.

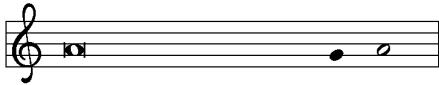
*PASTORAL GREETING

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

C And also with you.

*KYRIE

Congregation sings responses in **bold type**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



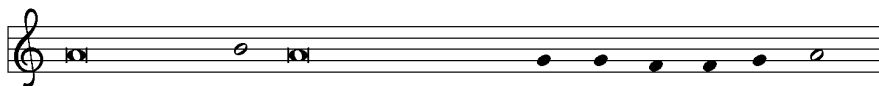
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L *Let us pray:* Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Word

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

(8:15) Filled with Hope and Gratitude

Paul Damico-Carper

¹Filled with hope and gratitude and filled with very God, I sing with soul and spirit exultation, for God has smiled upon the humble servant who will give her own sweet milk to Christ, the world's salvation. ²God's eternal mercy, meant for all of humankind, is given as deliv'rance from oppression. The powerful and haughty find that they are now cast down, the lowly raised beyond this world's derision. ³Hungry people eat good things and find an honored place; the rich are sent away though they are hungry. The promise to our forebears God renews for us today: the world is filled with God's abundant mercy. ⁴Filled with hope and gratitude and filled with very God, I sing with soul and spirit exultation, for God has smiled upon the humble servant who will give her own sweet milk to Christ, the world's salvation. (Paul Damico-Carper)

(10:45) The White Dove

Johannes Brahms

¹A snow-white dove from heaven flew down to the earth; in angel form it greeting a maiden of lowly birth. With peace and joy its tiding filled her breast, for she, above all women, would be forever blest. Kyrie eleison. ²The gates of heaven would open; the angel then did tell, and Christ, our blest Redeemer, would deign on earth to dwell. The Holy Babe who lay her arms within should be the promised Savior to purge the world from sin. Kyrie eleison. ³And when our life is ended, on thee will we call, the Son of Holy Mary, who died to save us all. In mercy, hear us when we cry to thee; from fear of death's dark angel, O Jesus, set us free. Kyrie eleison. (German folksong, tr. W. G. Rotherly)

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW 251

It is traditional on this day to sing the Magnificat, Mary's response to Gabriel's announcement that she would give birth to the Savior, as recorded in Luke 1:46-55.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Cantor: Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word. *Luke 1:38*

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON, FOLLOWED BY SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *All Earth Is Hopeful*

ELW 266

*APOSTLES' CREED (8:15)

C **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

Petitions conclude: "Lord, in your mercy," Our response: "receive our prayer."

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

setting, Joel Raney

*OFFERTORY

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

*OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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, ... we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:



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.

*** EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

Lift Up in Prayer

Sandy Alleman	Nathan Harner	Michelle Steinberger	Karen
Taylor Balderas	Ray Heffner	Ken Unger	Kristy
Helen Bardell	Tom Hobbs	Cheryl Weaver	Luke
James Bixler	Steve & Deb Litten		Marilyn
Katee Brown	Diego Martinez	Avery	Michael & Ali
Sara Diehl	Jen Mickelson	Beverly	Miriam
Shawn Dooley	Steve Myers	Bill	Ramona
Ryan Dunlop	Stephen Ordemann	Cindalee	Tiffany
Joanne Fisher	Barbara Sanders	Darryl	Wayne
Tim Fleming	William IV Scott	Dennis	
Caleb Freeman	Jeff Snyder	Diane	
Erin Freeman	Irelyn Sprenkle	Herb	
Hazel & Frank George	John Steinberger	Hilda	

We rejoice in the holy baptism of Emma Sachse, daughter of Adam & Kate Sachse.

We give thanks for Leo Cucuzza, who received his first communion on Saturday 12/21/24 at the 5:30 service.

Flowers are given to the Glory of God and

In memory of my mother, Nina Scott, by Harry & Cindy Scott & family.

In memory of John Felix by his wife Kathy, mother Elaine, and step-children William Barnich, Shannon Barnich & their families.

Announcements

Bible Study with Pastor Andrew - Join us Thursday mornings at 10 am! We meet in the Gathering Area and are still studying Genesis. All are welcome!

First Communion Lessons – Interested in having your child receive their first communion? See Pastor Libby to set up a first communion lesson. These lessons are also appropriate for children who already receive communion but may benefit from understanding the significance of communion.

Olive Wood & Chica Bean Coffee Sales – Look for the table set up in the hallway on Sundays & Wednesdays now through Christmas. Get some Christmas shopping done and support artisans in Jerusalem and/or education for girls in Guatemala!

Upcoming Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve Worship – Tuesday Dec. 24, services @ 4 pm (Contemplative Communion), 6 pm (Outside Family Service), and 8 pm (Traditional Communion)

Christmas Morning Worship – Wednesday Dec. 25 @ 10 am

Lessons & Carols Worship – Sat. Dec. 28 @ 5:30 pm, Sun. Dec. 29 @ 10 am

Common Ground Recovery Ministry – In the new year, St. James will offer this worship service the first Monday of each month, beginning on January 6. Be on the lookout for additional details!

Meal Train - Are you able to provide a meal for other church members in a time of need? MealTrain.org will be used to organize and schedule meal deliveries. If you can help, contact Joe MacDowell at 717-253-3903 or joekaym65@gmail.com to be added to the list of volunteers.

Pastor Andrew's Surgery - Pastor Andrew is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on 12/27. He has requested no meals or visitors after the surgery, so he can have space and time away for healing. Prayers are always welcome.

Giving to St. James - Your financial gift allows St. James to do great things! Our mission is to live & love like Jesus. We serve and support our community – both locally & globally. Your gift and support make a difference in our community & world. Thank you! Scan the QR code or visit StJamesGettysburg.org/give.



Sign-up for our weekly eBlast to always know what's happening at St. James!

Serving in Worship

Preacher

Pastor Libby Baker-Mikesell

Presider

Pastor Andrew R. Geib

Minister of Music

Jonathan Noel

Cantor

(8:15) Bill Avery

(10:45) Ed Riggs

Musical Offering

Ronda Sprague

8:15 am Worship Service

Assisting Minister

Sam Main

Acolyte

Anden Dutrow

Bell Ringer

Emma Smith

Prayer of the Day

Anden Dutrow

Lay Readers

Judy Seilhamer

Joan Leedy

Communion Assistants

Catharine Senft – Geib

Morgan Smith, Kasey Smith

Shirley Sanders

Ushers

Daryl Aurand, Aiden Dutrow

Dave Williams, Lyne Aurand

Greeters

Barbara Nicks

Peggy Green

Bread Baker

Debby Luquette

Sacristy

Anne Gomer

Debby Luquette

AV Operator

Katy Clowney

10:45 am Worship Service

Assisting Minister

Carol Cook

Acolyte

Caden Miller

Bell Ringer

Owen Austin

Prayer of the Day

Owen Austin

Lay Readers

David Flesner

Blayne Miller

Communion Assistants

Sharon Kaya, Carol Widerman

Peggy Green, Sonja Withrow

Ushers

Bob Cook, Brigid Hazel

John Fisher

Greeters

Becky Brown

Ann Ketterman

Bread Baker

Ann Ketterman

Sacristy

Dan Kessel

Carol Widerman

Flower Deliverer

Sue Currens