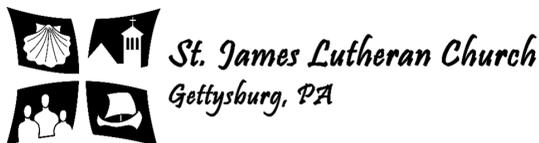

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We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's house with its doors wide open.

If you are passing through, Godspeed.

If you are looking for a worship home, stay with us.

We invite guests to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to faith. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socio-economic status, marital status, ability, and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners, and to questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice, and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Come and listen for the Holy Spirit calling you to love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice, create peace, and practice compassion.

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to be ministers of reconciliation both in the church and in the world. Through our baptism we are reconciled to God through the saving grace of Christ Jesus and challenged by the Gospel to be agents of healing and love within our church and society. As a community of faith, we proclaim this statement of welcome.



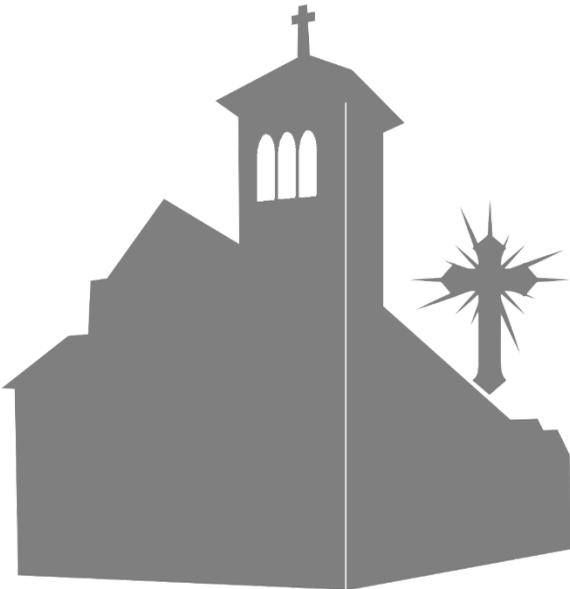
*St. James Lutheran Church
Gettysburg, PA*

First Sunday of Advent

Sacrament of Holy Communion

November 28, 2021

8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.



✠ Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper. ✠

P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

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 ELW Page 156

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P *Let us pray:* Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, 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 (10:45): *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

Andre Thomas

FIRST READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord

make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

P The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Page 160

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 21: 25-36

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

SERMON, FOLLOWED BY A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *People, Look East*

ELW 248

*APOSTLES CREED

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: "Hear us, O God." Our response: "**Your mercy is great.**"

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SOLO: *Comfort Ye / Every Valley*

George Frideric Handel

*OFFERTORY HYMN: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 1)*

ELW 257

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

P *Let us pray:*

C **God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*PREFACE DIALOG

ELW Page 161

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 our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Page 162

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)

ELW Page 163

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.

*INVITATION

P Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMN: *Lamb of God*

ELW Page 164

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. Amen.

*TABLE BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A *Let us pray:* 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.

C **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us in mission to the world

*BLESSING

P 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.

C **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

ELW 244

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

Paul Manz

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LIFT UP IN PRAYERS

<i>Jean Bair</i>	<i>Marc Hirsh</i>	<i>Candy Rule</i>	<i>Helen Wilkenson</i>	<i>Greg</i>
<i>Elinor Bender</i>	<i>Laura Khan</i>	<i>Dale Showers</i>	<i>Duane Wood</i>	<i>Jennifer</i>
<i>Petey Bender</i>	<i>Vestal Kottcamp</i>	<i>Gloria Unger</i>	<i>Marty Young</i>	<i>Josh</i>
<i>Harry Borger</i>	<i>Danielle Martin</i>	<i>Ken Unger</i>	<i>Alli</i>	<i>Karen</i>
<i>John Michael Demchak</i>	<i>Joyce Miller</i>	<i>Sean Vora</i>	<i>Beverly</i>	<i>Kathy</i>
<i>Amelia Dolbow</i>	<i>Linda Mumaugh</i>	<i>Shawn Waybrant</i>	<i>Charlotte</i>	<i>Paul</i>
<i>Alexis Hause</i>	<i>Jean Odom</i>	<i>Bryon White</i>	<i>Cindy</i>	<i>Sam</i>

We encourage you to get the COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself, our congregation, and our youth who are unable to get vaccinated.

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP**8:15 a.m. Worship Service****10:45 a.m. Worship Service****Presider:**

The Rev. Michael E. Allwein

Assisting Minister:

Peggy Green

Assisting Minister:

Cheryl Waybright

Preacher:

The Rev. Andrew R. Geib

Communion Assistant:

Kasey Smith

Communion Assistant:

Carol Cook

Minister of Music:

Jonathan Noel

Lay Reader: Ed Riggs**Flower Deliverer:**

Shirley Armstrong

Soloist:

Jesse Holt

Sacristy: Anne Gomer &

Charlie Gomer

Lay Reader: Carol Cook**Ushers:** Kyle Smith &

Donald Rider

Sacristy: Carol Widerman &

Carol Cook

Usher: Grant DeFoe &

Jan Keefer

Adult Choir**FLOWERS**

Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dick Boyer by his wife, Doris, his daughter and son-in-law, Lori and Jeff, and his grandchildren, Rebekah and Katie.

Rosebud is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dennis Frankfort by his mother, Ruth Knaub.