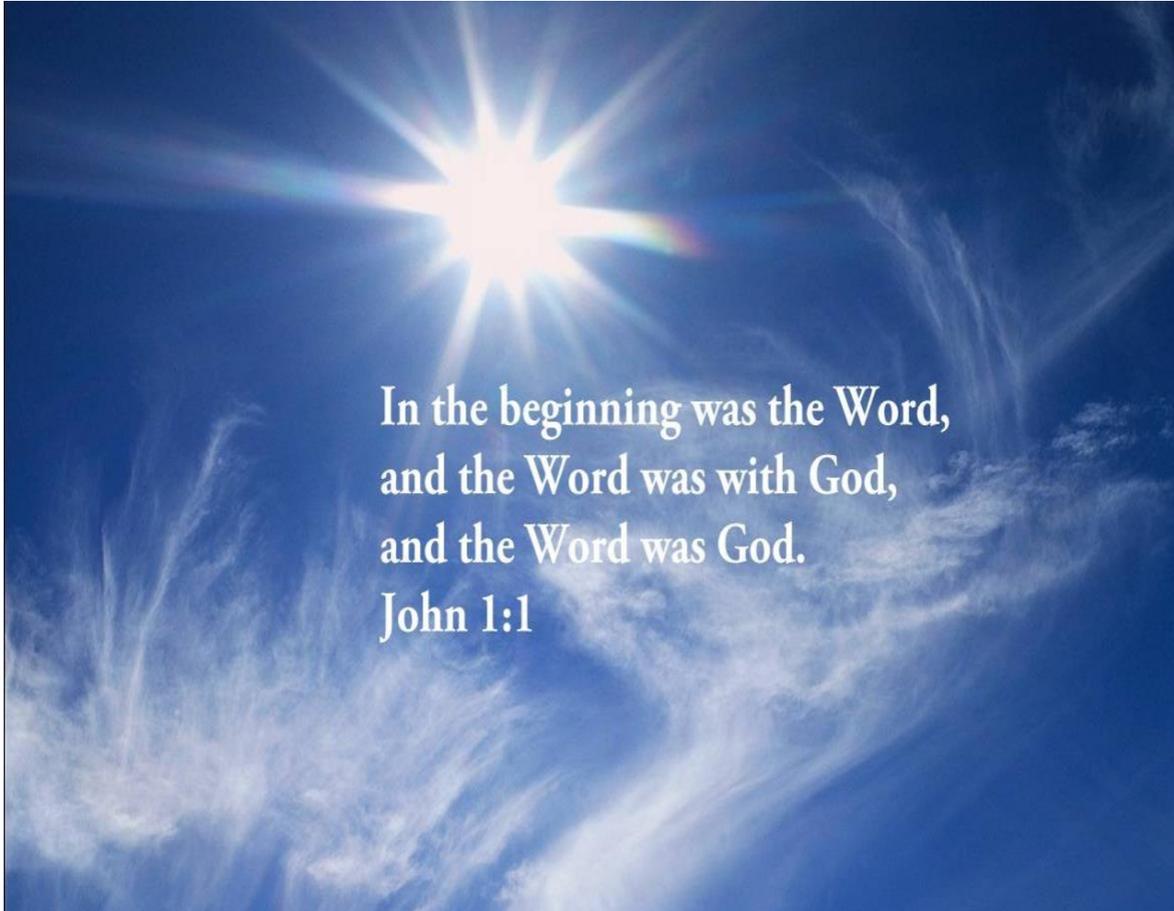


ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

25 N. ADAMS STREET, YORK, PA 17404

PHONE: 717-854-7198



In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
John 1:1

Second Sunday Christmas

January 3, 2021



WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church! May you know God's grace, peace, joy, and love as we hear the Holy Scriptures read, hear the Word of God preached, and worship together this morning (via Live Stream or You Tube) in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

St. James Congregational Council and the people of St. James

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2nd Sunday Christmas
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January 3, 2021
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Congregation reads bolded text.

Introduction

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Confession and Forgiveness

Organ Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and our neighbors.
We have turned away from your invitation to new life.
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,
those we know and those known only to you,
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!
God forgives us all our sins,
not through our own work,
but through ✚ Jesus Christ, made known to all people.
With all who come to the manger,
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Words for meditation and following along.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.,
sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st.4

THE 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

Let us Pray:

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

¹²Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;
praise your | God, O Zion,

¹³who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.

¹⁴God has established peace | on your borders
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

¹⁵God sends out a command | to the earth,
a word that runs | very swiftly.

¹⁶God gives | snow like wool,
scattering | frost like ashes.

¹⁷God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;

the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

¹⁹God declares the | word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

+ [P] The Holy Gospel according to St. John [C] **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

[P] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MEDITATION

Pastor Tom McKee

HYMN OF THE DAY

Words for meditation and following along.

What Child Is This

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet while shepherds watch are
keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels
sing; haste, haste to bring him
laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners
here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him
through, the cross be borne for
me, for you; hail, hail the Word
made flesh, the babe, the son of
Mary!

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and
myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

THE APOSTLES' CREED (livestream only)

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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith (*especially*). With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

We invite you to share Christ’s peace with each other and text it out to friends!

LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

SENDING HYMN

Words for meditation and following along.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,

offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of
peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Postlude

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Assisting Minister / Lay Reader: Phil Kern

CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Sunday, January 3, 2021

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WELCOME & THANK YOU to Pastor Tom McKee for leading us in worship today. Also, WELCOME and THANK YOU to Karl Mincemoyer for providing music for our worship service.

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES: If you or a family member should experience an emergency and in need of pastoral care during this transition time here at St. James, we are asking that you please contact the church office (717-854-7198.) If no answer at the office you may leave a message, Pat B, working from home, checks for messages every 2-3 hours. If you need a more rapid response, and overnight & weekends, please call council vice-president, Ann Bridge, (717-968-2150). Another option is to send an email to **secretary@stjamesyork.org** – e-mails are also checked frequently at home.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES will be live streamed until further notice. We are following Synod and CDC guidelines.



Brothers & Sisters,

Unfortunately, because of the increasing number of new covid-19 cases and the rising numbers of deaths in York County, due to the virus, and not to mention the Governor's most recent restrictions,

I think the prudent decision is to delay the reorganization of the Adult Discussion Class until the spring of 2021.. Please stay isolated if possible. Judy and I will indeed see you in the spring. *Happy Holidays!! Sincerely, Mike Cooper*

Breakfast Blessings has been doing takeout meals and continues to hand out personal hygiene items during COVID times. Thank you to all for your many donations to our breakfast distributions. *Breakfast Blessings Committee*

FROM SOCIAL MINISTRTY COMM. We continue to collect food for the West York Bulldog Pantry. To help fill the pantry the following non-perishable items are needed: canned fruit, soup, vegetables, cereal and cereal bars, pasta & sauce, peanut butter & jelly, toilet paper and paper towels. **PLEASE NOTE:** Church will be open on Monday AND Wednesday mornings, 9:00-11:00 a.m., for pantry donations to be dropped off. If hours are not convenient, please contact Pat Mummert (717-792-0161) or Norma Smith (717-845-7362) to make other arrangements. (Please do not take donations to the school.) Thank you to everyone for your donations.

REMINDER from Stewardship Committee – Deb Meckley, Chair
The Central PA Blood Bank and the American Red Cross are in dire need of blood. If anyone would like to donate, Apple Hill Medical Center on Monument Rd in York will accept your donation by APPOINTMENT ONLY-call (717)741-8307. Please give the church's number 1098 when you donate.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 17th** with snow date January 24th. Please watch for more details as to how the meeting will be held. this year.

THANK YOU TO THE WEST YORK BLOCK WATCH COMMITTEE for declaring St. James a first-place winner in their Holiday Decorating Contest. We received a \$50 Weis gift card that we will use to purchase items for the West York Bull Dog Pantry.