

**Wishing you all  
a very.....**

**Happy  
New Year  
2021**

## **St. James Lutheran Church**

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### **January 3rd, 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

*Our Mission: "We worship together, grow in faith, share our faith and serve with the love of God"*

Welcome to Worship!

We are glad you have joined us here at St. James Lutheran Church.

- ▶ To those watching from home – Watch live on our FB Page or search: Carrie William's FB Page, as she will be videoing Sunday morning.

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Ps 122:1*

### **Welcome**

### **Announcements & Opportunities for Serving**

Let us stand, as you are able, and prepare our hearts for worship

## **GATHERING**

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

God of goodness and lovingkindness, **we confess 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.**

### **Assurance of God's Love**

### **Prayer of the Day:**

*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.*

## **WORD**

### **Hear the 1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

<sup>7</sup>Thus 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." <sup>8</sup>See, 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. <sup>9</sup>With 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.<sup>10</sup>Hear 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."<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.<sup>12</sup>They 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.<sup>13</sup>Then 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.<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD."

Word of Wisdom, Word of God. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

### ***Hear the Psalm 147:12-20***

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,<sup>13</sup>who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you. <sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat. <sup>15</sup>God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.<sup>17</sup>God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow. <sup>19</sup>God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel. <sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the Gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to John: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### ***Hear the reading of the Gospel: John 1:1-18***

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>(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 me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

### ***Sermon: "Where is God?"***

#### ***Apostle's 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 the People:**

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## **Passing of the Peace**

### **MEAL**

....we thank you for your faithfulness to St. James in sharing your tithes and offerings and allowing us to do God's work with our hands.

## **Offering Prayer**

*Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, so with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

## **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 ...**

*we join their unending hymn:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n 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.**

## **Words of Institution**

Mystery of our Faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Communion will look a little different during our season of Covid-19.*

*It will still be the Lord's supper.*

We will partake the body of Christ **with Pastor.**

We will partake the blood of Christ **with Pastor.**

**Prayer after Communion.....** and we say: **Amen**

### **SENDING**

**Blessing.....** and we say: **Amen.**

## **Dismissal:**

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

*Music Published by Permission, CCLI #11445215  
Worship Service recorded by Permission, CSPL #168651*

## **Coming this week....**

- Still have one more week to drop off your change for the Piggy Bank!
- Bible Study is back in session Tuesday January 5<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm
- Watch Pastor Tonia's a "Word on Wednesday" live on FB January 6<sup>th</sup> and catch up on past letters you may have missed.
- Watch for more information and an invitation to join Pastor Tonia's Zoom Socials
- More complete information in the upcoming Weekly Newsletter