

**St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church
December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Worship every Sunday
10:45 AM**

Welcome

***We welcome all visitors who come to worship with us today.
We are delighted that you have come to share in the prayer
and praise of our Lord and invite you to return and add your
voice to ours in holy celebration. If you have a special need or
prayer write it on the prayer card in the pew rack and place it
in the offering plate. Before you leave us today, we ask that
you please sign our guest book.***

**Pastor: REVS. SCOTT & CAROL CUSTEAD
Church Organist/Choir Director: PATRICIA McCONNELL
Administrative Assistant: Tim Surkovich**

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St. James Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament by the Holy Spirit.

Announcements: If you cannot read the hymns, you can turn to the hymn in the red ELW hymnal in the pew racks.

Prelude: Watchman, Tell Us of the Night Bingham/Mason
(We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship)

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

An extended silence may be kept.

Merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

We Gather

*GATHERING SONG: O Come, O Come Emmanuel
(next page)

ELW 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

***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.

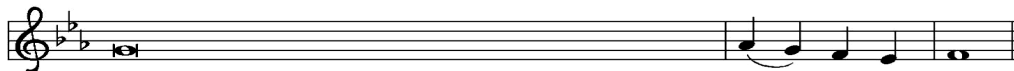
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



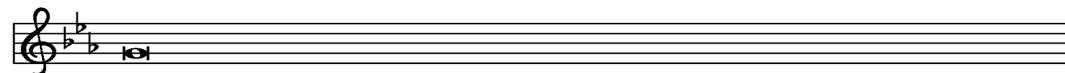
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



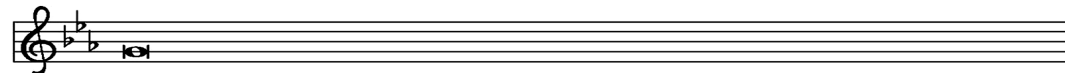
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

*** LIGHTING OF 4TH ADVENT CANDLE**

***Candle Lighting Hymn Alleluia! Hurry, The Lord Is Near**
Sing Only Verse 4

ALLELUIA! HURRY, THE LORD IS NEAR

REFRAIN *Fast and urgent* (♩. = ca. 60)

Em D Em D C D Em D/E Em Am

Al - le - lu - ia! Hur - ry, the Lord _ is near. Al - le - lu - ia,

D G Am7 Bm7

1-4	Final
Em D/E to Verses	Em D/E Em

Fine

al - le - lu - ia! Hur - ry, the Lord _ is near. near. _____

1. Sound _ the trum - pet, the Lord _ is near;
 2. Earth _ has longed _ for his _ ap - proach:
 3. Go out to meet _ him, shout _ his name:
 4. He is the might - y one, he is the Word: } Hur - ry, the Lord _ is near;

1. see, _ he comes _ to save _ us all.
 2. straight - en the road, _ smooth _ the path.
 3. his might - y king - dom shall nev - er end.
 4. God ev - er - last - ing, Prince _ of Peace. } Hur - ry, the Lord _ is near!

D.C.

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SOLO:

Lo, A Rose E'er Blooming

Bob Hench

PSALM

80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

ANTHEM: Advent Carol

Second Reading:

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Romans.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL:**

Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.



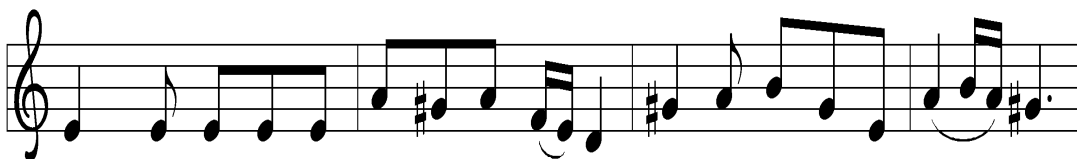
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah ELW 240
(next page)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***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 Intercession

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(Petitions are offered for the Church, the world, the nations, and all who are in need.)

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

(after final petition)

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

*Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: Away In A Manager arr. Keith Chapman

*Offertory Hymn: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
(next page)

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you are right?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most lovingly, your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lovingly all that may please you best.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a soprano clef, and the piano accompaniment is written in a bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano staff. The first system begins with a '1' indicating the start of the first measure. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line with chords. The vocal line features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: '1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you are right? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! Oh, kindle, Lord most lovingly, your lamp within my breast to do in spirit lovingly all that may please you best.'

***Offering Prayer:**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

***The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

We Are Sent

***Blessing**

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. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*Sending Song: Angels, from the Realms of Glory ELW 275
(*next page*)

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*Postlude: Joy to the World arr. G. Edmundson

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next four lines of lyrics. The third system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the final line of lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support for the vocal line.

Announcements

IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,

In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastors Scott & Carol Custead

Phone: 814-254-3072 Email: scustead@atlanticbb.net or ccustead@atlanticbb.net

The church office email is stjamesaltoona@gmail.com The church's
website is www.stjamesaltoona.org

On Facebook—St. James Lutheran Church—Altoona, PA

REMINDER AND IMPORTANT

***BULLETIN ADDITIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN
TUESDAY AT 10:30 AM.***

***For corrections, please contact the church
office secretary Tim Surkovich, I'm in the office
Monday-Thursday 9-1.***

******IF AN ARTICLE FOR THE KIRCHENBLATT CANNOT BE
SUBMITTED BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH, PLEASE CALL AND
RESERVE A SPACE FOR YOUR ARTICLE SO THAT THE
KIRCHENBLATT CAN BE FORMATTED AHEAD OF TIME TO
PROVIDE SPACE FOR ALL THE CONGREGATIONAL NEWS.******



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
CAMP SEQUANOTA BOWLING BENEFIT**

*** See flyer on the back page**

BULLETIN DEADLINE

CHOIR PRACTICE

UN-DECORATE THE CHURCH

*** Pizza will be served for the workers.**

DEC 24TH 7:30 PM

JAN 5TH 2-4 PM

JAN 7TH 10:30 AM

JAN 9TH 7 PM

JAN 11TH 10 AM



Church Council will NOT hold meetings in January and February. Our next meeting will be March 5th

Our Prayer List:

Tim Surkovich Joe Yanke Sylvia Malsatzki

(Names for inclusion on our parish prayer list can be submitted to the church office. The name will remain on the list for one month. At the end of that period please advise the church office, if you would like the name to be continue for another month.)

Those serving in our military

Graystone Manor//Bellmeade

Robert Civils

Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg:

Patti Green

Allegheny Lutheran Home:

Janet Kauffman

In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck

Glenn Dell

John Wiederkehr



Blair-Huntingdon Conference

SEQUANOTA

BOWLING BENEFIT

Sunday, January 5th
from 2-4 PM

@ Splinters Lanes
1879 E Pleasant
Valley Blvd.
Altoona

Free-will donation
for two hours of bowling
and shoe rental

Standard bowling AND "Wacky Bowling"
means all experience levels will have a
great time! All ages are welcome!



SUPPORT CAMP SEQUANOTA'S
VITAL MINISTRY!

Bring extra \$
SEQUANOTA RAFFLE





**Christmas Eve Service
December 24th
7:30 PM**

**No Service
December 25th**



**SWEETS AND TREATS
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS
WILL BE:
March 1, 2020**

***We will NOT be having Sweets and Treats in
January and February**

*** We are always looking for volunteers to sponsor Sweets and Treats. If you're interested there is a sign up sheet in the Sunday School Room. Your support is appreciated!**



2019 Christmas Message

“All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us.’” Matthew 1:22-23

Merry Christmas to you from all of us at the Allegheny Synod Office. We pray that you will know the peace and presence of our Lord Jesus as you gather with friends, family and your church family in this season.

At Christmas we celebrate with great joy the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. The God who made heaven and earth became flesh and lived among us in Jesus. This is good news.

Because we celebrate Christmas every year, it’s easy to forget what a miraculous and remarkable thing it is that God comes to us in this way. No matter what struggles we face in this life, in Jesus we meet ‘Emmanuel’ the One who is with us. It is one thing to hear that we are loved. It is quite another to have the Lord of heaven and earth come alongside us and say, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

That means Jesus is with YOU. Jesus knows you and loves you more than you can ever imagine. Jesus came into this world to love us, to save us, and to welcome you into his eternal life. Jesus is the great gift of Christmas that comes to bless you with his life and light.

Notice too, that our Lord Jesus was born among the poor and lowly to show us that he has come for all people. No matter our social status, wealth, or station in life God loves us. Every person—including you and me—is worthy of the love of Jesus.

Jesus is hope, peace and joy lying in a manger as a little child. May you know the unending love of Emmanuel in this season and always.

Merry Christmas.

Bishop Michael Rhyne,

Pastor Paula Schmitt, and Mrs. Michelle Bossler





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