



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2014**

Welcome to St. James/Santiago Apóstol Lutheran Church

We're glad you're here! Our mission is to help you grow in your relationship with God and with all of God's people. Our worship services are designed to gather us as God's people, to hear God's Word, receive Jesus in bread and wine, and join us with God's people of all times and places. We pray that you will be blessed and encouraged by worshiping here. No matter who you are, God knows you and God loves you. If you are a visitor or guest, we warmly invite you to join our faith community. If you want to know more, please speak to our pastors or a member of our Steering Committee. Below is some information you may find helpful during and after worship.

Children and their families are vital to our life and ministry at St. James/Santiago Apóstol. Children are always welcome in worship. In the cry of a baby, or the fussiness of a toddler, we hear a new voice that speaks to God, reminding us that children are a blessing and a joy. If children ever need a break from worship, we have a nursery in the front hallway by the front doors.

Holy Communion. All God's children are welcome at the table of the Lord. God loves you, and welcomes you to the Lord's Supper, whether you are a new Christian, a returning one, or someone who is exploring who and what God might mean in your life. Please don't hesitate to come forward and share in the meal with us: there is room for everyone, especially for YOU.

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. We serve it two ways, either by intinction or by individual cups. For Communion by intinction, you will receive a piece of bread or wafer, and dip the bread or wafer in a common cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Instead of dipping the bread, you also have the option to eat, and then drink from a common cup.

For individual cup Communion, you will receive a piece of bread to eat, and then choose a cup to drink containing wine (red) or grape juice (white). We offer the common cup as well. We also have gluten-free wafers for those with dietary restrictions. Children who do not yet commune and anyone who does not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you desire a blessing, please ask the pastor for one, or simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would like a blessing instead of bread and wine. Please feel free to use the altar rail for prayer after receiving the blessing or Holy Communion.

Offerings. We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes ministry possible. The offering at this service will support St. James/Santiago Apóstol Lutheran Church and its outreach ministries in this neighborhood of Oak Forest/Garden Oaks/North Houston. A portion also goes to our national church body for mission and ministry around the world.

Restrooms are located in the front hallway by the front doors.

Learning Hour/Fellowship Time. During the time between our worship services, you are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, juice, hospitality and fellowship. We also offer Learning Groups for adults and children, so please ask anyone how to join a class or small group at any time.

If you ever need a Pastor, both Pastor Arthur (713.725.6760) and Minister Aura (608.469.0692) prefer that you call them directly on their cell phones. If you know of someone who is scheduled for surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know. If there is an emergency, if you would like a pastoral visit at home, or if you simply have questions about life, faith, or getting more involved, calling us directly on our cell phones is always the best way to reach us.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2014
10:00 a.m.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) – Setting Nine
P = Presiding Minister, A = Assisting Minister, C = Congregation

GATHERING

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

The assembly stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

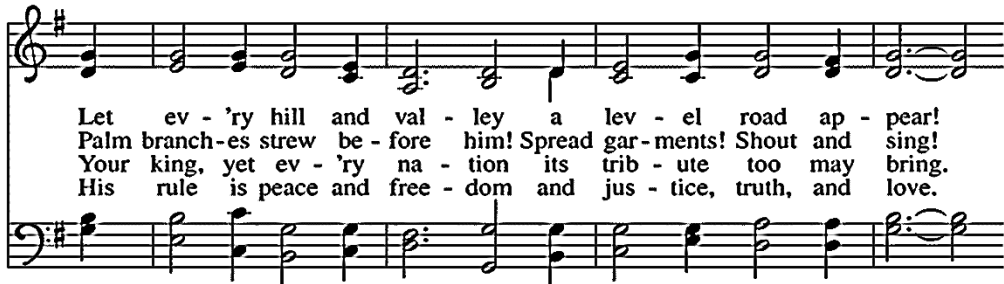
C: Amen.



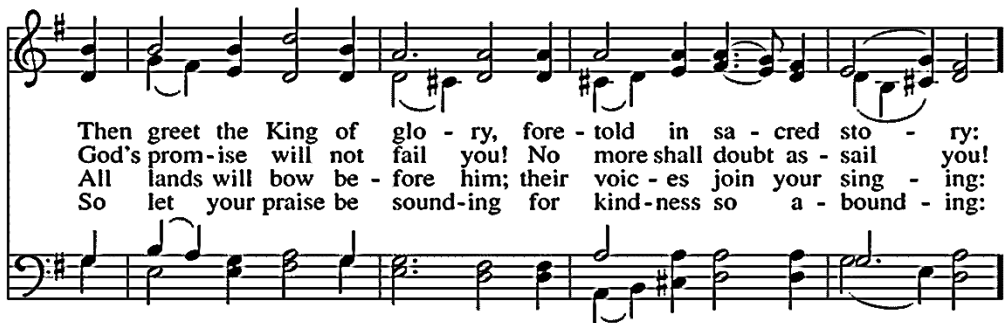
Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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.

C:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

I O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

P: Let us pray.

P: The Spirit of God rests fully on the coming Lord.

C: The promised Christ is full of wisdom and understanding in the Spirit of God.

P: The promised Lord will rule with true justice and righteousness.

C: All fear will change to comfort. All enemies will be transformed into friends.

P: As we trust in God, we find our peace.

C: In the grace of God, we find our hope.

P: Let us—with hope—kindle the light of the Lord.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE:

For the Second Sunday of Advent, we light the first candle, which represents Peace, and the second candle, which represents Hope.



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.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
 says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
 and cry to her
 that she has served her term,
 that her penalty is paid,
 that she has received from the LORD's hand
 double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

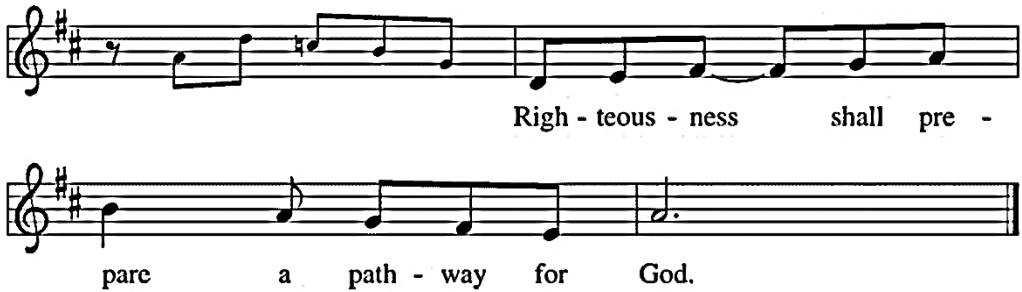
A: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

C:



You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land. R**

Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R**



SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8–15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

The congregation sings the Gospel Acclamation during the Gospel Procession.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

ELW p.198

ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The Gospel is announced.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1–8

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON PRAYER:

C:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



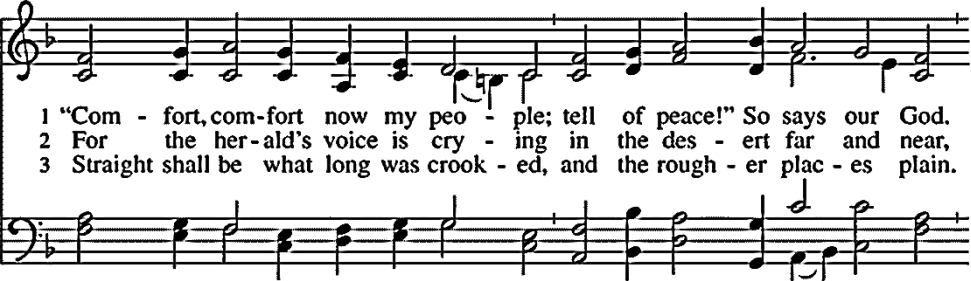
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

SERMON: *Pastor Arthur Murphy*

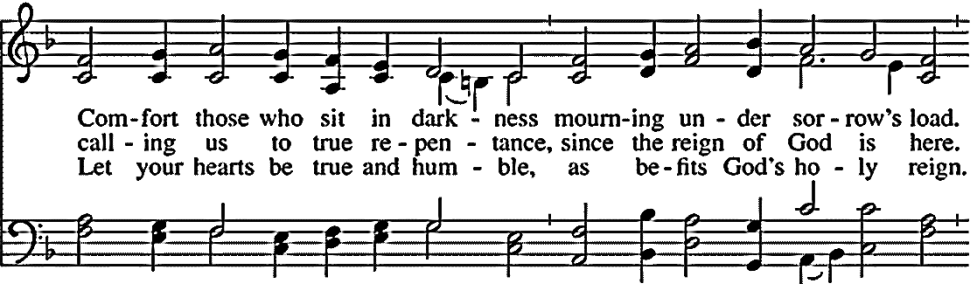
HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW#256

C: Comfort, Comfort Now My People



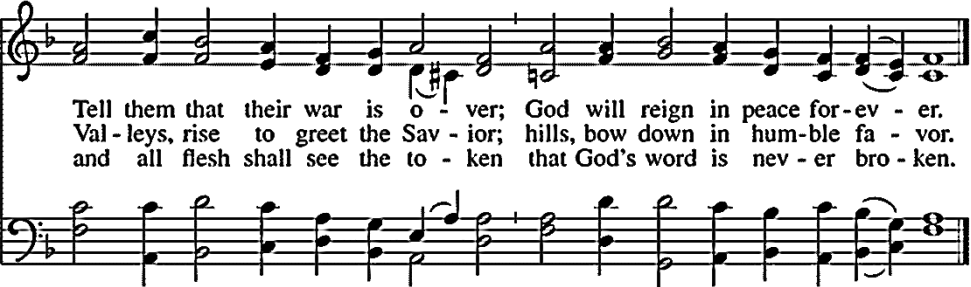
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: For the church, that it be a herald of glad tidings, announcing the good news that you are drawing near. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all who strive for peace and an end to conflict and warfare, that righteousness find a home in their midst. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For wilderness and desert terrains, for mountains and plains, for fields fallow in winter, and for fruitful vegetation during these summer days in the Southern Hemisphere. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all who are weighed down with economic instability, sorrow, anxiety, or sickness (*especially*), that you speak tenderly to them and comfort them in your compassionate embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For this community of faith, that in our busy and fast-paced lives you will grant us the gift of patience and trust in your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for all your holy ones who faithfully prepared the way of the Lord. Open our eyes to the new heavens and new earth made known in your advent among us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The ministers and the congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you." After the peace is shared, the congregation sits.

OFFERTORY:

C:

The People Walk

Un pueblo que camina

Refrain / Estribillo



Un pue - blo que ca - mi - na por el mun - do gri -
The peo - ple walk through-out the world to - geth - er and



tan - do: "¡Ven, Se - ñor!" Un pue - blo que bus - ca en es - ta
cry out, "Come, O Lord"; the peo - ple who long to claim the



vi - da la gran li - be - ra - ción.
prom - ise, God's lib - er - at - ing Word.



1 Los po - bres siem - pre es - pe - ran el a - ma - ne - cer de un
1 The poor ones of the world a - wait the dawn of hope, when
2 You broke the bonds of sin, un - tied the cap - tive's hands, re -
3 The life - blood of the world is shed in mind - less war; and



dí - a más jus - to y sin o - pre - sión. Los
jus - tice will shine and make op - pres - sion flee. The
leased us from fear and slav - ry to the law. We
fam - 'lies de - sire a home where con - flicts cease. With

Refrain / Estribillo



po - bres he - mos pues - to la es - pe - ran - za en ti: ¡Li - ber - ta - dor!
emp - ty hands of all are raised to you, Lord God: oh, set us free!
lift our hands in hope, we put our trust in you, O God of love.
all the world we lift our hands in hope to you, O God of peace.

Please stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY:

ELW p. 200

C:

Holy Holy Holy

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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.



P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG:

ELW#262

C:

Wait for the Lord

The musical score is written for a C major key, indicated by one sharp (F#) on the treble clef. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has a treble staff with a melody and a bass staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' are written below the treble staff. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment with the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The score ends with a double bar line.

Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers for communion. All God's children are welcome at the table of the Lord. We serve communion two ways, either by intinction or by individual cups. For Communion by intinction, you will receive a piece of bread or wafer, and dip the bread or wafer in a common cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Instead of dipping the bread, you also have the option to eat, and then drink from a common cup. For individual cup Communion, you will receive a piece of bread to eat, and then choose a cup to drink containing wine (red) or grape juice (white). We offer the common cup as well. We also have gluten-free wafers for those with dietary restrictions. Children who do not yet commune and anyone who does not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Please stand.



C:

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

C: O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

C:

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE **WELCOME, EVERYONE!**

We welcome all our guests today. Please speak to the pastor if you have special concerns or wish to discuss becoming a member of this community by baptism, affirmation of baptism, or transfer of membership from another Christian congregation.

TODAY'S LEARNING HOUR:

1st and 2nd Graders;
3rd and 4th Graders;
5th and 6th Graders; and
Adults.

We begin a new Adult Study for the new season of Advent. Therefore all adults, please gather in the Fellowship Hall for a study of "Lutheranism 101." Come with questions about the Lutheran faith and tradition.

KEEP OUR FRIENDS & RELATIVES IN PRAYER

Sally Burgess	Linda Bernice Martinez
Charles Cernik	Patricia Nash
Orie Clark III	Louise Richter
Grady Green	Kelly Simmons
Pr. Fred de Oliveira	Kimberly Tessier
Charla Largent	Mic Tessier
John Largent	Ginger Wilber
Margaret "Candy" Largent	

STEWARDSHIP CORNER	
ATTENDANCE AVERAGE	
FIRST SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	28
Nov. 30, 2014	31
TOTAL To DATE	29
SECOND SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	30
Nov. 30, 2014	12
TOTAL To DATE	21
WORSHIP TOTAL:	50
PRAYER CIRCLE	
AVERAGE TOTAL TO DATE	8
Nov. 26, 2014	7
AVERAGE TO DATE:	7
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Total to Date	\$147,632.56
Nov. 30, 2014	\$1,317.53
Total to Date	\$148,950.09
2014 Budget	
\$149,300.00	
Gap to Date	\$349.91

ASSISTING IN MINISTRY

Presiding Minister	Arthur Murphy	Teller	Rose Rivera
Vicar	Aura M Suárez, MA	Usher	Terry White
Assisting Minister	Orie Clark III	Organist	Sergei Savitski
Altar Care	Elizabeth Baber	Cantor	Meghan Garvin
Crucifer	Elyse King	Torch Bearer	Olivia Cardenas

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

Advent begins a new church year. We will read and study the Gospel of Mark in 2014 – 2015.

11:00 A.M. – “Lutheranism 101” Adult study and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.

WED., DECEMBER 10

3:00 – 4:00 P.M. – After-school tutoring at Black Middle School.

FRI., DECEMBER 12

7:00 P.M. – Our Lady of Guadalupe feast day celebration.

SAT., DECEMBER 13

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. – Children’s Christmas Festival.

SUN., DECEMBER 14

11:00 A.M. – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE – An All-Church Bilingual Service with special children’s program.

**CHRISTMAS EVE,
WED., DECEMBER 24**

We will have two worship times for Christmas Eve Services:
5 P.M. – Misa en Español,
7 P.M. – Worship in English.



St James Church ELCA
Community Page about Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA

LIKE us on Facebook!