

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.

SONG

UNEXPECTED AND MYSTERIOUS

ELW 258

SENDING

P: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. Let us go forth in Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

C: God's greatness will lead us!

Worship format adapted from *All Creation Sings* – Service of Word and Prayer
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**WEDNESDAY EVENING
ADVENT SERVICE**

**DECEMBER 7, 2022
7:00 PM**



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us as a community of prayer. Let us spend time in silent prayer.

GREETING

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of † Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare a pathway for your Christ. By his coming speak peace to your people and turn our hearts toward you, that your saving grace and splendid glory may dwell in all the earth; through Jesus Christ, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

SONG *MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS* **ELW 251**

WORD

P: The word of God forms and transforms our hearts and minds and souls and strengths.

Matthew 12:33-37

SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones especially Janice, Don, Nancy, Dee, Janice, Gary, Jill, and Isabella. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. In your mercy receive our prayers, and by your power hasten the day when peace and justice kiss, and steadfast love and faithfulness meet for the sake of the world you love.

C: Amen.

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. 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.