

Second Sunday
in
Lent

**St. James Lutheran Church
2040 Oakwood Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505**

We Grow, We Go, We Gather

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LENT 2

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

I HAVE SINNED

AS WE GATHER

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the subject of all the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments. But some passages say puzzling and seemingly impossible things about Him. Consider Psalm 41:4: “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You.” David, the writer of this psalm, was indeed a sinner who needed God’s gracious forgiveness. How puzzling it is that we would apply this confession of sin to our sinless Lord! But Paul writes, “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). In your Baptism, your sinless Jesus has joined Himself to you and has fulfilled all the words that testify of Him.

PRESERVICE MUSIC, CALL TO WORSHIP, & WELCOME

HYMN

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (*LSB* 437)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 25:1–2a, 4–6, 8

P To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame.

P Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.

C Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.

P Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

C Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Let us make our confession to our God, seeking His grace and forgiveness.

HYMN

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive” (*LSB* 609:1–4)

ABSOLUTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O Lord, our God, we ask You with our whole heart to forgive our sins and wipe out our errors. Direct our actions and, by the indwelling of Your Spirit, purify our consciences and sanctify our hearts so that, forgiven and renewed, we may serve You and walk in Your ways; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (*LSB* 450:1, 4)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 12:15b–23

A The Old Testament Reading is from Second Samuel, the twelfth chapter.

^{15b}The LORD afflicted the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and he became sick. ¹⁶David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. ¹⁸On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, “Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm.” ¹⁹But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David

understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” They said, “He is dead.” ²⁰Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. ²¹Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.” ²²He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’ ²³But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.”

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 41

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

C **In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;**

P the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

C **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**

P The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

C **As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”**

P My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”

C **And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**

P All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

C **They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”**

P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

C **But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

P By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

C **But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:19–25

A The Epistle is from First Peter, the second chapter.

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. ²³When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. ²⁴He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM “OFFERTORY”

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:29–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

“Upon the Cross Extended” (*LSB* 453)

SERMON

Psalm 41:4

OFFERING (Adult Handbells – “The Good Shepherd”)

A HYMN

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (Getty)

Verse 1

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I find a place to stand
And wonder at such mercy
That calls me as I am
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me come
Beneath the cross of Jesus
My unworthy soul is won

Verse 2

Beneath the cross of Jesus
His family is my own
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams
Now one through grace alone
How could I now dishonor
The ones that You have loved
Beneath the cross of Jesus
See the children called by God

Verse 3

Beneath the cross of Jesus
The path before the crown
We follow in His footsteps
Where promised hope is found
How great the joy before us
To be His perfect bride
Beneath the cross of Jesus
We will gladly live our lives

THE GENERAL PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN INTRODUCTION

- P** In the first lines of the third stanza of “*My Song Is Love Unknown*,” writer Samuel Crossman recalls some of the bright days of Jesus’ ministry, including His joyful entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Then the hymn writer contrasts those bright days with the raucous reality of Good Friday, when the frenzied crowd called for the crucifixion of our Lord. Jesus’ suffering was physical and mental and spiritual—and it was for us and for our salvation.

HYMN

“My Song Is Love Unknown” (*LSB* 430:1, 3)

LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER

- P** Let us pray.
- C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings in life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (*LSB* 426)

This Week at St. James

Today (2/25)	Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM Worship Service - 9:30 AM Bible Study – 11:00 AM
Wednesday (2/28)	Darrell Bible Study – 10:00 AM Lenten Dinner – 5:30 PM Mid-Week Lenten Service – 6:30 PM
Thursday (2/22)	Adult Bells – 6:00 PM Adult Choir – 7:15 PM
Sunday (3/3)	Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM Communion Service (Mites Sunday) - 9:30 AM Bible Study – 11:00 AM LWML Meeting – 6:00 PM

Looking Ahead

Serving Today (2/25)

Officiant	Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector	Marjie Weiss
Organist.....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s)	Craig Popma
Ushers	Jim & Nancy Spears
Video/Sound/Recording.....	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
KidzTime	Sandra Schaeffer
February Altar Guild.....	Cindy McAuliffe

Serving Next Sunday (3/3)

Lector	Charles Kirt
Organist.....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s)	Craig Popma / Bryan Ensing
Ushers	Dale & Grace Rosema
Video/Sound/Recording.....	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
KidzTime	Open
March Altar Guild.....	Kim Urbanski / Carol Bifulco

Financial Discipleship: Feb 18, 2024

General Fund	\$4,260.00
<i>Needed each week for budget</i>	<i>\$5,769.00 (-\$1,509.00)</i>
TOTAL Contributions	\$4,260.00

Announcements

Join us for our midweek Lenten services. They are on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30 p.m. Come for the preservice meal as well. We begin to serve the meal at 5:30 p.m. but arrive when you can. This week the meal will be prepared and served by the Jim & Nancy Spears and Craig Popma.

Rwandan food will be served! Are your taste buds craving to sample Rwandan food? Following the service on Sunday, March 17th Pastor Schaeffer and Jado will serve Rwandan cuisine. Pastor Schaeffer will discuss his upcoming mission trip to Rwanda. Through a free will offering, you will have an opportunity to financially support Pastor Schaeffer's trip and to help pay for the expense of the meal. In order to prepare enough food, we ask that all who plan to attend this event to sign up on the signup sheet that is on the table by the church office.

You're Invited to Participate in St. James' Leadership Retreat -- On the weekend of April 12-13th you are invited to participate in St. James' leadership retreat. The retreat will begin on Friday evening (7 p.m.-9 p.m.) and will continue Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.). The retreat will be held at the Warner Building (downtown Grand Rapids). We will spend the time in prayer and studying God's Word. We will identify the opportunities and challenges we are facing as a congregation and begin to develop a plan to address these opportunities and challenges. *If you plan to attend the retreat, please let Pastor Schaeffer know by **April 2.***

Mark your calendar for the 16th Annual ISJ Golf Outing Fundraiser! Dreaming of warmer days? This year's ISJ Golf Outing Fundraiser will take place on June 1st at Arrowhead Golf Course in Lowell. It's time to assemble your team and get signed up! This will be an 18 hole shotgun start scramble format like in years past. Early bird registration for a foursome runs through April 12th and costs \$375. After April 12th the cost for a foursome cost is \$400. If you are not able to golf but interested in supporting the event you are able to do so through the same link/QR code. Proceeds from this event support the school by providing additional resources, technology devices, and supplies for the classroom. If you have questions please reach out to the school office at isjoffice@mychristianschool.com or a school board member from the congregation.



Christian Summer Children's Camp: Camp Concordia 30 minutes north of Grand Rapids, Michigan, allows your children and grandchildren to experience a Lutheran Camp experience with trained cabin Leaders, lifeguards, and program leaders. Weekly experiences include meals, swimming, archery, canoeing, campfire, devotions, cookouts, Bible adventures and more all wrapped around a Christ-centered message. Get more information at www.campconcordia.org. There is also information on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Dear Members of St. James,

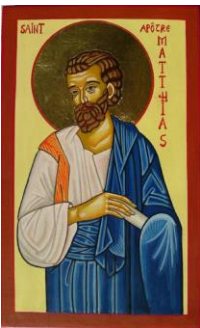
On Feb. 28th after our Lenten service, the governing board will be hosting a policy meeting to share and answer any questions on the following policies:

- Statement of Belief
- Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality
- Marriage Policy
- Burial Garden Procedure
- Church Facility Use Policy

On March 13th after our Lenten Service, the governing board will be hosting a policy meeting to share and answer any questions of the following policies:

- Code of Conduct Policy
- St. James Tuition Assistance Fund
- ISJ School Board Members Policy
- Canceling Service Policy

Again, these meetings are meant to bring clarity and understanding to the approved policies. Our goal is that awareness of them leads to implementation of them with fidelity. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, Feb. 28th. Copies of the policies can be found on the table in the coat room.



The Commemoration of St. Matthias (February 24) Matthias was a late addition to the apostolic company to replace Judas and to restore the apostolic college to its full complement of twelve, representing the twelve tribes of Israel and the fullness of God’s praise. Nothing is known for certain of the life of Matthias except for the account of his selection to replace Judas Iscariot in Acts 1:25-26. After a prayer, the choice was left to the casting of lots, and Matthias became the twelfth apostle. Tradition has included Matthias among the seventy disciples sent out by Jesus. St. Paul (1 Cor. 15:5-6) refers to a resurrection appearance of Jesus to “the Twelve.” Origen, an early Church Father,

thought that this number included Matthias.

There are conflicting reports of Matthias’s martyrdom – one has him being martyred in Ethiopia, another in Judea, and another in Colchis, near modern Georgia in the Caucasus. All the traditions at least agree that he was a martyr for the faith.

The reason for the traditional date of February 24 is not known. In the present Roman calendar, St. Matthias’s day is moved to May 14 to avoid conflict with Lent and to place the commemoration in the Easter season, emphasizing Matthias’s role as a witness to the resurrection. The Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELCA) has done the same. Other Lutheran churches, including the LCMS, and Anglicans retain the traditional Western date. In the Eastern Churches St. Matthias’s Day is celebrated on August 9. (Source: Adapted from : <https://thenalc.org/worship-resources/festivals-commemorations/st-matthias-apostle-february-24/>.)