



## Sanctity of Life Sunday



*You knit me together in my mother's womb*

*- Psalm 139:13*

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

*We Grow, We Go, We Gather*

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**Online Giving: [www.stjamesgr.com/give](http://www.stjamesgr.com/give).**

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**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer  
[glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com](mailto:glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com)**

**The Conversion of St. Paul and Life Sunday**  
**January 21, 2024**

**Divine Service, Setting Four (p. 203)**

**The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, and Welcome**

**Hymn of Invocation:** 605 “Father Welcomes”

**Invocation**

**Exhortation**

*LSB 203*

**Confession of Sins**

*LSB 203*

**Absolution**

**Introit**

*Psalm 89:1, 5, 15–16; antiphon: Psalm 119:46*

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]\*  
and shall not be | put to shame.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever,\*  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- |  
ations.

Let the heavens praise your wonders, | O LORD,\*  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!

Blessèd are the people who know the | festal shout,\*  
who walk, O LORD, in the light | of your face,  
who exult in your name | all the day\*  
and in your righteousness are ex- | alted.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]\*  
and shall not be | put to shame.

**Kyrie**

*LSB 204*

**Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB 204*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

## The First Reading:

Acts 9:1-22

**A**: The First Reading is Acts 9:1-22

<sup>1</sup>But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup>And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup>and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." <sup>21</sup>And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" <sup>22</sup>But Saul increased all

the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

**A:** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** “Unplanned” (sung by the worship team)

### **Verse 1**

I'm looking at a masterpiece  
I'm staring at a work of art  
I'm listening to a symphony  
In every beat of your tiny heart  
You used to be a choice to make  
But now I think you've chosen me  
I see 10 fingers 10 toes 2 eyes and I know  
This is meant to be

### **Chorus**

*I don't believe in accidents  
Miracles they don't just happen by chance  
As long as my God holds the world in his hands  
I know that there's no such thing as unplanned*

### **Verse 2**

Broken turns to beautiful  
I see it right before my eyes  
Every single breath you breathe  
Is destiny love has brought to life  
I thought it was my story's end  
But now the future's all I see  
Instead of asking who you might have been  
I'm wondering who you're gonna be (to chorus)

### **Bridge**

Every life deserves a voice  
Every child deserves a chance  
You are more than just a choice  
There's no such thing as unplanned (to chorus)

LSB 783 - Verse 1 - Take My Life and Let it Be  
Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Andrew Jacob Pruis, Matthew Joseph West  
CCLI Song #7129800  
Get Ur Seek On; Combustion Five; Third Story House Music; Remaining portion is unaffiliated  
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## **The Second Reading:**

Galatians 1:11–24

**A:** The Second Reading is Galatians 1:11–24

<sup>11</sup>For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. <sup>12</sup>For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup>But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, <sup>16</sup>was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; <sup>17</sup>nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. <sup>18</sup>Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup>(In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) <sup>21</sup>Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup>And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. <sup>23</sup>They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." <sup>24</sup>And they glorified God because of me

**A:** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia**

LSB 205

## **The Gospel Reading:**

Matthew 19:27–30

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the nineteenth chapter.

**C:** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

**P**: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C**: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**Hymn of the Day:** 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

**The Sermon** (During the sermon, children who are ages 3 through grade 2 are invited to participate in KIDZ Time. Children can make their way to the back of the sanctuary where the KIDZ Time teacher is waiting. The children will return to the service following the sermon.)

**The Offering** (Please sign the burgundy Friendship booklet and pass it to other people sitting in your pew. When completed, pass it back to the center aisle and be sure to greet the people next to you! Those sitting by the center aisle: please tear off the completed sheet and place it on the pew. Thank you!)

**Offering Hymn:** (During the Offering we will sing "Lord of Life" tune: hyfrydol LSB 700)

### Verse 1

Lord of Life, whose hand has made us, formed us each with tender care.  
You had crowned man with Your image, Not intending such despair.  
Yet through sin the glory faded, Death and doom came in its place.  
But in spite of our condition, We've been rescued by Your grace.

### Verse 2

God so loved the world, He gave us Jesus Christ to bear our sin.  
On the cross His life He offered, That we might be His again.  
And the Holy Spirit calls us By the gospel's joyful ring.  
Making us His own dear children Us, eternal life to bring.

### Verse 3

Lord of Life, Who rose in triumph, Conq'ring death and giving hope,  
You have called us and equipped us, In a sinful world to cope;  
Teaching us to love each other, to befriend and help in strife;

To forgive and seek to comfort, And preserve the gift of life.

#### **Verse 4**

Help us, Lord, to see as You do, Life is precious in each stage.  
From the unborn to the feeble, Life is precious in each age.  
Help us, Lord, to be Your witness And to show the world we care.  
So that people may not perish, But, instead, Your life may share.

Edited for Lutherans For Life, Frank Morgan, 2000.  
Text: Rev. Gerald Scheperle. 1985  
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### **Prayer of the Church & The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** 398 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

#### **Announcements and Dismissal**

**Preface**

*LSB 208*

**Sanctus**

*LSB 208*

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**☞** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

You once proclaimed Your saving promise through the prophets of Israel, and by the apostles and evangelists You published the good news of Your saving promise fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Grant that we, being instructed in the doctrine of the blessed apostles and evangelists, may faithfully eat His body and drink His blood and declare His salvation to all the world.

#### **The Words of Our Lord**

**Pax Domini**

**Agnus Dei**

*LSB 210*

**Distribution**

**Distribution Hymn: Psalm 51 - Broken and Contrite Heart (song by the Worship Team)**

## **V1**

Surely I was sinful at birth  
Sinful from the time my mother conceived me  
Yet you desired faithfulness  
Even in the womb  
It was you who taught me wisdom in that secret place

## **Chorus**

Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean  
Wash me and I will be whiter than falling snow  
Hide your face from all my sins  
And blot out all my iniquity (2<sup>nd</sup> Time to Outro)

## **V2**

For I know my transgressions  
And my sin is always before me  
Against you, and you only  
Have I sinned  
And done what is evil in your sight (Chorus)

## **Outro**

My sacrifice O God, is a broken spirit,  
A broken and contrite heart

Written and composed by Christian Shourds

**Congregation to sing** LSB 412 “The People That in Darkness Sat”

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 211*

**Benedicamus**

*LSB 212*

**Benediction**

**Hymn to Depart:** 834 “O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth”

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## This Week at St. James

Today (1/21) .....	Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM <b>Communion Service - 9:30 AM</b> Bible Study – 11:00 AM LWML Meeting – 6:00 PM
Monday (1/22) .....	<b>Communion Service - 6:30 PM</b> Start of Lutheran Schools Week
Wednesday (1/24) .....	Darrell Bible Study – 10:00 AM Deacons Meeting – 5:30 PM
Thursday (1/25) .....	Adult Bells – 6:00 PM Adult Choir – 7:15 PM
Sunday (1/21).....	Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM <b>Worship Service - 9:30 AM</b> Bible Study – 11:00 AM

## Looking Ahead

### Serving Today (1/21)

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Officiant .....	Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector .....	Dale Rosema
Organist .....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s) .....	Bryan Ensing / Craig Popma
Ushers .....	Dale & Grace Rosema
Video/Sound/Recording .....	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
January Altar Guild .....	Cindy McAuliffe
KidzTime .....	Sandra Schaeffer

### Serving Next Sunday (1/28)

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Lector .....	Irene Talen
Organist .....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s) .....	Jerry Talen
Ushers .....	Open
Video/Sound/Recording .....	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
January Altar Guild .....	Cindy McAuliffe
KidzTime .....	Open

## Financial Discipleship: January 14 & 15, 2024

General Fund	\$2,095.00
<i>Needed each week for budget \$5,769.00 (-\$3,674.00)</i>	
<b>TOTAL Contributions</b>	<b>\$2,095.00</b>

### Announcements

**Tax season is upon us once again!** AND, there is FREE federal, state and city tax return preparation and electronic filing for qualifying taxpayers through the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. Check out the qualifications criteria now:

<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers>. Make a reservation as soon as possible- *time sots fill up fast* - and there are a

few locations to pick from in the Grand Rapids area. If you have any questions or need help, please call Cindy McAuliffe at 616-648-7287.



*“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else ...” 1*

*Thessalonians 3:12*

You are invited to let your love overflow! For Valentine’s Day St. James’ LWML will be assembling trays of cookies to show St. James love to first responders, care staff at congregate settings, neighbourhood school staffs, and other care givers in our community.

Everyone can help share the love of our Lord by getting involved!

*You can use your hands to embrace our neighbours by doing one of the following ... Bake* some cookies with love! *Assemble* trays of delicious cookies at the February 11<sup>th</sup> LWML meeting! *Carry* the love into the community by delivering a tray! Wrap individual baked goods with plastic wrap or small snack bags. Deliver your goodies to church on or before Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to write cards of encouragement for the organizations that receive the treats, or if you would like to help deliver trays, speak to Sandra before February 11.

**Dine to Help ISJ:** ISJ is having a Dine to Donate event at Noodles & Company on January 25 from 4-8pm. Flyers are on the table in the Narthex.

**Lector and Usher Sign-ups:** If you would like to serve as a lector and or an usher, please see the sign-up sheets in the lobby on the table next to the office.

**Altar Guild Needs You:** We are looking for individuals or families that would be willing to volunteer their time to Altar Guild. If you are interested there is a binder in the Altar Guild room that will have all the information that you will need. Deb or Kelsey will be available to walk through the process with you. If you are interested in serving

the church in this way please let the office, Deb, or Kelsey Butler know as soon as possible.

**Thank You:** A big shout out and thank you to the trustees for keeping our sidewalks and entrances free of the snow! Your efforts are very much appreciated!

**Newsletter Information:** If you have something for the newsletter please give the information to the office no later than Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> by 11:00 AM.

**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](mailto:isjoffice@mychristianschool.com) or a school board member from the congregation.



## A Statement on Holy Communion

**We rejoice in the celebration of the LORD'S Supper** as the Lord Jesus comes to us in a very personal manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) It is out of love and care for every individual who comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to refrain from attending the Lord's Supper.

Members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, who:

- Repent of their sin;
- Believe in Jesus as their Savior;
- Trust that they are receiving, not only bread and wine but also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of their sins; and
- Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying no to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life;

are invited to partake of this Holy Meal with us. We request that ALL guests who desire to commune, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service.

If you prefer to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion, please do so. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that Pastor knows you want to receive a blessing.

**NOTE:** We provide gluten-free communion host and non-alcoholic grape juice. Just let the Pastor and/or the assistants know when you come for Holy Communion.