



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

We Grow, We Go, We Gather

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
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LENT 5

MARCH 17, 2024

VINDICATION

AS WE GATHER

In Psalm 41:7–8, David lamented, “*All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, ‘A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.’*” These words pointed forward to our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose again in defiance of His enemies. Do you have enemies who whisper and scheme against you? Have you been brought low—perhaps so low that you despair of ever rising again? Jesus was vindicated in His resurrection, and you shall be too. You can have certainty in your resurrection and vindication because Jesus Christ is risen.

PRESERVICE MUSIC, CALL TO WORSHIP & WELCOME

HYMN

“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed” (*LSB* 560)

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 9:1–2, 9–10

- P** I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
- C** I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds.
- P** I will be glad and exult in You;
- C** I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.
- P** The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
- C** And those who know Your name put their trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

HYMN

“Lord, I Need You” (Maher)

Verse 1

Lord I come I confess
Bowling here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart (*Chorus*)

Chorus

*Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You*

Verse 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me (*Chorus, then Bridge*)

Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay (*to Chorus*)

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ABSOLUTION

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God who gives strength to the weak and light to those who are in darkness, grant us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that through Him we may know You more completely. Assure us that all things are made to work for our good through our Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we may with hopeful hearts await the glory of His kingdom of eternal grace. With boldness and confidence, we ask this through Jesus Christ, 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, 7)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 9:12–16

A The Old Testament Reading is from Jeremiah, the ninth chapter.

¹²Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? ¹³And the LORD says: “Because they have forsaken My law that I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice or walked in accord with it, ¹⁴but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. ¹⁵Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink. ¹⁶I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them.”

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Timothy 3:1–9

A The Epistle is from Second Timothy, the third chapter.

¹But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

A HYMN

“God so Loved the World” (We the Kingdom)

Verse 1

Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more

Verse 2

Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for

Chorus 1

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

Verse 3

Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms

Chorus 2

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world

Bridge

Praise God praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him praise Him
For the wonders of His love (*Repeat Bridge*)

Chorus 2

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world

Verse 4

Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting
God so loved the world

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HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:1–5

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said to His disciples, ²“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” ³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill Him. ⁵But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

HYMN

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow” (*LSB* 428)

SERMON

Psalms 41:7–8

OFFERING (During the offering we will sing, “Chief of Sinners Though I Be,” *LSB* 611:1, 5)

THE GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN INTRODUCTION

Looking Ahead

Serving Today (3/17)

Officiant Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector Irene Talen
Organist..... Beth McKay
Deacon(s) Bryan Ensing / Craig Popma
Ushers Dale & Grace Rosema / Jim & Nancy Spears
Video/Sound/Recording..... Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
KidzTime Cindy McAuliffe
March Altar Guild..... Kelsey Butler

Serving Next Sunday (3/24)

Lector Nancy Spears
Organist..... Beth McKay
Deacon(s) Dave Hood
Ushers Dale & Grace Rosema / Adam Ferris
Video/Sound/Recording..... Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
KidzTime Sandra Schaeffer
March Altar Guild..... Kelsey Butler

Financial Discipleship: March 10, 2024

General Fund	\$4,950.00
<i>Needed each week for budget \$5,769.00</i>	<i>(-\$819.00)</i>
<u>Tessaro Ministry (Nigeria Mission)</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>
TOTAL Contributions	\$4,970.00

Announcements

Thank you! I would like to thank Pastor and all my friends at St James for prayers, cards, calls, and visits during my surgery and long recovery. Our Lord is so wonderful, He has been with me through all my health issues, so glad He is my Lord and Savior. Have been watching services on Facebook but hope to be back in church soon. Sally T.

Join us for our last midweek Lenten service. The last Lenten service for this year will be on Wednesday evening 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 pizza.

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 sign up on the sheet is on the table in the lobby by the church office by April 2."

Second best sale

Friends in Faith is having a DROP-OFF date on Saturday, April 20 and 27 here at church. Simply start collecting your donations for the Second-Best Sale, load them into your vehicle, and bring them to the church from 9-1 p.m. We are asking for all large items to be brought that day due to the inability to store them. We cannot accept mattresses, box springs, analog (tube-type TVs), nursery furniture, medical items, or any items that are not usable or saleable. Members of Friends in Faith will be here to unload your car and take everything into church for you! How great is that!?! We also ask that clothing be clean and gently used. Smaller items can be brought to the church any time the church is open. Please call Pastor before you come. If items need to be brought sooner or if you have any questions, please contact Walt at 616-970-7407 or Dale Rosema at 616-262-1390. Set-up for the Sale will begin on Sunday, April 28. VOLUNTEERS are needed on Sunday after Church to begin laying out and sorting the items for the sale. Volunteers are also needed on Monday and Tuesday for sorting and pricing. They are also needed for Thursday through Saturday to assist customers. It's a great time to get to know each other and help support our Youth and Church functions. Work for an hour or enjoy the 9-4 days with everyone. A sign-up sheet will be by the office. If you have any questions, please see Walt Kryzanowski or Dale Rosema.

Israel pilgrimage (2024)

Would you like to go on a journey to Israel and experience the land where the God of the Universe walked and saved humanity? Pastor Frank Graves is planning on taking a 10-day pilgrimage to Israel (Sept, 18-27 2024). He has journeyed there 8 times prior. The cost is \$5247 (from Detroit and Orlando). The cost includes entrance into all sacred sites, lodging (at least 4-star plus), air and ground transportation, full breakfast and dinner (lunch is at your expense), and all tips, etc. If you have an interest, please contact him at: revbev65@hotmail.com or 616-929-2267. The initial deposit is \$500 and can be paid by credit card. He has complete trip details and itineraries available by the church entry (you decide). We would love to have you experience the land where our Savior Jesus, grew up, ministered, suffered, died, and rose again for us. The journey is life changing and the

Bible comes alive in a special new way when you visit personally. Brochures are available on the table in the church lobby.

Easter Breakfast! The Easter morning breakfast will be hosted by the men of the congregation. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. with the Easter service starting at 9:30 a.m. Eggs, pancakes, and sausage will be served. You are invited to provide the other breakfast “fixings.” If you are planning to attend and/or want to provide something for breakfast, please sign up on the sheets of paper that are located on the table by the church office by Sunday, March 24th.

40 Days for Life: Are you willing to pray for one hour to end abortion? 40 Days for Life is a pro-life effort that consists of 40 days of praying, fasting, and holding a peaceful vigil in front of an abortion facility. The spring campaign is underway and will go through to March 24. The peaceful prayer vigil is taking place in front of Planned Parenthood at 425 Cherry Street SE in Grand Rapids. This facility provides abortion pills and referrals for abortions. If you would like to participate in the vigil, you can register, and pick your day, and your time by going to: www.40daysforlife.com/GrandRapids.

We have another "Dine to Donate". This time at Panda Express on Tuesday, March 26th from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Where: Panda Express located at 3715 Alpine Ave NW Comstock Park MI 49321. 20% of the event’s sales will be donated! We are a small Lutheran School raising funds to assist with student events and activities. Flyers are on the table in the Narthex.

Mark your calendar for the 16th Annual ISJ Golf Outing Fundraiser! It’s time to sign up! 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.



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 (and sister confessional Lutheran Church bodies), 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 the 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.