

Lent

Third Sunday
in

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.

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com

LENT 3

MARCH 3, 2024

SOON AND NEVER

AS WE GATHER

King David's enemies said of him, "*When will he die and his name perish?*" (Psalm 41:5) Do you have enemies who wish the same fate on you? Regardless of your best efforts to "*lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way*" (1 Timothy 2:2), you are pursued unceasingly by three dread adversaries: the world, the devil, and your own sinful flesh. When will you die? When will your name perish? Christ silences your foes and your fears and will strengthen and keep you firm in His Word and faith unto the end.

PRESERVICE MUSIC, CALL TO WORSHIP & WELCOME

HYMN

"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" (*LSB* 423)

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 39:12a; 38:22; 86:6-7

- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;
C **Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!**
P Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
C **listen to my plea for grace.**
P In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
C **for You answer me.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

HYMN

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus” (LSB 606:1)

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. We thank You, our God and Father, that You have drawn us to Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we consider His sign of sacrifice and love, sustain us in our trials, comfort us in our sorrows, and strengthen us against temptation. Grant that the cross may be to us a continuing promise of the forgiveness of our sins as we observe a holy Lent. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our gracious Lord.

C Amen.

HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 450:1, 5)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 7:22–26

A The Old Testament Reading is from Deuteronomy, the seventh chapter.

²²The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. ²³But the LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed. ²⁴And He will give their kings into your hand, and you shall make their name perish from under heaven. No one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them. ²⁵The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. ²⁶And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.

- A** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM “Oh Lord Hear Me”

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.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 19:11–16

- A** The Second Reading is from Revelation, the nineteenth chapter.

¹¹Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written that no one knows but Himself. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by

which He is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN:

“The Wonderful Cross” (Tomlin)

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

Verse 2

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Chorus

*O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find
That I may truly live
O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless Your name*

Verse 3

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all

HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:20–30

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

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

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. ²⁷“Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not Mine.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE NICENE CREED

HYMN “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” (*LSB* 439:1-5, 13, 15)

SERMON

Psalms 41:5

OFFERING (During the offering, we will sing, “Behold the Lamb of God” (Townend))

Verse 1

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away

Slain for us and we remember

The promise made that all who come in faith

Find forgiveness at the cross

So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King

Verse 2

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ
Torn for you eat and remember
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King

Verse 3

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
Shed for you drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King

Verse 4

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King

THE GENERAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN INTRODUCTION

P The text of “*My Song Is Love Unknown*” was written in the seventeenth century by Samuel Crossman, an English clergyman who used the poetry of the great British poet George Herbert as his inspiration and model. In his poem “*Love Unknown*,” Herbert reflected on the mystery of God’s grace and the conflict between human sin and Christ’s love for sinful people. In stanza 4 of the hymn, some of the miracles, the “*sweet injuries*” that Jesus gave to those He healed, are recalled, and the harsh and cruel response of the crowds to the suffering Savior are remembered.

HYMN

“My Song Is Love Unknown” (LSB 430:1, 4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL OF ONLINE WORSHIPPERS

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (p. 194ff in LSB)

During distribution, the Worship Team will lead us in signing: “The Hymn of Heaven”

Verse 1

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven
Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets
To look upon the one who bled to save me
And walk with Him for all eternity

Chorus 1

*There will be a day
When all will bow before Him
There will be a day
When death will be no more
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again
Holy holy is the Lord*

Verse 2

And ev'ry prayer we prayed in desperation

The songs of faith

We sang through doubt and fear In the end we'll see that it was worth it

When He returns to wipe away our tears (Chorus)

Verse 3

And on that Day, we join the resurrection

And stand beside the heroes of the faith

With one voice a thousand generations

Sing worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Forever He shall reign

Chorus 2

So let it be today

We shout the hymn of Heaven

With angels and the Saints

We raise a mighty roar

Glory to our God

Who gave us life beyond the grave

Holy holy is the Lord

Holy holy is the Lord

Holy holy is the Lord

CCLI Song # 7168994

Bill Johnson | Brian Johnson | Chris Davenport | Phil Wickham

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Nunc Dimittis

LSB199ff.

HYMN

“Christ, the Life of All the Living” (LSB 420)

This Week at St. James

Today (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

Wednesday (3/6).....Darrell Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Lenten Dinner (Men’s Group Hosting) – 5:30 PM
Mid-Week Lenten Service – 6:30 PM

Thursday (3/7)..... Adult Bells – 6:00 PM
Adult Choir – 7:15 PM

Saturday (3/9).....Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study – 8:30 AM

Sunday (3/10)..... Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM
Worship Service - 9:30 AM
Bible Study – 11:00 AM
F.I.F. Meeting – 11:00 AM

Looking Ahead

Serving Today (3/3)

Officiant Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector Charles Kirt
Organist..... Beth McKay
Deacon(s)Craig Popma / Bryan Ensing
Ushers Dale & Grace Rosema
Video/Sound/Recording..... Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
KidzTimeChristina Shourds
March Altar Guild..... Kelsey Butler

Serving Next Sunday (3/10)

Lector	Cheri Hood
Organist.....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s)	Dave Hood
Ushers	Sherry Schmidt / Adam Ferris
Video/Sound/Recording.....	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
KidzTime	Open
March Altar Guild.....	Kelsey Butler

Financial Discipleship: Feb 25, 2024

General Fund	\$3,035.00
<i>Needed each week for budget \$5,769.00 (-\$2,734.00)</i>	
TOTAL Contributions	\$3,035.00

Announcements

March Newsletter Paper copies of the newsletter are available on the table in the lobby.

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 Men's Group.

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.*

Dear Members of St. James, On March 13th after our Lenten Service, the governing board will be hosting a policy meeting to share and answer any questions about 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.

HOW TO DO ONLINE GIVING--VERY EASY

St. James has changed our online giving tool to Servant Keeper. Servant Keeper is experienced and provides highly secure transactions. We have been using Servant Keeper for many years to manually maintain our giving database.

online
GIVING
easy. fast. effective.

It will take you about five minutes to set this up. I have detailed the directions below.

1. Go to the church website www.StJamesGR.com. On the upper right side, you will see a tab called GIVE. Click on this.
2. You will need to sign up as a new user, so click on the SIGN-UP tab (upper right).
3. Enter your email. You will need to set up a new account--click NEXT.
4. Fill in your Name, Address, and Mobile number.
5. Select a password.
6. Click on Create Profile.
7. Then Sign In to your account.
8. You will see a list of Gifts--it will be empty.
9. Click on the three stacked horizontal bars next to St. James Lutheran Church.
10. Select Payment Method. Add Payment Method.
11. You can select a Bank Account (checking or savings) Credit Card or Debit Card. Enter your account information. You can enter information for more than one of them if you wish.

12. Click on GIVE NOW to make your initial donation. You can select one of the choices or click on OTHER to indicate your gift amount.

13. If you prefer to make a Recurring Gift--choose SCHEDULED GIFTS--you can select your interval for giving--every week, every two weeks, or once a month.

That is it! Now you don't have to worry about envelopes or checks or cash!

We Thank You for your continued support of the St. James Community. May God Bless You!

Jim Spears, Treasurer

St. James Governing Board PS: If you have questions or problems with this, please contact me. Jim: (616)-690-9550 jrspears@gmail.com

SECOND BEST SALE

Friends in Faith is having a **DROP-OFF** date of Saturday April 22 and 29 here at church. Simply start collecting your donations for the Second Best Sale, load them into your vehicle and bring them to the church on from 9-1 p.m. We are asking for all large items to be brought that day due 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 and saleable. Members of Friends in Faith will be here to un-load 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 970-7407 or Dale Rosema 262-1390

Set-up for the Sale will begin on Sunday, April 30. VOLUNTEERS are needed on Sunday after Church to set up tables and sorting the items for the sale. Volunteers are also needed Monday and Tuesday for sorting and pricing. They are also needed for Thursday through Saturday to assist customers and clean-up on Saturday. 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 day with everyone. A sign-up sheet will be at the entrance by the office. If you have any questions please see Walt Kryzanowski or Dale Rosema.

May 4th -6th is the sale
Thursday, 9:00am-4:00pm
Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm
Saturday, 9:00am-12:00pm

Dorcas Society March Gathering

Our luncheon last month was attended by only a few due to the weather, so let's try this again! We will meet on Thursday, March 14th at 12:30. We will meet at Shots on the River (5760 West River Dr. in Belmont) at 12:30 pm.



We will continue a brief discussion of suggestions to keep our senior members connected to the church in worship and other activities. We need your input and help in allowing St James to continue to be a welcoming place for senior members. In order to give the restaurant an accurate count, please RSVP to Rachel Palmer (616-883-6949) or at palmerrm@comcast.net or via Facebook messenger. Please respond by Wednesday, March 13th. If you need a ride, please don't hesitate to ask. We welcome all women from the congregation.

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. 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. 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.

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.