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# Saint James Lutheran Church

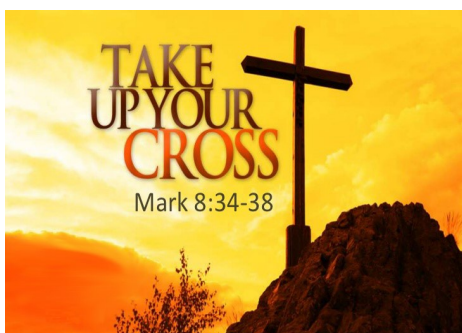


A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service"

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 28, 2021



The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Deep Within*

*David Haas*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross ✝ in remembrance of baptism:*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING: *Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16*

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

A reading from Genesis, the seventeenth chapter.

**W**hen Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." <sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: *Psalms 22:23-31*

A reading from Psalm Twenty-two.

- <sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- <sup>24</sup> For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.
- <sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- <sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.  
May your hearts live forever!
- <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
- <sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.
- <sup>29</sup> To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
- <sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,
- <sup>31</sup> and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: *Romans 4:13-25*

*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

A reading from Romans, the fourth chapter.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 8:31-38*

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter’s response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the eighth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” <sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## HYMN

*God Loved the World, Patsy Black, vocalist*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 God loved the world so that he gave<br>his only Son the lost to save,<br>that all who would in him believe<br>should everlasting life receive.            | 5 All glory to the Father, Son,<br>and Holy Spirit, Three in One!<br>To you, O blessed Trinity,<br>be praise now and eternally! |
| 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,<br>who was made flesh and suffered death;<br>all who confide in Christ alone<br>are built on this chief cornerstone. |   |

## APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary,**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the ministries of this congregation that support families including Families First, My Father's House, and Cooperative Christian Ministries; summer camp ministries especially Lutheridge, Lutherock, and Agape Kure Beach, and our shared ministries through the congregations of the North Carolina Synod, especially our sisters and brothers in Christ at Kimball Lutheran Church in Kannapolis. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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;**

**and 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.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*There Is A Balm In Gilead*

*~Hayes*

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*

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**There is a Balm in Gilead:** Mark Hayes Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #735002 All rights reserved

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at keith@sjnc.net

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
104 UNION STREET SOUTH  
PO BOX 684  
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28025  
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166  
WEBSITE www.sjnc.net

## PRAYER LIST

**Alex Barnhardt**  
**Logan Linenberger**, nephew of  
*Golda Jay*  
**Ada Hagler**, friend of the Dale  
and Barbara Merrell

All health care professionals and  
first responders including:

**Deb Bradshaw**  
**Lauri Fowler**  
**DeeDee Gilbert**  
**Annette Propst**  
**Meagan Lambert**  
**Alison Monk**  
**Debbie Davis**  
**Jason and Stephanie Matthews**  
**Dr Bradley Propst**, son of  
*Kenny and Annette Propst*  
**Sam Hurley**, son of *Elizabeth*  
*Hurley*  
**Julie Greathouse**, friend of  
*Lois Marlow*  
**Betsy Waselovich**, sister of  
*Golda Jay*  
**Lauren**, daughter of *Angie*  
*Buchanan*  
**Dr. Stephanie Garrison**,  
daughter-in-law of Margaret  
Garrison  
**Dr. Kevin Burns**, son-in-law of  
Margaret Garrison.

*If you have someone you would like  
to add to the prayer list, please  
contact Keith. 704-786-0166 and  
leave a message or email at  
keith@sjnc.net*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**28-Feb.** Joseph Beasley  
**28-Feb.** Robert Beasley  
**28-Feb.** Joel Crainshaw  
**28-Feb.** Martha Summers  
**02-Mar.** Amy Splawn  
**05-Mar.** Alex Patterson  
**05-Mar.** Lauren Popovici  
**06-Mar.** Sarah Poplin  
**06-Mar.** Logan Whisnant

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:**  
Juanita Fitts  
**Vocalist:** Patsy Black

## OUR STEWARDSHIP Contributions and Receipts for February 21, 2021 \$4,565.00

(\$7,692.00 needed for weekly)

**COVID VACCINATIONS:** If you  
need help in scheduling your Covid-  
19 vaccination, contact the church  
office. We have members that have  
volunteered to assist in helping  
schedule appointments.

## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

St James has joined with other local  
churches to prepare an ecumenical  
Lenten devotional that will be  
posted on YouTube and Facebook  
each week starting February 24. A  
link will be sent to you each week  
so you can watch.

## BIRTHDAY PARADE FOR MARTHA SUMMERS

Please join friends and neighbors  
for a birthday parade to celebrate  
Martha Summers's 101st birthday  
this Sunday, February 28th at 3pm.  
We will be meeting at the corner of  
Rabon St and Hillcrest Ave a little  
before 3pm to line up. If you have  
any questions, please contact Golda  
Jay at 865-824-8964. If you cannot  
make it but would like to wish  
Martha a happy birthday, please  
call Jimmy Summers.

## DIRECTORY

Members of Saint James.....Ministers  
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

## SAINT JAMES STAFF

The Rev. Tony Bradshaw.....Senior Pastor  
**tony@sjnc.net**  
Jill Irvin.....Finance Administrator  
**jill@sjnc.net**  
Keith Sutton.....Parish Administrator  
**keith@sjnc.net**  
Mike Holt.....Youth and Family  
**mvholt1957@yahoo.com**  
Cindy Cruse.....Hospitality Director  
**ccruse98@twc.com**  
Kathryn Radcliffe.....Nursery Coordinator  
**krad3700@gmail.com**

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

**Joseph Beasley**..... President  
**Golda Jay**..... Vice President  
**Ann Blackwelder**..... Secretary  
**Beth Huss**..... Treasurer

Samantha Hillegass  
Elizabeth Hurley  
Hunter Huss  
Nick Lovelace  
Chris Miller  
Jon Miller  
Mac Mullins  
Mark Murphy  
Al Pieschel  
Kenny Propst



@stjamesnc

## OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:30-4:00, F 8:30-1:00  
Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00

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Instagram groups**—send Jeremy  
Jay any pictures and/or articles you  
would like to have posted at  
**jeremy@pbnjay.com**

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