

Welcome!

*Good Shepherd Sunday*  
*Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
*April 21, 2024*



**St. James Lutheran Church**

**1213 U. S. Route 22**

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## **Welcome to St. James!**

We are so glad you are here! The people of God have been worshipping in this place since 1750. Much has changed since then, but God has not changed. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is our anchor in every storm, a light to our feet, our savior and our friend. Jesus rejoices that each of us has come to His house!

## **Introduction to the day**

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

**If you are visiting today:** Thank you for joining us today! If you have any questions, please ask! We ask that you sign our guest book or complete a hospitality card located in the pew racks. If you would like more information about us, please don't hesitate to contact the church office.

*Presiding  
Liturgist  
Musicians*

*Rev. Levi Powers  
Polly Newbold  
Dave Miller*

## **‡ WE GATHER ‡**

*We prepare our hearts and minds to receive God's grace through Word & Sacrament*

**PRAYER CONCERNS, GOD-SPOTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *\*(please stand if able) \**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN: WOV 783 - "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"**

### **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



**B** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **† WORD †**

*God speaks to us through scripture, sermon and song.*

*\*(The congregation may be seated.) \**

### **First Reading: Acts 4:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD <sup>|</sup> is my shepherd;

I shall not <sup>|</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down <sup>|</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>|</sup> side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my <sup>|</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways <sup>|</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall <sup>|</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they <sup>|</sup> comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>|</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>|</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days <sup>|</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>|</sup> LORD forever. R**

## SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING: John 10:11-18** *\*(please stand if able)\**

*Alleluia. Jesus says, I am / the good shepherd.\* I know my own and my / own know me.*

*Alleluia. (John 10:14)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*\*(The congregation may be seated.) \**

**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow*

**HYMN: WOV 711 – “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”**

## NICENE CREED *\*(please stand if able)\**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

**Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower your holy church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside our partners and coworkers in the gospel, especially within the Lutheran World Federation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**



Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. We pray for Esther, Dolores, Shirley J and our homebound; Beverly, Helen, Alayne & Elsie. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. Comfort us with the promise of the gospel—that you are *our* Good Shepherd. That you are good to us through thick and thin. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith, *including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*, and the renewer of society Toyohiko Kagawa, and St. Mark the Evangelist. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also, with you.**

*\*(The congregation may be seated.) \**

## OFFERTORY

### OFFERTORY CANTICLE:



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and  
dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER\**(please stand if able)* \*

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,  
maker of all things.

Through your goodness  
you have blessed us with  
these gifts: our selves,  
our time, and our  
possessions. Use us, and  
what we have gathered,  
in feeding the world  
with your love, through  
the one who gave him-  
self for us, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**† THE MEAL †**

*We are invited by God, to receive God.*

The Lord be with you.

**And Also with you.**

Lift up Your hearts.

**We Lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes  
In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new testament in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of  
God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING** *\*(please stand if able)\**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

#### *Liturgist*

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with  
this bread of life and cup  
of salvation you have  
united us with Christ,  
making us one with all  
your people. Now send  
us forth in the power of  
your Spirit, that we may  
proclaim your redeeming  
love to the world and  
continue forever in the  
risen life of Jesus Christ,  
our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

## **SENDING HYMN: WOV 678 - "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"**

## **DISMISSAL**

"Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!"**

**Altar Flowers:** There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

**Communion:** Please fill out the communion cards so record of who takes communion can be kept.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Social Ministry is collecting donations for Veteran's Haven North. Please see UPDATED wish list below:

### Cleaning Supplies

- Clorox wipes

### We have exciting news!

Based on your feedback, we have started an Amazon Wishlist! Follow the below link for ease of access to desired items. Please include your name and address on any purchases so we know who sent us the item, can express our gratitude and confirm receipt. Thank you!

<https://a.co/8cEyvVe>

We are so very, very grateful for the recent outpouring of support! Due to inventory and space, at this time we are not able to accept donations of items not on this list. Thank you again for your generosity and your understanding. Our Wish List is a living document; we will update it again as your donations are distributed and our needs change.

### Personal Use Items

- Men's Wallets
- Watches
- Gift Cards (ShopRite, Walmart, Dunkin Donuts, Uber/Lyft, Visa, etc.)
- Water Bottles with Spout Lid
- Black Work Boots (Non-slip, Oil-resistant, Mens/Womens, All Sizes)
- Winter boots, (Mens/Womens, All Sizes)
- Black Work Pants (Mens/Womens, All Sizes)
- Comforters Sets (XL-Twin sheet set included)
- Pillows
- Towels
- Small Garbage Cans
- Coffee (Regular Only)
- Coffee Makers
- Small Desk Lamps
- Alarm Clocks
- Musical Instruments & Accessories (Acoustic and Electric Guitars, Strings, Guitar Stands, Amplifiers, Cables)

## EVENTS

**Boy Scouts:** Every Wednesday 7p-8:30p.

**Church Council:** Tuesday, April 18 @ 7:00pm at the church.

**Executive Committee:** TBD

**Financial Committee:** TBD

**Worship and Music:** TBD

**Property:** Tuesday, May 14 @ 10:00am at the church.

**Social Ministry:** Wednesday, May 15 @ 10am at the church.