

Welcome!
Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024



St. James Lutheran Church

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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 Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is 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

Dan Gulick

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 671 - "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"

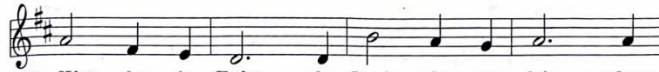
GREETING

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-tory 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.

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

¹How good and how pleas-^lant it is,
when kindred live togeth-^ler in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up-^l on the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar^l of his robe. R**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the^l hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for-^levermore. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1—2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things

so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31 **(please stand if able)**

Alleluia. Blessed are those who¹ have not seen and yet have come¹ to believe. Alleluia. (John 20:29)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow

HYMN: WOV 731 – “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

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.

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Presentation:

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Church President: I present _____ to be installed as council member(s) of St. James Lutheran Church.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

A reading from Matthew: But Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your

servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Humankind came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.
(Matthew 20:25-28)

Address and Questions:

Presiding Minister: Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You each have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace and harmony in this congregation.

On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the teachings and practice of the Lutheran church?

Response: *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

Response: *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them. **Amen.**

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Response: *We will, and we ask God to help us.*

Prayer of Blessing

Declaration: I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed in your forgiveness and we witness to your love made known in Jesus Christ. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain especially the Camp Family, Harvey, Kimberly, Jeri, Barbara, Shirley J and our homebound; Beverly, Helen, Alayne & Elsie. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

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 himself 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

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 676 - "This Joyful Eastertide"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, Christ is with you.

We will! Thanks be to God.

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, April 9 @ 10:00am at the church.

Social Ministry: Wednesday, April 10 @ 10am at the church.