

**Welcome!**

***O Come, let us worship! (Ps. 95:6)***

***Holy Thursday***

***March 28, 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**

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

**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*

*Rev. Levi Powers*

*Musicians*

*Dave Miller*

## **† WE GATHER †**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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.**

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.**

**GATHERING HYMN: WOV 765 – “Jesu, Jesu Fill Us with Your Love”**

## GREETING

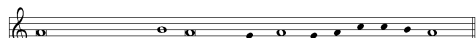
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE



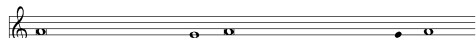
⌘ In peace, let us pray to the Lord.    ⌘ Lord,    have mer - cy.



⌘ For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



⌘ Lord,    have mer - cy.



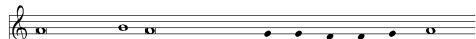
⌘ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



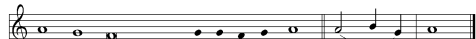
⌘ Lord,    have mer - cy.



⌘ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.    ⌘ Lord,    have mer - cy.



⌘ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.    ⌘ A - - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, 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 ✠**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

*I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)*

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has <sup>1</sup>heard my voice,  
and listened to my <sup>1</sup>supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given <sup>1</sup>ear to me  
whenev- <sup>1</sup>er I called.**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I re- <sup>1</sup>pay the LORD  
for all the good things God has <sup>1</sup>done for me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup <sup>1</sup>of salvation  
and call on the name <sup>1</sup>of the LORD. R**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows <sup>1</sup>to the LORD  
in the presence of <sup>1</sup>all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your <sup>1</sup>sight, O LORD,  
is the death <sup>1</sup>of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I <sup>1</sup>am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me <sup>1</sup>from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice <sup>1</sup>of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name <sup>1</sup>of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows <sup>1</sup>to the LORD  
in the presence of <sup>1</sup>all God's people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of <sup>1</sup>the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, <sup>1</sup>O Jerusalem. R**

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING: John 13:1-17, 31b-35** *\*(please stand if able)\**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you.**

The holy gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

<sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at

once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

## **Praise to you, O Christ**

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

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow*

## **THE PRAYERS**

Let us pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world, and God's love for all who are in need.

God who came to us in the form of a servant, loving us to the very end, gather your church throughout the world this holy week. Humble the powerful, and lift up any who are marginalized. Renew our faith, to have a fervent trust in you, and make us bold in service and love to our neighbors. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God who blesses the grain of the soil and the fruit of the vine, inspire in us a reverent care for the earth. Sustain fields, gardens, and wild places, that all people are fed and every living thing that you created flourishes. Merciful God,



**receive our prayer.**

God whose greatest commandment is love, strengthen us to love one another, be there for one another, forgive one another, and give ourselves to one another. Transform unjust human systems that oppress some for the gain of others. Restore communities as places of justice and concern for those who are vulnerable. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God who was betrayed, comfort people everywhere who have suffered abuse at the hands of someone they knew and trusted. Heal the bodies, minds, and hearts of victims of exploitation. Help all in pain to know that you are near. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God who sits at the table with us, give joy and a light heart to all who share the meal of your true body and blood. Strengthen the church here and everywhere in both grace and courage. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God who brings new life out of death, we pray with thanks for the lives of those who have joined the community of saints. In our holy meal, connect us to the faithful who have gone before us, and nourish us as your people on earth today. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray to you, O God, in the name of the one who endured the cross, forgives our sin, and feeds us at his table, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY

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

Let us pray.

Extravagant God,  
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.  
Now we gather at your feast  
where you offer us the food that satisfies.  
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,  
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,  
in whose name we pray.  
**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 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.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly sits*

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

**Psalm 88 will be read:**

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, God of my salvation,  
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,  
<sup>2</sup>let my prayer come before you;  
incline your ear to my cry.  
<sup>3</sup>For my soul is full of troubles,  
and my life draws near to Sheol.  
<sup>4</sup>I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;  
I am like those who have no help,  
<sup>5</sup>like those forsaken among the dead,  
like the slain that lie in the grave,  
like those whom you remember no more,  
for they are cut off from your hand.  
<sup>6</sup>You have put me in the depths of the Pit,  
in the regions dark and deep.  
<sup>7</sup>Your wrath lies heavy upon me,  
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.  
Selah  
<sup>8</sup>You have caused my companions to shun me;  
you have made me a thing of horror to them.  
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;  
<sup>9</sup>my eye grows dim through sorrow.  
Every day I call on you, O LORD;  
I spread out my hands to you.  
<sup>10</sup>Do you work wonders for the dead?  
Do the shades rise up to praise you?  
Selah  
<sup>11</sup>Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,  
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?  
<sup>12</sup>Are your wonders known in the darkness,  
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?  
<sup>13</sup>But I, O LORD, cry out to you;  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.  
<sup>14</sup>O LORD, why do you cast me off?  
Why do you hide your face from me?

<sup>15</sup>Wretched and close to death from my youth up,  
I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.

<sup>16</sup>Your wrath has swept over me;  
your dread assaults destroy me.

<sup>17</sup>They surround me like a flood all day long;  
from all sides they close in on me.

<sup>18</sup>You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me;  
my companions are in darkness.

*All depart in silence.*