

Welcome!

*Festival of the Resurrection*  
*March 31, 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**

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

**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.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## GATHERING HYMN: LBW 151 - "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

### 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.**

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

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.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

*This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)*

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;

God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare,**

**“God's mercy endures forever.”**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,

and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

**“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!

The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live,**

**and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,

but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness;**

**I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>“This is the gate of the LORD;

here the righteous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me**

**and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done;**

**it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he

was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.<sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.<sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.<sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.<sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING: Mark 16:1-8** *\*(please stand if able)\**

*Alleluia. Christ, our paschal lamb, <sup>1</sup> has been sacrificed.\* Therefore, let us <sup>1</sup> keep the feast. Alleluia. (1 Cor. 5:7, 8)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body].<sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.<sup>3</sup> They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"<sup>4</sup> When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.<sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.<sup>6</sup> But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.<sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."<sup>8</sup> So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow*

## **HYMN: LBW 128 – “Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!”**

### **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, death, and the devil, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of God’s good news.



*A brief silence.*

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. May the light of the gospel always shine brightly among us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day, especially the Camp Family, Harvey, Kimberly, Jeri, Barbara, Shirley J and our homebound; Beverly, Helen, Alayne & Elsie. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for this community of faith, St. James Lutheran Church, and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Renew us in your good news always. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death, especially the poet John Donne, for Benedict the African, confessor, and the artists Albrecht Durer, Matthias Grunewald, and Lucas Cranach. Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; 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 Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

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 the 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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

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

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all  
you have made is good,  
and your love endures  
forever. You bring forth  
bread from the earth  
and fruit from the vine.  
nourish us with these  
gifts, that we might be  
for the world signs of  
your gracious presence  
in 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 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*

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN: LBW 145 - “Thine is the Glory”**

**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.