



# St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 3, 2024

## 3rd Sunday in Lent Communion

Worship every Sunday  
10:45 AM

### Welcome

*We welcome all visitors who come to worship with us today. We are delighted that you have come to share in the prayer and praise of our Lord and invite you to return and add your voice to ours in holy celebration. If you have a special need or prayer write it on the prayer card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Before you leave us today, we ask that you please sign our guest book.*

Vice Pastor: Pastor Drew McCaffery  
Church Organist/Choir Director: Patricia McConnell  
Administrative Assistant: Tim Surkovich

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**St. James Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament by the Holy Spirit.**

Announcements: If you cannot read the hymns, you can turn to the hymn in the red ELW hymnal in the pew racks.

Prelude: Come Sweet Death J.S. Bach  
(We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship)

PLEASE STAND

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*An extended silence may be kept.*

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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called 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 the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*We Gather*

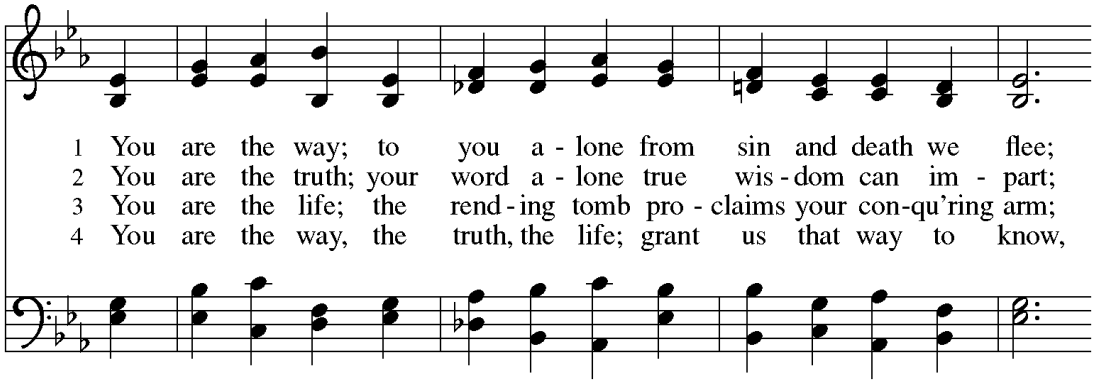
\*GATHERING SONG:

You Are the Way

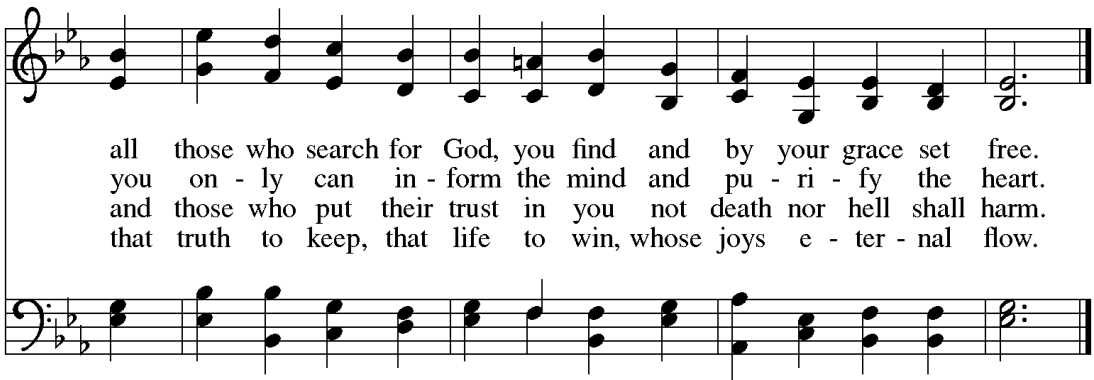
ELW 758

NEXT PAGE

# You Are the Way



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;  
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;  
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;  
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.  
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

## \*GREETING:

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

C: **And also with you.**

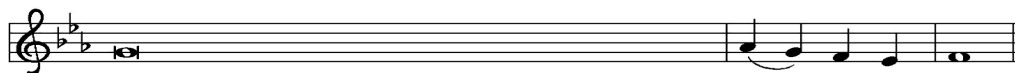
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



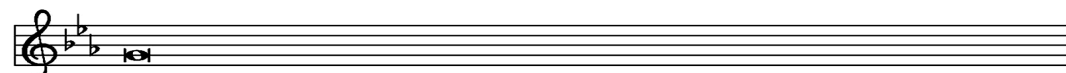
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



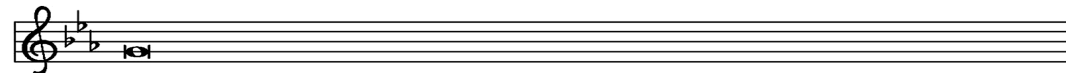
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray.

**Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Exodus 20:1-17**

A reading from Exodus.

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## Second Reading:

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

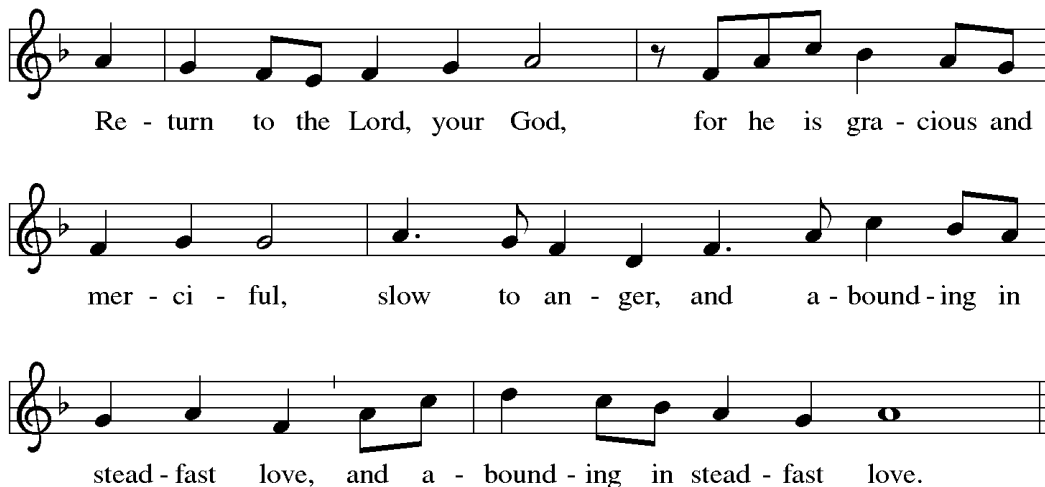
<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

<sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.



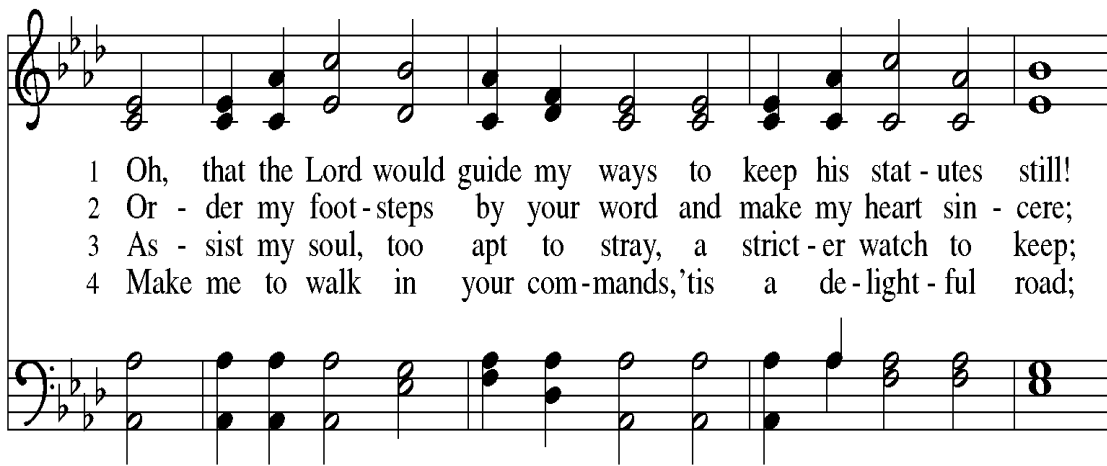


## *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 772

### Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

## **\*Creed**

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land (*regions in conflict may be named*). Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family (*especially*). We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## *We Offer Our Gifts*

\*Offering Prayer:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, 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.

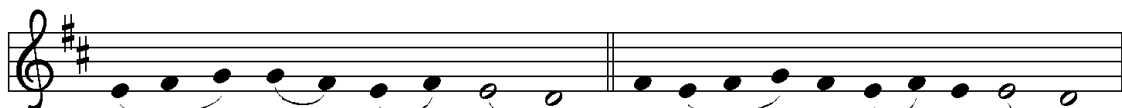
C: Amen.

## *We Share the Feast*


\*Holy Communion



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



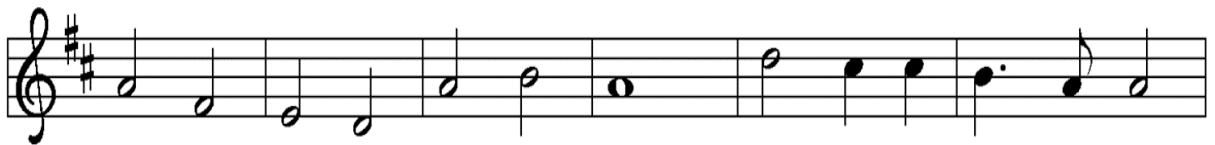
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we might receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

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

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## \*The 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.**

\*Invitation to Communion

P: Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you once revealed yourself to your disciples.

## Lamb of God



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.

Communion Distribution — please come to the step before altar as led by the Spirit to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

\*Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo- ple Is - ra - el.



Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be- gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men



## **\*Prayer after Communion**

**P:** Let us pray.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**C: Amen.**

## ***We Are Sent***

### **\*Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

\*Sending Song: Christ is Made the Sure Foundation LBW 367  
*NEXT PAGE*

### **\*Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional: Praeludium Francoise Dandrieu

## Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord of  
 3 Grant, we pray, to all your faith - ful All the gifts they  
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
 hosts, and stay; Come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
 ask to gain; What they gain from you for - ev - er  
 to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's  
 Hear your peo - ple as they pray; And your full - est  
 With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter  
 Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,

In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Drew McCaffery

Work: 814-944-7560 Cell: 814-538-9036

Email: [pastordrew0604@gmail.com](mailto:pastordrew0604@gmail.com)

The church office email is [stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com) The church's website is [www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)

On Facebook—St. James Lutheran Church—Altoona, PA



### Our Prayer List:

Tim Surkovich

Debbie Thomas

Jeff Bickel

Bill Wilt

Staff Sgt John Hiles

Donna Foster

Jean Bickel

Donna Wilt

Carolyn Feather

Bill Dambeck

Judy Dambeck

The Family of Janet Kauffman

(Names for inclusion on our parish prayer list can be submitted to the church office. The name will remain on the list for one month. At the end of that period please advise the church office, if you would like the name to be continue for another month.)

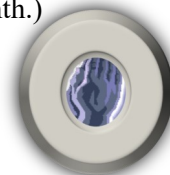
Those serving in our military.

### Homewood:

Sylvia Malsatzki

### In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck





**UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>SWEETS AND TREATS TODAY</b>	<b>MAR 3 10 AM</b>
<b>MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ ST JAMES</b>	<b>MAR 6 6 PM</b>
<b>EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE</b>	<b>MAR 7 12 PM</b>
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>MAR 10 12 PM</b>
<b>MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 13 6 PM</b>
<b>MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 20 6 PM</b>
<b>PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP</b>	<b>MAR 24 10:45</b>
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE</b>	<b>MAR 28 6 PM</b>
<b>*Combined Service with Bethany, a meal will follow worship</b>	
<b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ ST JAMES</b>	<b>MAR 29 2 PM</b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 29 7 PM</b>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE</b>	<b>MAR 31 10:45</b>
<b>ALLEGHENY CHORALE SPRING CONCERT</b>	<b>APR 28 3 PM</b>

***REMINDER: Worship Service will move to the Sunday School Room from January 7th to March 24th!***



# SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH.

**SWEETS**



**TREATS**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL  
BE: TODAY March 3, 2024  
Provided By: Diane Shultz**

\* We are always looking for volunteers to sponsor Sweets and Treats. If you're interested there is a sign up sheet in the Sunday School Room. Your support is appreciated!

**Church  
Council**



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**MARCH 10, 2024**

**12 PM**

**Allegheny Chorale**

**Spring Concert**



**St James Lutheran Church  
Sunday April 28th 3 PM**





## Bible Study Update

**Faith on Tap- 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month at Marzoni's in Greenwood**  
On Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, we started a brand new series entitled, "Broken Signposts" which is inspired by *Broken Signpost* by NT Wright. During this series, we will explore various ways in which we do not live up to the ideals of having a more worldly view. This will be an exciting series, which do not have to read prior. We hope to see you there!

### **Description of the book which is inspiring this series:**

In this thoughtful follow-up to *Simply Christian*, today's leading Bible scholar, Anglican bishop, and acclaimed author uses the Gospel of John to reveal how Christianity presents a compelling and relevant explanation for our world.

N. T. Wright argues that every world view must explain seven "signposts", indicators inherent to humanity: justice, spirituality, relationships, beauty, freedom, truth, and power. If we do not live up to these ideals, our societies and individual lives become unbalanced, creating anger and frustration - negative emotions that divide us from ourselves and from God, he contends.

Using the Gospel of John as his source, Wright shows how Christianity defines each signpost and illuminates why we so often see them as being "broken" and unattainable. Drawing on the wisdom of the Gospels, Wright explains why these signposts are fractured and damaged and how Christianity provides the vision, guidance, and hope for making them whole once again, ultimately healing ourselves and our world.

### **Wednesday Bible Studies will be taking a Lenten break**

Our group has decided that Wednesdays, during Lent, will serve as a good time to be in prayer. We plan to come back after Easter as we continue our series on Revelation. Keep an eye out when we will regroup in April.

**CREATED FOR COMMUNITY**  
**A LENTEN DINNER CHURCH SERIES**  
 WEDNESDAYS, 6PM



**BETHANY**  
Lutheran Church  
(200 THIRD AVE, ALTOONA)

LOCATION SCHEDULE

FEB 21: BETHANY  
 FEB 28: ST JAMES  
 MAR 6: ST JAMES  
 MAR 13: BETHANY  
 MAR 20: BETHANY



ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
(1407 8TH AVE, ALTOONA)

**Lenten Series:  
 Created for  
 Community  
 Wednesdays, 6pm**

On Ash Wednesday, we enter into a season together with “the whole church.” It goes to say that we are created for communion with God, one another, and called to live in harmony with creation.” Lent

serves as a time for deepening our sense of community. This Lenten Season, we will take a deeper dive in our sense of community within a variety of avenues (creation, saints, Christ, our neighbors, and those on the margins). We will also have this in a Dinner Church Style format, similar to last year’s Lenten Services. These services will also be shared locations between Bethany & St James, so we ask you refer to our Facebook page or other announcements for the location of the week. We hope you will join us for what will be a wonder experience of food, fellowship, and deeper sense of community.

For those who will be unable to join us physically, due to whatever reason, you are invited join via Bethany’s Youtube channel (search Bethany Lutheran-Altoona in the search bar) where there will be a reflection from Pastor Drew, along with some reflection questions at 6pm. As we begin this Lenten journey may we feel the presence of Christ as we gather near the cross.

**Schedule & Location of Mid-Week Dates are as Follow:**

Feb 21 <sup>st</sup> -Bethany	Feb 28 <sup>th</sup> - St James
Mar 6 <sup>th</sup> -St James	Mar 13 <sup>th</sup> -Bethany
Mar 20 <sup>th</sup> -Bethany	

# Holy Week 2024 Services

Holy Week is the most sacred week of the Christian Church year. We are asked to remember and experience the week which changed the world and hopefully change us as well. This is a week which we get to experience Christ's passion and see how it isn't just another week on the calendar.

The following services are here to help us experience the kind of love which was shown on the first Holy Week. We hope you are able to attend and experience a closeness of God's love for us and the world.

*All Services are in person or can be found via the Church's Youtube Channel at their designated times. Hope to see you there as we journey to the cross and the empty tomb!*

## **Palm Sunday- March 24<sup>th</sup> 10:45 AM** *We will return to sanctuary on this day!*



With a joyful noise, we gather at the entrance of Jerusalem waiving our palms. We shout "Hosanna" (save now!) as our cry for a broken world. "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" (Luke 19:38) This service serves as a wonderful opportunity to begin our

## **THE GREAT THREE DAYS (TRIDUUM) Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Morning**

*The Three Days are truly a roller coaster of emotions, seemingly covering the entire spectrum of the human experience. This can be a tough thing to face in church, especially as we see so many worshipers skipping right from Passion/Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. But this range of emotion is one that should be fully embraced as we come together for this holiest of weeks.*

*(Sundays and Seasons 2024,  
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## **Maundy Thursday- March 28th 6:00 PM @ St James Lutheran Fellowship Hall**

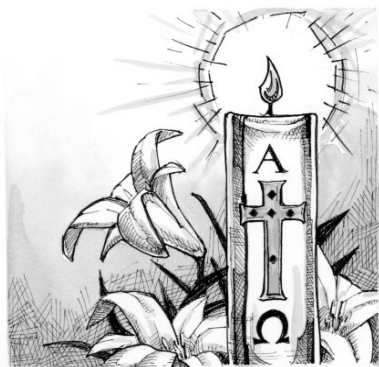
*“Lord make our sad divisions soon to cease; draw us all closer, each to each, we plead, by drawing all to you, O Prince of peace.” (ELW 463)*

On this sacred night, we remember the final night which Jesus gathered with the original twelve disciples sharing with them the commandments of Love and Grace through meal and the washing of feet. This is a night which we give thanks for the gift of communion as we are mere hours away from his death on the cross. This service will be celebrated in the Dinner Church Style which we have been using throughout our Midweek Lenten Services. The altar is stripped as we remember Jesus being stripped of his freedom as we hear the words of Psalm 22 preparing us for Good Friday.

## **Good Friday- March 29th 2:00PM** *(Communion will not be celebrated)*



We gather at the foot of the cross to hear the words of Jesus’s agonizing death for us and for our salvation. In this service of remembrance we ponder his trial, his torture, his carrying the cross, his crucifixion and burial through the use of Scripture and hymns. We also hear the final words of Jesus by candlelight and leave in darkness and silence this night.



## The Vigil of Easter-The 1st Service of Easter March 30th 5:30PM @ St Luke's Episcopal (806 13th St)

This is *the* night, the night to be immersed in who we are as God's people. This night overflows with biblical images of a world redeemed in Jesus Christ. We come not to get all the answers, but to be filled to the brim with stories that both refresh and perplex us. At first it could appear that the Vigil is a simple movement from dark to light, from death to life. We await the magic moment when the lights come on and, yes, it is Easter

St Luke's Episcopal Church, has invited us to join them for a community wide Easter Vigil Service with Bishop Scanlan (Episcopal Bishop of Diocese of Central Pennsylvania) Bishop Schmitt (Lutheran Bishop of Allegheny Synod) leading the service. During this service, we gather in darkness as we left Good Friday and hear the stories of hope throughout the Old Testament. We will then travel through the various stories of hope where we will rejoice in the light of a new day as we "ring" in the first "Alleluias!" of Easter. If you have never participated in the Vigil of Easter, you do not want to miss out on one of the most ancient services within the Church.



# EASTER VIGIL

*Join  
Us!*



# THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER SUNDAY) March 31st 10:45AM



It has finally arrived!! If you ever wonder if there was a day in which the world was changed, the first Easter was that day. We gather to celebrate Christ being Raised from the Dead!!! Death, sin, fear, cruelty, injustice, and evil no longer have the final say in our lives because the final words belong to Jesus. Christ is risen and we celebrate that freedom!

Worshippers are invited to bring a bell (any shapes or sizes are welcomed) which are to be muffled until announced.

The church will be decorated to celebrate this momentous occasion and will “ring” in moment through the use of bells as we sing the return of “Alleluias.”

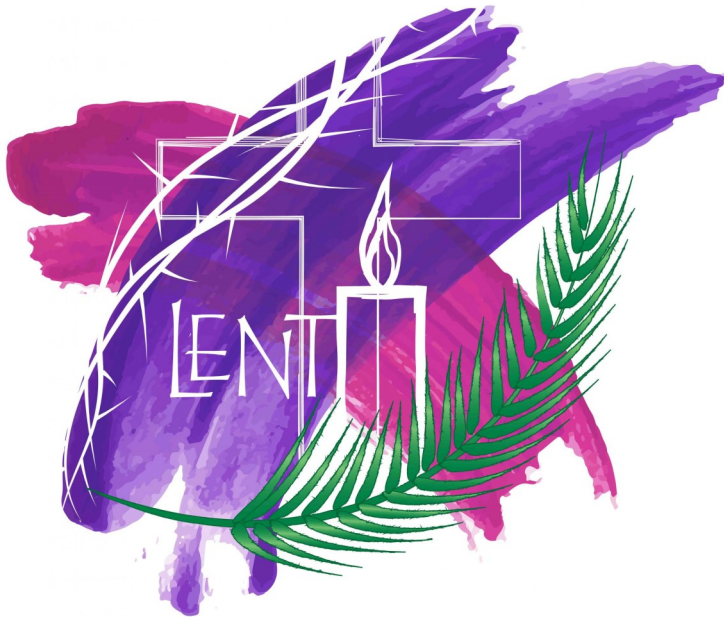




## **Feeding Partnership with** **St Luke's Episcopal**

Our neighbor, St Luke's Episcopal Church, have been in the process with the sale of their building. The plan is that St. Luke's will be able to continue to worship in their space as part of this sale but some of their other ministries are having to make some changes. In conversation between St James' council and representatives from St Luke's we made sure that St Luke's Monthly Feeding Ministry would continue in our neighborhood. Starting this month, we unfortunately were impacted by the snow in January, St Luke's will be hosting a free community luncheon. If you are interested in helping, please let Pastor Drew know and he will get you in touch with St Luke's point person.

# Lent



## A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,  
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.  
Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.  
Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.  
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.  
May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.  
Amen.



## Easter Flowers

Your name (as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

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This Donation is made:

IHO: \_\_\_\_\_

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IMO: \_\_\_\_\_

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Choice of Flowers:

- Yellow Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$12)       Red Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$15)  
 8" Daffodils (\$15)       Lilies single stem (\$16)  
 Multi-Color 3 Bulb Hyacinths (\$13.50)

Amount of Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One:

Yes, I do want to take the flower(s) home with me.

No, I do not want to take the flower(s) home with me. I would like them to be given to a shut-in or friend of St. James.

Please use the My Offering envelope in your pew to place your order and payment. Check the Flower Fund box on the envelope and place in the offering plate.

Orders must be received by 12 PM March 7, 2024

*St. James Evangelical  
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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.