Grow ... Go ... Gather January 30, 2022

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,

before you were born I set you apart. Jeremiah 1:5

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

2040 Oakwood Avenue N.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

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Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer

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The Third Sunday after the Epiphany LIFE SUNDAY

The Preservice Music, Call to Worship, and Welcome

The Opening Hymn: "All Creatures of Our God & King" (Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen, LSB 816)

All creatures of our God and King Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

Refrain: O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, And worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

Refrain:

O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P: Thus says the Lord: No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death. *(Ecclesiastes 8:8)*

C: Almighty God, merciful and mighty, we humbly confess that we have not received every member of our race as gift and privilege. We have presumed to exercise Your authority over life and death.

P: Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb? (Job 31:15)

C: We have not acknowledged our own helplessness reflected in our neighbor's needs. We have not beheld Your image imprinted upon their bodies and our own.

P: Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. (*Matthew 10:21*)

C: We have despised belonging to You. We have denied responsibility for one another.

P: Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. *(Matthew 25:40)*

C: We have let our lips lie silent rather than advocating for the lowly. We have left our hands idle instead of aiding them.

P: And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked ... and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1, 3)

C: We have worshiped our own desires. We have not served according to Your design.

P: Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. *(Genesis 9:6)*

C: We were brought forth in sin and have become altogether unrighteous. We have done what is evil in your sight and deserve the punishment we have brought upon ourselves. P: Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home. (*Psalm 68:5-6*)

C: Almighty God, merciful and mighty, we repent of our condition. We plead for Your pardon and Your intervention. Do not cast us off but make us whole, for the sake of Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Substitute, and the only Savior. Amen.

P: Thus says the Lord your God: You "have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you." He has given Himself in Jesus Christ. By His shed blood Your sin is atoned for, and by His risen body Your iniquity is taken away. In His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 46:3-4) **C: Amen**

Prayer of the Day

P: Heavenly Father, before the foundation of the world, You chose us in Christ to be Your sons and daughters. Grant us to behold every human life as created, redeemed, and called to be Your precious treasures, that we receive each neighbor as gift and privilege with whom we may rejoice as brothers and sisters in Your everlasting kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-12

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an almond branch." Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:31-44

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.
- c Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having

done him no harm. And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region. And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- c Praise to You, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed (Back cover of the hymnal)

The Sermon Hymn: "Jesus Take All of Me (Just as I Am)"

Verse 1

Just as I am without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee O Lamb of God I come I come

Verse 2

Just as I am though toss'd about With all my conflict all my doubt Fightings and fears within without O Lamb of God I come I come

Chorus Jesus take all of me I run to You I run to You I lay ev'rything at Your feet Let my life be Yours

Verse 3

Just as I am Thou wilt receive Wilt welcome pardon cleanse relieve Because Thy promises I believe O Lamb of God I come I come **(Chorus)**

Verse 4

Just as I am Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down Now to be Thine yes Thine alone O Lamb of God I come I come **(Chorus)**

Ending

Let my life be Yours Let my life be Yours

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The Sermon: Psalm 139, "*I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... [and reborn]."*

The Offering

The Prayers

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: hear us.

P: God the Father, Almighty Maker of body and spirit,

C: have mercy.

P: God the Son, Redeemer of humankind,

C: have mercy.

P: God the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life,

C: have mercy.

P: For Your rich grace whatever our ages and appearances; for Your great mercy notwithstanding our skills or circumstances; for the forgiveness of our sins; for our salvation from death; for the resurrection of our flesh; for everlasting life in Your presence; and for our inheritance of the new creation,

C: All thanks and praise to You, O Lord.

P: By Your love as Trinity – Father, Son, and Spirit; by Your incarnation as embryo in the womb and Your birth in a manger from the virgin Mary; by Your growth and obedience as a Son among us; by Your tears for our wounds and Your touch upon our weaknesses, Your bearing our sicknesses and carrying our sorrows; by Your own helplessness upon the cross and Your death in sweat and blood; by Your rising to life again, leaving even our grave empty and abiding ever beside us; by Your ascension to exalt our nature, order our days, and prepare a place for us; and by Your coming again in glory for our immortality,

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: We poor sinners implore You

C: to hear us, O Lord.

P: To bring an end to abortion and medicallyassisted death; to banish from among us the production and destruction of embryonic brothers and sisters; to turn the hearts of those who permit, promote, or participate in violence against life; to strengthen all medical professionals always to care and never to kill; to move all public officials and elected authorities in support of policies, laws, and verdicts that protect the least of these; to defend our land from division, from aggression, and from the deception of death used as a solution; and to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To preserve from despair everyone facing infertility, unexpected pregnancy, disability, or terminal diagnosis; to relieve those burdened by gender dysphoria; to liberate any enslaved by fornication, adultery or perversion; to deliver those scheduled for abortion; to grant safe homes and healthy families to those awaiting adoption; to absolve the guilt and ease the grief of those broken by the abortion of their own children; to work comfort and peace within those surviving the suicides of loved ones; to uphold and heal those suffering discomfort and disease; and to give all who are approaching death a blessed end,

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To gladden us in celebrating gifts of singleness, marriage, family, and length of days; to give us courage in speaking Your truth and compassion in showing Your love; to make us ambassadors of Gospel joy in every difficulty and agents of Gospel hope in all affliction; to impart gentleness and respect to our words and bestow sensitivity and winsomeness on our ways; and to bid us rejoice when any heart changes and delight with every saved life,

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

P: O Christ,

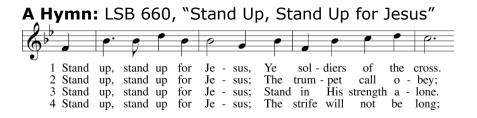
C: hear us.

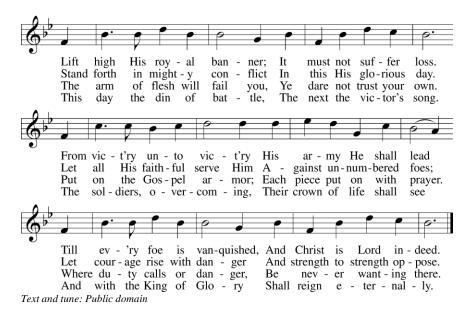
P: O Lord,

C: have mercy

- P: O Christ,
- C: have mercy.
- P: O Lord,
- C: have mercy. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer





Announcements/Blessing for Online Worshippers

The Service of the Sacrament T

The Preface

LSB 216

- P The Lord be with you.
- c And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- c We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- c It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutarywith the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

A Hymn: "Lord, I Need You" (Maher)

Verse 1

Lord I come I confess Bowing here I find my rest And without You I fall apart You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus 1

Lord I need You oh I need You Ev'ry hour I need You My one defense my righteousness Oh God how I need You

Verse 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more Where grace is found is where You are And where You are Lord I am free Holiness is Christ in me Where You are Lord I am free Holiness is Christ in me

Chorus 1

Lord I need You oh I need You Ev'ry hour I need You My one defense my righteousness Oh God how I need You

Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You When temptation comes my way And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You Jesus You're my hope and stay And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You Jesus You're my hope and stay

Chorus 2

Lord I need You oh I need You Ev'ry hour I need You

My one defense my righteousness Oh God how I need You My one defense my righteousness Oh God how I need You

CCLI Song # 5925687

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The Words of Institution

The Distribution (During the Distribution, we will sing, LSB 618, "I Come O Savior, to Thy Table" and "Living Hope" (Phil Wickham)



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

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"Living Hope" (Phil Wickham)

Verse 1

How great the chasm that lay between us How high the mountain I could not climb In desperation I turned to heaven And spoke Your name into the night Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness Tore through the shadows of my soul The work is finished the end is written Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 2

Who could imagine so great a mercy What heart could fathom such boundless grace The God of ages stepped down from glory To wear my sin and bear my shame The cross has spoken I am forgiven The King of kings calls me His own Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever Jesus Christ my living hope

Chorus

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me You have broken every chain There's salvation in Your name Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 3

Then came the morning that sealed the promise Your buried body began to breathe Out of the silence the Roaring Lion Declared the grave has no claim on me

Jesus Yours is the victory (Chorus)

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The Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray.

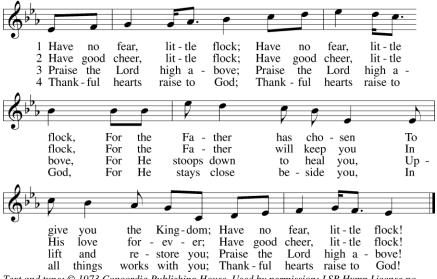
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your onlybegotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

c Amen.

The Benediction

P: May God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- who created your inmost being; who knit you together in your mother's womb; who fearfully and wonderfully made you, grant you the joy of living daily in His love and His mercy through Christ Jesus, the child of the virgin Mary, the eternal Son of God! **C: Amen!**

The Closing Hymn: LSB 735, "Have No Fear Little Flock"



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NOTE: This service was adapted from the Lutherans for Life 2022 Life Sunday Service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: January 30 – February 6

TODAY: KIDZ TIME during the sermon, pre-2nd 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:00 a.m. Bible Study Monday: 6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Worship Service w/ Holy Communion 7:30 p.m. Bible Study on Zoom **Tuesday:** Wed: 10:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Darrell Thursday: 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Friday: Pastor's Day off Saturday: Theological Conference in Lansing 8:00 a.m. Gizmo Devotions on FB Sunday:

9:30 a.m. COMMUNION WORSHIP at St James & FBL. **KIDZ TIME** during the sermon, pre-2nd **11:00 a.m.** Bible Study

Those who serve Today: Deacons: Craig Popma and Bryan Ensing Ushers: Walt & Karen Kryzanowski Lector: Nancy Spears Organist/pianist: Christina Shourds Vocalist: Kelsey Butler Video/Sound/Recording: John and Marjie Weiss and Nathan Urbanski

Those who serve February 6: Deacons: Bryan Ensing and Craig Popma Ushers: Jim and Nancy Spears Lector: Rick Shantz

January Altar Guild: Cindy McAuliffe

February Altar Guild: Karen Swanson

Phone number change: Sherry Schmidt has a new number: 616-201-5639. Please note this in your church directory.

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIF	P: Janua	ry 23, 2022
General Fund		\$4,825.00
Plate Collections		20.00
ISJ Academy		50.00
Memorials (Betty Mosies)		155.00
	Total:	\$5,050.00
On-line giving		110.00
	Total:	\$5,160.00



"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else ..." 1 Thessalonians 3:12

You are invited to let your love overflow! For Valentine's Day St. James' LWML will be assembling trays of cookies to show St. James love to first responders, care staff at congregate settings, neighborhood school staffs, and other care givers in our community. Everyone can help share the love of our Lord by getting involved!

You can use your hands to embrace our neighbors by doing one of the following ...

Bake some cookies with love!

Assemble trays of delicious cookies at the February 6th LWML meeting!

Carry the love into the community by delivering a tray!

Wrap individual baked goods with plastic wrap or small snack bags. Deliver your goodies to church on or before **Sunday, February 6th.** If you would like to write cards of encouragement for the organizations that receive the treats, or if you would like to help deliver trays, speak to Sandra before February 6. Join us for our next LWML meeting on Sunday, February 6th at 6:00. We will have a short devotion, discuss the Zone Spring Rally, and organize our cookies and delivery plan.

LIFE QUOTE: January 30 "Because of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, our Father now holds His hand out to each and every human being: perfect

inclusion, belonging exceptions! chosen! You who has Life of the *MacPherson,*



Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

perfection no You are are a branch received the Vine!" Marie author – A

Do you know that Pastor Schaeffer and Gizmo post a devotion every Sunday? Let your children, grandchildren and nieces and nephews know about these devotions! You can watch their devotions on the St. James website <u>https://www.stjamesgr.com/kids</u>.

Dorcas Society February Gathering:

All women of the congregation are invited to gather for lunch on **Thursday, February 10 at 1 pm**. We will meet at **Russ' on Plainfield Ave**. Even if this is outside your normal lunch time, come and join us for coffee or dessert. Contact Rachel Palmer (616-883-6949) with questions. **February 6** - We will be decorating cookies to donate to the LWML group later that afternoon. We will be meeting right after church for about two hours. If you have any questions, contact Youth Leader Kelsey Butler.

