

Grow ... Go ... Gather
April 11, 2021

Blessed are they who
have not seen and
yet have believed

John 20:29



**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)**

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



Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer

glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com

St. James Church Office: 363-7718

Secretary e-mail: office@stjamesgr.com

Website: www.stjamesgr.com

**The Second Sunday in Easter
The Service of Prayer and Preaching (LSB 260)**

(Please turn off your wifi and wear your masks at all times)

Preservice Music, Call to Worship and Welcome

The Opening Hymn: "Come People of the Risen King" (Getty/Townend)

Verse 1

Come people of the Risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in

Chorus

Rejoice rejoice let ev'ry tongue rejoice

One heart one voice

O Church of Christ rejoice

Verse 2

Come those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night
Come those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight
For His perfect love will never change
And His mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace **(Chorus)**

Verse 3

Come young and old from ev'ry land
Men and women of the faith
Come those with full or empty hands

Find the riches of His grace
Over all the world His people sing
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through ev'ry age
Our God is all in all **(Chorus)**

CCLI Song # 5232617 Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend © 2007
Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the
SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #
20021974

The Opening Versicles *LSB 260*

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

P Better is one day in Your courts than a
thousand elsewhere;

C **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the
house of my God than dwell in the
tents of the wicked.**

P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C **Teach me Your paths.**

P Sanctify us in Your truth.

C **Your Word is truth.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and
will be forever. Amen.**

The Old Testament Canticle *LSB 261*

Refrain



☐ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.




With joy will you draw wa - ter from the



wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the

earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -
 hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the
 Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be 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.

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

The First Reading: *Acts 4:32–35*

The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading: *1 John 1:1–2:2*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all

sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

A Hymn: LSB 487 (1, 2, 4, 5), "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad-ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on
 4 For to - day a-mong His own Christ ap-peared, be - stow - ing
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry To our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,
 And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;
 His deep peace, which ev - er-more Pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark por - tal.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
 Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal
 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 Nor the watch-ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.
 God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!

Tune and text: Public domain

The Gospel Lesson: *John 20:19–31*

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Common Responsoy *LSB 263*

P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Catechism: Baptism

P: How can water do such great things?

All: **Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,**

**so that, having been justified by His grace,
we might become heirs having the hope of
eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.”**
(Titus 3:5-8)

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 470 (1, 4-8), “O Sons and Daughters of the King”

1 O sons and daughters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly
 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them
 5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard That they had
 6 “My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see, And look up -

hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!
 came their mas - ter dear And said, “My peace be with you here.”
 seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt - ed the dis - ci - ples' word.
 on My hands, My feet; Not faith - less but be - liev - ing be.”

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
 He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 “You are my Lord and God!” he cried.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen
 And yet whose faith has constant been,
 For they eternal life shall win.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Tune and text: Public domain

The Sermon

A Hymn: LSB 466, "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear!
 4 "Go spread the news: He's not in the grave;
 5 Christ has a - ris - en; He sets us free;



Re - joice and praise Him, al - le - lu - ia.
 Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.
 He has a - ris - en this world to save.
 Al - le - lu - ia, to Him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go;
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare;
 Je - sus' re - deem - ing la - bors are done;
 Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 And in its con - quest His might did show.
 On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there."
 E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
 He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain



Let us sing praise to Him with end - less joy;



Death's fear - ful sting He has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: © 1977 Howard S. Olson. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553

Tune: Public domain

The Offering Prayer and General Prayer

Collect for the Word

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Morning Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

The New Testament Canticle *LSB 266*

Refrain

C Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.

Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.

Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.

Refrain
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He

lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to

sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

Refrain
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Blessing *LSB 267*

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

The Closing Hymn: LSB 465, "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
 Δ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



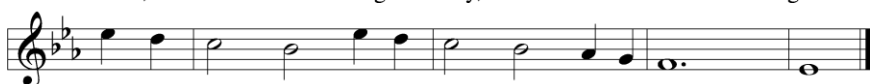
He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 day That by our lives we tru - ly
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: © 1958 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553
 Tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worshippers will be ushered out. Please wait for the usher to come to your pew. If you leave by the front entrance, please use the middle aisle. If you leave by the back entrance, please use the outside aisles. Please make every effort to maintain proper social distancing as you leave the church building. **Please put your kneeler down before exiting the pew.**

Events of the Week: April 11 – April 18

- TODAY:** **11:00 a.m.** Bible study on Facebook
 11:00 a.m. Friends in Faith at church 
 6:00 p.m. LWML on Zoom and at church 
Monday: **6:30 p.m.** Monday Evening Worship
 Service w/ Holy Communion
 Registration is open for April 18 Worship
Wed: **10:00 a.m.** Darrell Pfannkuch's Bible Study
 in the church
 Noon: Devotional Boost with Pastor
 7:30 p.m. Pastor's Ephesians Bible Class
 on Zoom
Thursday: **10:00 a.m.** Pastor's Ephesians Bible Class
 on Zoom and in person at church
 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 
 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir 
Sunday: **9:00 a.m.** Gizmo Devotions on FB
 9:30 a.m. Communion Worship at St.
 James (for registered members) and on FBL
 11:00 a.m. Bible Study on Facebook

Today's Deacon: Jerry Talen

Ushers: Dale & Grace Rosema

Those who serve April 18:

Deacons: Bryan Ensing and John Weiss

Ushers: Walt & Karen Kryzanowski

April Altar Guild: Deb, Kelsey and Lynelle Butler

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: April 4, 2021

General Fund	\$10,745.00
Future Building Expansion	75.00
Plate Collection	590.00
Evangelism	25.00
Tessaro Ministry in Nigeria	50.00
<hr/>	
Total:	\$11,485.00



St. James has connected with Church Extension Fund and Kindrid to offer an on-line giving option. You will find it on our website, **stjamesgr.com** or go directly to stjamesgr.com/give.

We offer credit/debit and ACH payments at this time. You have the option of making this a reoccurring donation and also generously accepting the small transaction fee to maximize your giving power.

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: April 1 & 2, 2021

General Fund	\$1,180.00
Plate Collections	750.00
Evangelism	50.00
Easter Outreach	40.00
Memorial (Sandy Harper)	50.00
<hr/>	
Total:	\$2,070.00

To **register for worship**, please go to **bit.ly/stjamesgr** and follow the prompts. If you are unable to sign-up for worship, please contact the office at 363-7718.

“Who Am I?” – A Bible Study of Ephesians

Pastor Schaeffer is starting an eight-session Bible study on Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians entitled, “*Who Am I?*” There is much confusion about one’s identity today. St. Paul dispels this dysphoria by reminding us of who we are in relationship to Christ and in relationship to our brothers and sisters in Christ. A component of this study will focus on “*race relations*” as St. Paul addresses this issue particularly in Ephesians 2:11-22.



This study will be offered two times **beginning THIS WEEK:**

- Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Thursday at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom and in person at the church

Please register for the course by emailing Pastor Schaeffer at glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com or by calling the office at 616-363-7718.

This course, like all courses taught by Pastor Schaeffer, is open not only to members of St. James, but to people who are interested in studying God’s Word with Christians.

ISJ Academy Golf Outing



Reserve **Saturday, June 5th** for ISJ’s annual golf outing. This year the fundraiser will be at the Arrowhead Golf Course in Lowell. Pastor Schaeffer hopes to assemble a golfing foursome. Anyone interested in being a part of his foursome, let him know **ASAP**. We will make information about the golf outing available to you as we receive it.



LWML will meet for a Bible study and a short meeting **TODAY** at **6:00pm** in the church basement and on Zoom. If you would like to attend using Zoom, please let Grace Rosema know and we will make sure you receive the link.

Mites: We **thank you** for your continued support. **“LCMS Deaconess Ministry LCMS Office of International Mission - \$39,523”** is one of our mission grant recipients. The LCMS Deaconess Ministry works both domestically and internationally. LCMS deaconesses are women who are full-time professional church workers trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching of the Christian faith. For information and how to help go to: www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-21.

Please keep saving your mites. If you are ready to turn them in, please put them in the mite box located in the church entryway when you attend church on Sunday, or mail a check to Rie Wiles, our St. James LWML treasurer.

Thank you.



Lutherans For Life Life Quote for Sunday, April 11:

“Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter clinched it for Paul. If God’s Son, divine and holy from all eternity, would take on human flesh for me, obey the commandments for me, suffer and die for me, and rise again to guarantee my forgiveness and resurrection, there can be no doubt. He loves me.”

Rev. Mark Jeske, Time of Grace

Life Thought in the Church Year for April 11 – Easter

II: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29) that even an embryo is a life worth having. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed that even becoming incapacitated or uncommunicative is a life worth living. Blessed are we who believe the Risen Savior proves every life precious!