

Grow ... Go ... Gather
March 27, 2022



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

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

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent
The Order of Service
(The Service of Prayer and Preaching, p. 260ff.)

The Preservice Music, The Call to Worship and the Welcome

The Opening Hymn: LSB 873, "Christ whose Glory Fills the Skies"



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by Thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise; Tri - umph o'er the shades of night.
Joy-less is the day's re - turn Till Thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, Scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
Till they in - ward light im - part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
More and more Thy - self dis - play, Shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88 Tune: attr. Johann G. Werner, 1777–1822 Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Versicles LSB p. 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 Return to the Lord, your God, for He is
gracious and merciful,
C **slow to anger, and abounding in
steadfast love, and repents of evil.**
- P Jesus said: If any man would come after
Me,

- C **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**
- P Christ was wounded for our transgressions.
- C **He was bruised for our iniquities.**
- 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.**

A Hymn: LSB 452, "O Perfect Life of Love"



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,
 2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;
 3 No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;
 4 And on His thorn - crowned head And on His sin - less soul



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.
 His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scrip - tures have ful - filled.
 All forms of hu - man grief and care Have pierced that ten - der heart.
 Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.

- 5 In perfect love He dies;
 For me He dies, for me.
 O all-atoning Sacrifice,
 I cling by faith to Thee.
- 6 In ev'ry time of need,
 Before the judgment throne,
 Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
 Thy merits, not mine own.
- 7 Yet work, O Lord, in me
 As Thou for me hast wrought;

And let my love the answer be
To grace Thy love has brought.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, alt. Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591 Text and tune: Public domain

The Psalm for the Day: Psalm 32 (Spoken responsively)

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

C **Blessed is the man against whom
the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose
spirit there is no deceit.**

P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

C **For day and night your hand was heavy upon
me; my strength was dried up as by the heat
of summer.**

P I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover
my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my
transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the
iniquity of my sin.

C **Therefore let everyone who is godly offer
prayer to you at a time when you may be
found; surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.**

P You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me
from trouble; you surround me with shouts of
deliverance.

C **I will instruct you and teach you in the way
you should go; I will counsel you with my
eye upon you.**

P Be not like a horse or a mule, without
understanding, which must be curbed with bit and
bridle, or it will not stay near you.

C **Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but
steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts
in the LORD.**

P Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

The Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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 Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 12:1-6

L A reading from Isaiah, the twelfth chapter.

¹You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

²"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

"Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for

joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

L The Epistle reading is from 2 Corinthians, the fifth chapter.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

A Hymn: “The Wonderful Cross” (Chris Tomlin)

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

Verse 2

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Chorus

O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find
That I may truly live
O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless Your name

Verse 3

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all **(Chorus)**

CCLI Song # 3148435 Chris Tomlin | Isaac Watts | J. D. Walt | Jesse Reeves | Lowell Mason © 2000
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The Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:1-3, 11b -32

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: . . .

"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he

divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'²⁸But he was angry and

refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

The Lenten Responary LSB p. 263

P We have an advocate with the Father:
Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

P We have an advocate with the Father;
Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

A Catechism Reading (Baptism)

P What is Baptism?

C **Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.**

P Which is that word of God?

- C **Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)**
- P What benefits does Baptism give?
- C **It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.**
- P Which are these words and promises of God?
- C **Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)**

The Sermon Hymn: "How Deep the Father's Love"

Verse 1

How deep the Father's love for us
 How vast beyond all measure
 That He should give His only Son
 To make a wretch His treasure
 How great the pain of searing loss
 The Father turns His face away
 As wounds which mar the Chosen One
 Bring many sons to glory

Verse 2

Behold the Man upon a cross
 My sin upon His shoulders
 Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
 Call out among the scoffers
 It was my sin that held Him there
 Until it was accomplished
 His dying breath has brought me life
 I know that it is finished

Verse 3

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

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The Sermon: Matthew 23:27-28, "Lent: A Time for Renewal of True Religion"

Matthew 23:27-28

²⁷Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

The Offering

The Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

The Collect for the Word LSB p. 265

- 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.**

The Morning Prayer LSB p. 266

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 Blessing LSB p. 267

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

C **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: "Jesus Paid It All"

Verse 1

I hear the Saviour say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray

Find in Me thine all in all

Chorus

Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Verse 2

Lord now indeed I find
Thy power and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone **(Chorus)**

Verse 3

For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calvary's Lamb **(Chorus)**

Verse 4

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat **(Chorus)**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: March 27 – April 3

- TODAY:** **KIDZ TIME** during the sermon, pre-2nd
Coffee Hour following the service
11:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Monday:** **6:30 p.m.** Monday Evening Worship
Service w/ Holy Communion
7:30 p.m. Deacon's Meeting
- Wed:** **10:00 a.m.** Bible Study w/ Darrell
7:00 p.m. LENTEN WORSHIP
- Friday:** Pastor's Day off
- Sunday:** **8:00 a.m.** Gizmo Devotions on FB
9:30 a.m. COMMUNION WORSHIP at St
James & FBL.
11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Those who serve Today:

Deacon: John Weiss

Ushers: Walt & Karen Kryzanowski

Lector: Jason Alexander

Organist/pianist: Beth McKay

Video/Sound/Recording: John and Marjie Weiss
and Nathan Urbanski

Those who serve Lenten Worship: March 30

Deacon: Jerry Talen

Ushers: Nate, Kim, Hayden and Heath Urbanski

Those who serve next week: April 3

Deacons: Bryan Ensing and Craig Popma

Ushers: Jim and Nancy Spears

Lector: Charlie Kirt

March Altar Guild: Carol Bifulco and Kim Urbanski

April Altar Guild: Deb, Kelsey and Lynelle Butler

Hope Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, would like to invite congregation members to the

Installation of their new Pastor;

Rev. Christopher Nuttelman.

The installation service will be held on **April**

10th (Palm Sunday) at **4:00 p.m.** Hope is located at 100 Packard Ave. SE Grand Rapids.

HELP WANTED: We are in need of a person with Microsoft computer skills for software support/upgrades. This tech support opportunity does not involve significant time. If you have these skills, please see either John Weiss or Jim Spears.

Midweek Lenten services will be held on March 30 and April 6. They begin at 7:00 p.m. and will also be livestreamed on Facebook Live.

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: March 20, 2022

General Fund	\$2,605.00
Plate Collections	29.00
Rent – School	30.00
ISJ Academy	50.00
Tessaro Ministry Nigeria Mission	10.00
Memorials – Therese Kirt	25.00
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Total:	\$2,749.00
On-line giving	330.00
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Total:	\$3,079.00

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE: The LCMS Office of International Mission is currently working with five



partner churches to help refugees from this conflict. To support the people of Ukraine, please pray for them. If you desire to contribute to their needs, there are three ways to

donate: Text LCMSUKRAINE to 41-444; [Give online](#); or call [888.930.4438](tel:888.930.4438).

START COLLECTING THOSE ITEMS for the next **Friends in Faith 2nd Best Sale** on **May 4-6**.

A **Drop-Off Day** has been planned for **Saturday, April 30th, 1-4 p.m.**, but items can be brought any time the church is open. Contact Walt or Dale if you need to drop off donations or have any questions.

Our St. James LWML will be collecting items throughout the month of April to be given to Phil's Friends; an organization that provides Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer.



A box is located in our church entryway for anyone from our congregation who would like to donate. Items needed: *women's fuzzy socks, fragrance-free 5oz. or smaller lotion, puzzle books (word search), journals (not spiral bound) and decks of playing cards.*

Also offered on a table in our entryway are *cards to color and directions/examples of short messages of hope to write within.* Phil's Friends will include these cards, and the other items we collect, in care packages that will be sent to individuals battling cancer.

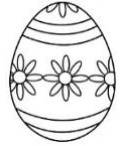
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

An opportunity is available to join the St. James Altar Guild. This is a 1-month commitment of setting-up

& cleaning-up for Communion Sundays, Monday Evening Worship services, and filling candles. Multiple people and/or families can be on an Altar Guild team. If you are interested in serving during the month of May, please contact John Weiss.

An EGGS-traordinary Easter EGGS-perience is almost here!

Our outreach will take place on the Saturday after Easter, **April 23** from 1-3. We have 7 exciting stations planned for our event. ISJ is partnering with us and will have their own Earth Day related booth as the event takes place on the day after Earth Day.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to fill eggs. All the eggs have been passed out. If you would like to fill some eggs, please, purchase them on your own and mark the bag they are in with the words "New Eggs" and how many eggs are in the bag.

Thank you also to Friends in Faith and to the many individuals who donated money for children's Bibles. We are excited to be able to offer participating families a choice of Bibles for different age levels.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has volunteered. We have our event crew in place, but welcome any additional volunteers to lighten the load and make the day more fun for everyone! Volunteers will receive additional information soon.

So what do we need? We need donations of new or used "fat" watercolor markers. We could use some small Easter baskets for kids to borrow during the egg hunt. Additional prizes for games, such as bubbles, small balls, or skipping ropes are welcomed.

If you have any questions, please, speak to Sandra Schaeffer.



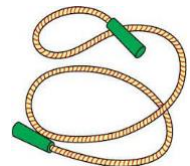
Easter Breakfast

Friends in Faith is planning for the Easter Breakfast on Easter morning, **April 17th**, before the 9:30 AM church service. Everything will be provided through a generous donation so all we ask is that you preregister how many people will be attending. This way we know how many to plan seating for and how much food to order.

There is a **sheet** by entry will be promptly AM.



sign-up the office door. We serving by 8:00





Hey ladies! It is time to “Shower” Nikki Butler with love and you are invited to join in the fun!

Nikki and Brendan are expecting a baby girl in May which is coming quickly. The shower will be held at St. James, on Sunday, **April 10th** beginning at 3:30 p.m. Nikki is registered at **Babylist.com**, so you can check out what she needs. If you would like to contribute to a group gift, you can donate through Kari Kippen or Sandra Schaeffer.

Please, RSVP by April 3rd to Kari Kippen at (616) 262-5124 OR karikippenrealtor@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Walk for Good Food

The North End Wellness Coalition has invited our church to participate in the **45th Annual Walk for Good Food** (formerly known as the **Hunger Walk**). The walk was suspended the past two years but is being brought back this year. By donating to support Access of West Michigan, you can help create a good food system for everyone in our community.

Our plan is to support this effort as a church. There will be envelopes in the bulletin during the month of

April that you can use to make a donation. Once we have the donations, we will present them to NEWC at the kick-off event at **Briggs Park** on **May 1**. Please consider donating to this worthy event cause. If you have any questions, please see Dale Rosema. Please make any **checks payable to Access of West Michigan**. There will be details on how to donate electronically in the first April bulletin. Thank You.