

**St. James Lutheran Church
2040 Oakwood Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505**

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 12, 2023

The Preservice Music, The Call to Worship & Welcome

Opening Hymn: 400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;

Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Tune: James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Versicles

LSB 285

L O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

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.**

Psalm 119:1–8; antiphon: v. 1 *Psalm 119:1–8; antiphon: v. 1*

¹Blessèd are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! ²Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, ³who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! ⁴You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. ⁵Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! ⁶Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. ⁷I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your just and righteous decrees. ⁸I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

The Prayer of the Day

I Let us pray.

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call

heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1–9

¹But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? ⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.

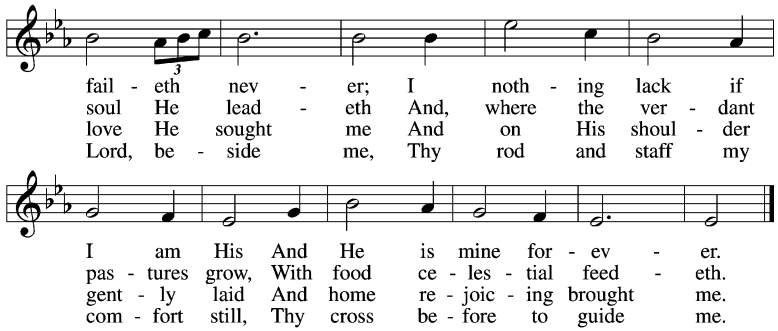
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my

I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77
Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:21–37

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹[Jesus said:] “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest

your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. ²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. ³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ³³“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father
 Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the
 living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: 704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, And let my
 2 Re - move the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all
 3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, That glad - ly
 4 Grant that I on - ly You may love And seek those

heart and soul be bright, Il - lu - mined with the
 my im - pu - ri - ty That I may have the
 I o - bey Your Word. Let what You will be
 things which are a - bove Till I be - hold You

light of grace That is - sues from Your ho - ly face.
 strength and will Temp - ta - tions of the flesh to still.
 my de - sire, And with new life my soul in - spire.
 face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through Your grace.

Text: Johann Friedrich Ruopp, 1672–1708; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: As hymnodus sacer, 1625, Leipzig

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon (During the sermon, children who are ages 3 through grade 2 are invited to participate in KIDZ Time. Children can make their way to the back of the sanctuary where the KIDZ Time teacher is waiting. The children will return to the service following the sermon.)

Offering (Please sign the burgundy Friendship booklet and pass it to other people sitting in your pew. When completed, pass it back to the center aisle and be sure to greet the people next to you! Those sitting by the center aisle: please tear off the completed sheet and place it on the pew. Thank you!)

A Song: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" (Townend)

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

CCLI Song # 1558110

Stuart Townend

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Kyrie

L O Lord,
C have mercy.

LSB 285

- L** O Christ,
C have mercy.
L O Lord,
C have mercy.

Versicles

LSB 286

- L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C let my cry come to You.
- L** In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
C for You answer me.
- L** Hide Your face from my sins,
C and blot out all my iniquities.
- L** Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C and renew a right spirit within me.
- L** Cast me not away from Your presence,
C and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
- L** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- L** Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
C my lips will praise You.
- L** For You have been my help,
C and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.
- L** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
C unite my heart to fear Your name.
- L** I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
C and I will glorify Your name forever.
- L** May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
C May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"
- L** Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
C Be their shepherd and carry them forever.
- L** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
C listen to my plea for grace.

The General Prayer of the Church and The Lord's Prayer

Benedicamus

LSB 287

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

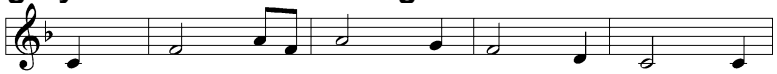
Blessing

LSB 287

- L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
- C** Amen.

Closing Hymn LSB 744 "Amazing Grace"

sts. 1–5



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Responsive Prayer 2 from Lutheran Service Book

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Events of the Week: February 13 – Feb 19, 2023

Wednesday	10:00a.m. Darrell's Bible Class Pastor on Vacation
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir
Friday	Pastor's Day off
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Worship

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: February 5, 2023

General Fund	\$7195.10
Building Fund	\$75.00
ISJ Academy	\$50.00
Tessaro Ministry	<u>\$45.00</u>
TOTAL	\$7365.10

Those Who Serve Today Feb. 12th.

Officiant: Deacons

Lector: Deacons

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Dave Hood

Ushers: Urbanski Family

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

February Altar Guild:

Those Who are Serving Next Week: Feb. 19th.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Cherie Hood

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Bryan Ensing / Craig Popma

Ushers: Dale / Grace Rosema / Orlin Bowman

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

February Altar Guild:

Announcements

Serve as a Lector If you would like to serve as a Lector reader, please see the table outside the church office to sign up for the months of March and April.

ISJ looking for Help: ISJ is looking into holding an auction in October, but we need some help! Does anyone at (Immanuel/St. James) have experience in organizing one or have you been to one that was great? We would love to hear from you if you have any advice/expertise! Please call Kate Ruffini in the school office, 616-363-0505 on Monday or Thursday or email her ruffinik_isj@yahoo.com Thank you!

What is Shrove Tuesday? See last weeks bulletin.

“Promised Treasures”: This Lenten season, we have a fresh opportunity to embrace God’s amazing love for us, His baptized children, in new ways. St. Paul clearly says that *“faith comes from hearing”* (Romans 10:17), but the Gospel is also communicated through the physical senses of sight, smell, touch, and taste. Jesus mentions that a good teacher not only brings out new treasures but reminds people of old and rich treasures as well (see Matthew 13:52). So each Sunday in Lent, we will take a weekly journey to concretely see, smell, touch, and taste a number of biblical elements. Just as Israel wandered through the wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting the Promised Land, we await heaven in the wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free. In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the new promised land. Until we enter our eternal promised land, however, the Lord calls us to be His light in this dark world (see Colossians 3; Ephesians 4). This series will begin with ashes, then proceed to salt, water, light, bread, fragrant oil, and palms. Then, during Holy Week, the focus shifts toward water and blood, wood, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind us of

God's eternal love in Christ, fill us with renewed hope, and increase our joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever. Each Sunday there will be a sermon, a Bible studies and a worship service that will remind us of God's Promised Treasures. Use the Lenten season as a time to mature in your faith by attending the worship services and participating in the Bible studies! Lenten calendars will be distributed on Sunday, February 19th, that will count down to Easter and as we count down, the Lenten calendar will help us see, smell, touch or taste a biblical item that reminds us of God's eternal love for us in Christ.

An Act of Love! Thank you to everyone who baked cookies for the cookie distribution. Thank you to all who delivered the cookies! *"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

Pastor and Sandra are on vacation through February 15. If you need the services of a pastor, please call one of the deacons and they will contact the pastors at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Thank you, deacons, for leading us in worship today and bringing us God's Word!

Tell Everyone You Know ... with children and grandchildren ... about ISJ Academy! We have a great school that lifts high the name of Jesus every day while also preparing the children to be godly citizens! ISJ Academy is having an Open House on Tuesday, February 28th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. during which parents and their children can take a tour, meet the teachers, and learn more about the ISJ Academic program. There are brochures on the table in the narthex for you to share. More information is available at: www.mychristianschool.com. The school phone number is: 616.363.0505.

Support ISJ Academy by Dining Out! The Dine to Donate will be Thursday, February 16th. The participating restaurant is Qdoba which serves tasty Mexican food. A certain percentage of the sales is given to ISK Academy. Brochures with the participating location and discount code are available on the table in the narthex.

Hey Men! Our monthly breakfast/Bible study will be Saturday, February 18th beginning at 8:30 a.m. All men are welcome!

A Notice About Monday Evening Services:

The Monday evening service for February 13th is cancelled since I will be on vacation.

During the season of Lent, there will no Monday evening services. The attendance at the Monday evening services and the midweek Lenten services tend to be very small, so we are “*combining*” them. We encourage you to attend the Wednesday evening services which begin on February 22 with an Ash Wednesday communion service. The midweek services begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Monday evening services will resume on Monday, April 17th.

Qdoba Fundraiser for ISJ Academy! Please join us on Thursday, February 16, 2023 from 4:00pm-8:00pm. 25% of your bill gets donated to ISJ. If you join us, please be sure to stop and say hello to one of us in our ISJ gear. We'd love to say thank you for supporting us!

CELEBRATE ONLINE AUCTION 2023 West Michigan Lutheran's online auction starts Tuesday, April 11 and runs through Saturday, April 15. The WML auction committee would love donations from our community - craft items, food, your services, etc... Do you work somewhere that would be willing to donate? All proceeds for the auction go toward the tuition assistance program. If you have something to donate, please email kangers@wmlhs.org.

A Statement on Holy Communion

We rejoice in the celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus comes to us in a very personal manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) It is out of love and care for every individual that comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to refrain from attending the Lord's Supper.

Members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, who:

- Repent of their sin;
- Believe in Jesus as their Savior;
- Trust that they are receiving, not only bread and wine, but also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of their sins; and
- Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying no to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life;

are invited to partake of this Holy Meal with us. We request that ALL guests who desire to commune, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service.

If you prefer to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion, please do so. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that Pastor knows you want to receive a blessing.

NOTE: We provide gluten-free communion host and non-alcohol grape juice. Just let Pastor and/or the assistants know when you come for Holy Communion.