



**St. James Lutheran Church
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LENT 1

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

SALT THAT SWEETENS AND PRESERVES

We are blessed to be God’s children—cleansed of sin, renewed by the Spirit, and salted in Christ Jesus. The promised treasures in God’s Word remind us of the importance of salt, which both sweetens and preserves things for our enjoyment. When Paul reminds us to let our conversations be “*seasoned with salt*” (Colossians 4:6), and when Jesus tells us that we are “*the salt of the earth*” (Matthew 5:13), the image is rich, for it is not only visual, but it also engages the sense of taste. We are reminded today that we are blessed to sweeten this world with the presence of Christ in us, even as Jesus Himself preserves our lives through His Word and Spirit.

THE PRESERVICE MUSIC, THE CALL TO WORSHIP, &
WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”
(LSB 418)

OPENING SENTENCES

LSB, p. 219

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- 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. Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

+ PSALMODY +

PSALM

Psalm 107:28–36

- P** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
C **and He delivered them from their distress.**
- P** He made the storm be still,
C **and the waves of the sea were hushed.**
- P** Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
C **and He brought them to their desired haven.**
- P** Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,
C **for His wondrous works to the children of men!**
- P** Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people,
C **and praise Him in the assembly of the elders.**
- P** He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,
C **a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants.**
- P** He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.
C **And there He lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in. 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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, You call Your people to be the salt of the earth, to sweeten and preserve this world even as You have sweetened our lives with Your forgiveness and have preserved us by Your Spirit. Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

+ READINGS +

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Kings 2:19–22

A A reading from Second Kings, the second chapter.

¹⁹Now the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.” ²⁰He said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. ²¹Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the LORD, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it.” ²²So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING

Colossians 4:2–6

A A reading from Colossians, the fourth chapter.

²Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. ⁵Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

A HYMN:

Make Me A Servant (Kelly Willard)

Chorus

Make me a servant humble and meek
Lord let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayer of my heart always be
Make me a servant make me a servant
Make me a servant today (2Xs)

CCLI Song # 33131

Kelly Willard

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THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13–16

P A reading from St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LENT RESPONSORY

LSB, p. 231

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

- C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.
- P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
- C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

THE SERMON HYMN “One House Abides Unending” (Tune: Llangloffan, LSB 513)

One house abides unending,
 One Master fears no fall,
 One Lord provides, attending
 The daily want of all.
 When ruin would allure them
 Whose one estate was need,
 One Father would secure them
 In will, in trust, in deed.

The wealth of all creation
 We squandered at our birth.
 The heirs of condemnation
 Sowed tears in blighted earth.
 But light, the world's first treasure,
 The Master worked anew
 In promise, and in measure
 No mortal eye could view.

With endless hunger driven
 The grave cried out for more,
 But Jesus Christ has given
 Safe passage through its door:
 His flowing blood our raiment,
 The flood to purge our shame;
 The living God the payment
 That buys for us His name.

Exchange our ash for beauty,

Anoint our grief with joy;
Dear Lord, who paid our duty,
All grace for us employ.
Feed us the saving manna
Lest on the way we fail
And sweeten our Hosanna
To holy Easter's hail.

SERMON: "Salt: The Gift That Sweetens and Preserves"

OFFERING

A HYMN "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" (*LSB* 423)

+ PRAYER +

THE GENERAL PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

A HYMN: His Mercy Is More (Boswell and Papa)

Verse 1

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more (Chorus)

Verse 3

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more (Chorus)

CCLI Song # 7065053
Matt Boswell | Matt Papa
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A PRAYER

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

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

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
(*LSB* 425)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE POSTLUDE

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Events of the Week: February 27 – March 5, 2023

Monday	No Monday Service
Tuesday	6:30 p.m. Discovery Class
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Darrell's Bible Class 5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir
Friday	Pastor's Day off
Sunday	8:00 a.m. Gizmo on FB 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Bible study

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: February 5, 2023

General Fund	\$3215.25
Building Fund	\$0.00
ISJ Academy	\$0.00
Tessaro Ministry	\$0.00
Memorials	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$3215.25

Those Who Serve Today Feb. 26th.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Marjie Weiss

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Jerry Talen

Ushers: Jim / Nancy Spears, Caleb Butler

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

February Altar Guild: Deb & Kelsey Butler

Those Who are Serving Next Week: March 5th.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Irene Talen

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Craig Popma / Bryan Ensing

Ushers: Dale / Grace Rosema, Orlin Bowman

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

March Altar Guild: Kim Urbanski & Carol Bifulco

Announcements

“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.

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.

A Notice About Monday Evening Services:

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.

Church Directory: Ashley is working on coming out with a new and updated church directory. Please look for the draft that is on the table by the church office, look and fix anything that may have changed over the year. It is alphabetical by

last name. She will leave it out until the end of the month.
Thank you!

Dorcas Luncheon : The Dorcas Society invites all women to join us for lunch on Thursday March 9th at Cheers on Plainfield Ave. at 12:30 pm. Signup sheet is located outside the Church office or you can contact Rachel Palmer 616-883-6949 or email at palmerrm@comcast.net. to sign up and/or if you need a ride.

Knit / Crocheted Together in Love: Please join us on Sunday April 16, 2023 after church from 10:45am to 1:00pm. Anyone ages 13 and up who is interested in learning the basics of knitting / Crocheting to Advanced. Make sure you bring a snack or lunch for yourself, knitting needles or crochet hooks and yarn if you have some! No need to sign up just join the group.

LWML Grand Rapids Zone Spring Rally: “Raising Christin Children/Grandchildren in Today’s World” You are invited to attend the LWML Spring Rally being held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Caledonia on Sunday, April 22nd, 9:00am- noon. We are excited and blessed to have Jo Fleming and her daughter Amy Nuttleman, both wives of Lutheran pastors in the Grand Rapids area as our speakers on the topic “Raising Christin Children/Grandchildren in Today’s World”. The admission fee will be \$10.00 which includes breakfast. More information and a sign-up sheet will be coming soon, but be sure to make your calendars now!

Mailboxes: Ashley is working on making new mailbox signs and organizing the coat room. Please keep an eye out that your box may change it spot.

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.