



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

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Office: 616-363-7718
Email: office@stjamesgr.com
Website: www.stjamesgr.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjamesgr
Online Giving: www.stjamesgr.com/give.

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

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023

The Preservice Music, The Call to Worship & Welcome

WORSHIP THOUGHTS: Do you or do you know of someone who ever gets terribly upset with God? Gideon, in the Old Testament, did. Outsiders were invading his country. People were spiritually, morally, and economically deprived in Israel and consequently things were going to pot. It wasn't the same country Gideon knew growing up (sound familiar?). Israel needed a dynamic change.... And fast. More than simple change, Israel needed a Savior – an earthly one as well as a heavenly one. For now, let's stay with the earthly one. God chose a very unlikely one to rescue Israel – lowly Gideon. Ever feel like that – lowly, a nobody, not worth much? Not surprisingly God raised up a nobody to rescue Israel because that's God's way. He used Gideon. Always be ready because God has chosen to give you life here and now for a special reason – in a place and at this time. God has specially chosen to use you! Be ready and open to His high call.

Opening Hymn: “Praise To The Lord, The Almighty” LSB #790

Invocation

Confession And Absolution (use p. 151 LSB)

The Old Testament Reding *Judges 6:1–6, 10–17, 22, 27–31*

¹The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. ²And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. ³For whenever the Israelites planted

crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. ⁴They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey. ⁵For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in. ⁶And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD...¹⁰And I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed my voice.” ¹¹Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” ¹³And Gideon said to him, “Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” ¹⁴And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” ¹⁵And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” ¹⁶And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.” ¹⁷And he said to him, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speaks with me...”²²Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.”...²⁷So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had told him. But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night. ²⁸When the men of the town rose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah

beside it was cut down, and the second bull was offered on the altar that had been built. ²⁹And they said to one another, “Who has done this thing?” And after they had searched and inquired, they said, “Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing.” ³⁰Then the men of the town said to Joash, “Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has broken down the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah beside it.” ³¹But Joash said to all who stood against him, “Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? Whoever contends for him shall be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because his altar has been broken down.”

Judges 7:2–7, 16–22

²The LORD said to Gideon, “The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’ ³Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.’” Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained. ⁴And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ shall not go.” ⁵So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, “Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, everyone who kneels down to drink.” ⁶And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. ⁷And the LORD said to Gideon, “With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home.”... ¹⁶And he divided the 300 men into three companies and put trumpets into the hands of all of them and empty jars, with torches inside the jars. ¹⁷And he said to them, “Look at me, and do likewise. When I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do. ¹⁸When I blow the trumpet,

I and all who are with me, then blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.'" ¹⁹So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch. And they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands. ²⁰Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" ²¹Every man stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled. ²²When they blew the 300 trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his comrade and against all the army. And the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reding

1 Corinthians 1:16–31

¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of

God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

John 4:4–18, 27–30, 39

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth Chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹The woman said to

him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”...²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him...³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

Confessing Our Faith (Martin Luther’s Explanation of the 3rd Article of the Creed found on page 323 in the front of LSB)

Children’s Message (Children come to the front of the church as we sing: “Children of the Heavenly Father”) LSB #725

Message Hymn: “With The Lord Begin Your Task” LSB #869

Message: “How To Turn Nobodies Into Somebodies: Go Get'em Gideon” Judges 6 & 7

Giving Our Best To Jesus (Offering)

Prayers/Lord's Prayer

A Song: “Spirit of the Living God”

Chorus

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me

Melt me mold me

Fill me use me

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me

CCLI Song # 23488

Daniel Iverson

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Music: 1935, Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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Announcements and Blessing for online Worshipers

Jesus' Words Of Promise In Holy Communion

Distribution

Distribution Songs: LSB 547 “The Lamb” & LSB 821 “Alleluia! Sing To Jesus”

General Dismissal

Blessing

Closing Hymn: "On Our Way Rejoicing"

1 On our way re - joic - ing Glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther Joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; Van - quished is the foe.
Un - to God the Sav - ior Thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
Un - to God the Spir - it Bow we and a - dore,

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems. Each system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff with treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands, providing harmonic support for the vocal melody.

Who, if we be faith - ful,
On our way re - joic - ing, Can our hope de - stroy?
Now and ev - er - more.

Refrain
On our way re - joic - ing; As we for - ward move,

Hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Tr. John S. R. Menzell, 1811-1875, alt.
New Prose R. Havergal, 1836-1879

HERMAS
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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Events of the Week: May 8 – May 14, 2023

Monday	6:30 p.m. Evening Service
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Darrell's Bible Class
Thursday	1:30 p.m. Dorcus Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
	7:15 p.m. Adult Choir
Saturday	8:30 a.m. Mens Breakfast
Sunday	8:00 a.m. Gizmo on FB
	9:30 a.m. Worship
	11:00 a.m. Bible study

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: April 30, 2023

General Fund	\$3,993.25
Building Fund	\$0.00
ISJ Academy	\$0.00
Tessaro Ministry	\$0.00
Memorials	\$0.00
Evangelism	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$3,993.25
Needed each week \$5,769.23 (- \$1,775.98)	

Those Who Serve Today May 7th.

Officiant: Pastor Graves

Lector: Jim Spears

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Bryan Ensing / Craig Popma

Ushers: Urbanski Family / Jim McKay

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

May Altar Guild: Irene Talen

Those Who are Serving Next Week: May 14th.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Carol Bifulco

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Craig Popma

Ushers: Bryan Ensing / Orlin Bowman, Caleb Butler

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

May Altar Guild: Irene Talen

Announcements

Thank You: We would like to thank Pastor Graves for leading us in worship today as pastor Schaeffer is on vacation.

LWML Meeting: We will meet tonight at 6:00pm. We will read together a devotion entitled: Changing Lives.

ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE (2023): Would you like to go on a journey to Israel and haven't made plans yet? Pastor Frank Graves is planning on taking a 10-day pilgrimage to Israel (Oct.10-19, 2023). He has journeyed there 8 times prior. Cost is \$4992 (from Grand Rapids and Orlando). The cost includes entrance into all sacred sites, lodging (at least 4 star plus), air and ground transportation, full breakfast and dinner (lunch is at your expense), and all tips, etc. If you have an interest, please contact him at: revbev65@hotmail.com or 616-929-2267. Initial deposit is \$500 and can be paid by credit card. Trip details and itineraries are available on the table in the church lobby. We would love to have you experience the land where our Savior Jesus, grew up, ministered, suffered, died, and rose again for us. The journey is life changing and the Bible comes alive in a special new way when you visit personally.

New Member Welcome Sunday – May 21st! Mark this date on your calendar. We will have a special celebration following the service in the gathering room.

ISJ Golf Outing: Please join us for the 15th Annual Golf Outing on June 3, 2023, at Arrowhead Golf Course in Lowell, MI. If you would like to play as an individual or as a team, please fill out the Registration Form found on the table in the lobby.

Pastor on Vacation: Pastor will be on vacation starting May 1st. If you have an emergency, please contact one of the Deacons. Craig Popma (616-531-6481) Bryan Ensing (616-447-8305) Jerry Talen (616-784-5488) David Hood (616-822-9650)

Dorcas Society May Gathering We invite all women of our congregation to gather on Thursday May 11 at 1:30 in the Gathering Room. We will take ANOTHER nostalgic look into the history of our congregation as we look at the member directories, church anniversary booklets, and special booklets of dedication of church and school that are part of our archives. We will continue to review some of the photographs with the hope of identifying more individuals. So come and enjoy a few hours of remembering and celebrating the history of St James. Please contact Rachel Palmer (616-883-6949), palmerrm@comcast.net with questions or if you need a ride. This is the final meeting until September.

Bee Rubles Memorial Service: As a reminder Bees memorial service will be held on Saturday May 20th. If you would like to attend the luncheon, please see the table by the church office to sign up.

Lutherans for Life is sponsoring a Diaper

Drive running from Mother's Day, May 14th, to Father's Day, June 18th, 2023. Needed are packages of diapers of all sizes. The collection boxes will be in the main entryway. All

the diapers collected will be given to our local Pregnancy Resource Center. Questions? Please see Eunice Florip or Grace Rosema

The 17th annual ISJ Walk/Trike-a-thon will be held on Friday, May 19. ISJ students will be collecting pledges and walking or triking laps around our playground and parking area to raise funds to directly support our school. Our goal is to raise \$15,000..00 Watch for ISJ students to be collecting pledges over the next couple of weeks. Sponsor a student and help support our wonderful school. Donations may also be made online at mychristianschool.com Be sure to include your student's name and note that it is for walk-a-thon.

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.