



**St. James Lutheran Church
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Grand Rapids, MI 49505**

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
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**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 1, 2023**

Divine Service Setting Four (p 203)

The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, & Welcome

The Opening Hymn: "God So Loved" (We the Kingdom)

Verse 1

Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more

Verse 2

Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for

Chorus 1

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

Verse 3

Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms

Chorus 2

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

The power of hell forever defeated
 Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
 For God so loved God so loved the world

Bridge

Praise God praise God
 From whom all blessings flow
 Praise Him praise Him
 For the wonders of His love (2Xs)

Chorus 2

For God so loved the world that He gave us
 His one and only Son to save us
 Whoever believes in Him will live forever
 The power of hell forever defeated
 Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
 For God so loved God so loved the world

Verse 4

Bring all your failures
 Bring your addictions
 Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
 Jesus is waiting
 God so loved the world

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Invocation

Introit, Confession and Absolution

Psalm 147:1-5; antiphon: v. 6



The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
 he casts the wicked | to the ground.
 Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God,*
 for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.

The LORD builds up Je- | rusalem;*
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.
He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.
He determines the number | of the stars;*
he gives to all of | them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Old Testament

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

1The word of the Lord came to me: 2“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? 3As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .25“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? 26When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. 27Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. 28Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 29Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? 30“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin.

31Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

32For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Lesson:

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

1If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .14Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. 17Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

The Holy Gospel:

Matthew 21:23–27

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

23When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” 24Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves,

saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Hymn of the Day: 857 “Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servants Way”

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!)

Prayer of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 811 “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”

Announcements & Dismissal Blessing for Online Worshippers

Preface

LSB 208

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Our Lord

Distribution Hymn: 642 “O Living Bread from Heaven”

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

Post-Communion Collect

Hymn to Depart: 693 “O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace”

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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This Week at St. James

Today (10/1)	Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM Communion Service (Mites Sunday) – 9:30 AM Bible Study – 11:00 AM LWML Meeting – 6:00 PM
Monday (10/2)	Communion Service – 6:30 PM
Wednesday (10/4)	Darrell Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Thursday (10/5)	Adult Bells – 6:00 PM Adult Choir – 7:15 PM
Saturday (10/7)	Pastors Day Off – 9:00 AM Drop Off for Sale – 9:00 AM
Sunday (9/24)	Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM Worship Service – 9:30 AM Bible Study – 11:00 AM Knit/Crochet – 10:45 AM F.I.F. Meeting -11:00 AM

Looking Ahead

Serving Today (10/1)

Officiant	Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector.....	Irene Talen
Organist.....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s)	Jerry Talen / Craig Popma
Ushers.....	Jim and Nancy Spears
Video/Sound/Recording	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
October Altar Guild.....	Sherry Schmidt / Jennifer Schmidt
KidzTime	Teacher and Assistant Needed

Serving Next Sunday (10/8)

Lector.....	Carol Bifulco
Organist.....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s)	Bryan Ensing
Ushers.....	Jim McKay / Walt & Karen Kryzanowski
Video/Sound/Recording	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss

September Altar Guild..... Melissa Ensing / Marjie Weiss
 October Altar Guild..... Sherry Schmidt / Jennifer Schmidt
 KidzTime Sandra Schaeffer

Financial Discipleship: September 10 & 11, 2023

General Fund	\$6,477.00
<i>Needed each week for budget \$5,769.00 (+\$708.00)</i>	
ISJ Academy	\$10.00
TOTAL Contributions	\$6,487.00

Announcements

2nd Best Sale: Friends in Faith is having **DROP-OFF** dates of Saturday September 30 and October 7th here at church. Simply start collecting your donations for the Second-Best Sale, load them into your vehicle and bring them to the church from 9-1 p.m. We are asking for all large items to be brought on October 7th. We cannot accept mattresses, box springs, analog (tube type TVs), nursery furniture, medical items or any items that are not usable and saleable. Members of Friends in Faith will be here to unload your car and take everything into church for you! How great is that!?! We also ask that clothing be clean and gently used. Smaller items can be brought to the church any time the church is open. Please call Pastor before you come. If items need to be brought sooner or if you have any questions, please contact Walt at (616) 970-7407 or Dale Rosema (616) 262-1390 Set-up for the Sale will begin on Sunday, October 8th. VOLUNTEERS are needed on Sunday after Church to set up tables and sort the items for the sale. Volunteers are also needed on Monday and Tuesday for sorting and pricing. They are also needed for Thursday through Saturday to assist customers and clean-up on Saturday. It's a great time to get to know each other and help support our Youth and Church functions. Work for an hour or enjoy the 9-4 day with everyone. A sign-up sheet will be at the entrance to the office. If you have any questions, please see Walt Kryzanowski or Dale Rosema (**October 12th - 14th is the sale**) (**Thursday, 9:00am-4:00pm**) (**Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm**) (**Saturday, 9:00am-12:00pm**)

LWML Knit/Crochet Together in Love: Looking ahead... October 8 will be the next time we will be meeting to knit and crochet. If you want to learn or are experienced, please join us from 10:45-1:00pm. More information to come.

Calling for Nominations of St. James' Members to Serve on St. James'

Governing Board. If you want to nominate someone to serve on St. James' Governing Board, please submit the nomination in writing to the Pastor by the end of September. Include as part of the nomination, the reason why you think that person should serve on the Board. The Board is tasked with setting policies, supporting the pastor and staff, and ensuring fiscal responsibility. At our next Voter's meeting (in late November or early December) Pastor Schaeffer will present the names of candidates who have been nominated to stand for election. Board members serve one-year terms although governing board members can be elected to one-year terms indefinitely. Board members are expected to uphold the highest standards of participation, service, supportiveness, and tithing in the congregation. Current board members are: Kim Urbanski, Carol Bifulco, Cindy McAuliffe, Jim Spears and Rachel Palmer.

St. James Church Tuition Assistance Fund: If you want to contribute to St. James Church Tuition Assistance Fund, **please make your check payable to: St James Lutheran Church** with a note that the money is for the **St. James Church Tuition Assistance Fund.**

Calling all bakers: Would you like to help raise funds for "Having a Heart for Africa" - our project that supports single moms and their babies in Rwanda, while at the same time giving a treat to our Creston neighbors? If so, bring some baked goods to the church for the Second-Best Sale which is scheduled for October 12th-15th. Place two or three cookies or squares in a Ziplock bag or on a wrapped plate. Feel free to bring a dozen or more to the church on the days leading up to the sale. Thank you for your servant hearts!

Portal of Prayers: The Portal of Prayers books are out on the table in the lobby. Please take one for yourself and grab a few extra to pass a long to a friend and or neighbor.

Newsletter: A paper copy of the newsletter is on the table in the lobby. Thank you to every one that sent information in.



WE ARE HIRING!

ISJ Academy located in Grand Rapids, MI is actively seeking applicants to join the ISJ Community for the current 2023-2024 School Year. Current positions are open for an Elementary Teacher with a love for Math and/or Spanish either Part or Full Time (Gr. 2-8), Preschool Aides with a focus on the afternoon shift as well as Substitute teachers to add to our current list when the need arises. Job descriptions can be found on our website at <https://www.mychristianschool.com/jobs>. If you feel so moved or know of an individual(s) that you feel would be a good fit within our ISJ family please encourage them to reach out to the school with any questions and/or their Cover Letter and Resume for review to careers@mychristianschool.com . Thank you!

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.