

Grow ... Go ... Gather
May 8, 2022



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)

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

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The Fourth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day

The Order of Service

As you enter the sanctuary, please keep talking to a minimal so that you, and those around you, can prepare your hearts and minds for worship by praying, or by reading hymns, or focusing your thoughts on the preservice music. Thank you!

The Preservice Music, The Call to Worship, and the Welcome

P: Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, we are the beloved! May the truth of this great love story, shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling. So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations, and your discouragements; come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings; come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy. Come, in friendship to God and to each other, and in friendship to the world, to listen for God's Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling. Friends of God, let us worship, celebrating God's love for us!

The Opening Hymn: LSB 464, "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done"

A Litany

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Gracious God, as a mother loves her child, so You love us. For that great truth

C: We praise and thank You.

P: We owe our very lives to You. You have watched over us from our conception and birth to our life today, tenderly nurturing us, showering us with love. When we have needed You, You have been there. For that great truth

C: We praise and thank You.

P: You have given us strength in times of need, comfort in times of distress, encouragement in times of despair, guidance in times of uncertainty. Whatever we have faced, You have been with us. For that great truth

C: We praise and thank You.

P: Gracious Good Shepherd, we have not always appreciated Your love, all too often ignoring what You would teach us, disobeying Your instructions, taking You for granted and wandering far from Your side thinking the grass is greener elsewhere. Yet through it all Your love for us remains constant. For that great truth

C. We praise and thank You.

P: Gracious Good Shepherd, You sacrificed Yourself for our sakes, loving us with an unquenchable love, You have called us to be Your children, sheep in Your fold. For that great truth.

C: We praise and thank You, Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

P: Isaiah wrote that You are like a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in Your arms and that You would never forget us. You know each of us, like a mother knows her own children. David wrote that in Your presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting in Your protection like a child safe in loving arms. You speak as One who longs to wrap Your arms around us, like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings. We rejoice this day and call You

C: Loving Shepherd, our Good Shepherd, thank You for Your tender care. Amen.

A Hymn of Praise: LSB 475, "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"

The First Reading: Acts 20:17-35

Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come

in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they

come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Choir: "The Lord Will Be My Shepherd"

The Gospel Reading: John 10:22-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my

hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Apostles' Creed (see back cover of hymnal)

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 855, "For All the Faithful Women" (verses 1, 3, 4)

The Sermon:

The Offering & Rite of Friendship (As we collect the offering you are invited to sing, LSB 806, "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart")

Please sign the burgundy Friendship booklet and pass it on toward the center aisle. When completed, pass it back and be sure to greet the people next to you!

*Would those sitting on the side aisles please tear off the completed sheet and place it beside you in the pew. Thank you!

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

A Hymn: "Hymn of Heaven" (Phil Wickham)

Verse 1

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven
Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets
To look upon the one who bled to save me
And walk with Him for all eternity

Chorus 1

*There will be a day
When all will bow before Him
There will be a day
When death will be no more
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again
Holy holy is the Lord*

Verse 2

And ev'ry prayer we prayed in desperation
The songs of faith
We sang through doubt and fear
In the end we'll see that it was worth it
When He returns to wipe away our tears (*Chorus*)

Verse 3

And on that Day, we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith
With one voice a thousand generations
Sing worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Forever He shall reign

Chorus 2

*So let it be today
We shout the hymn of Heaven
With angels and the Saints
We raise a mighty roar
Glory to our God
Who gave us life beyond the grave
Holy holy is the Lord
Holy holy is the Lord
Holy holy is the Lord*

CCLI Song # 7168994

Bill Johnson | Brian Johnson | Chris Davenport | Phil Wickham

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A Prayer

The Benediction:

P: May God, who gave birth to all creation and to each of us, bless us with all we need for life; May God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, continue to shepherd us all our days; may God, who broods over us as a mother over her children, keep us in the one true faith to life everlasting. May almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: LSB 490, "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: May 9 – May 15

- 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
- Wed:** **10:00 a.m.** Bible Study w/ Darrell
- Thursday:** **6:00 p.m.** Adult Bell Choir
7:15 p.m. Adult Choir
- Friday/Sat:** Leader's Retreat
- Sunday:** **8:00 a.m.** Gizmo Devotions on FB
9:30 a.m. WORSHIP at St James & FBL.
KIDZ TIME during the sermon, Pre-2nd
10:45 a.m. Honor Dr. Rachel Palmer
11:00 a.m. Bible study
2:00 p.m. West Region Pastor's
Conference (Traverse City)

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: May 1, 2022

General Fund	\$8,852.99
Plate Collections	0.00
ISJ Academy	250.00
Tessaro Ministry Nigeria Mission	125.00
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Total:	\$2,834.00
On-line giving	0.00
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Total:	\$9,227.99

Nursery Available: Parents, we have a nursery that you can use during the service. There is a tablet with speakers located in the nursery that livestreams our worship service. If it is not operational, ask one of the ushers to help you turn it on.

Mark your calendars! There is a Voter's Meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 22, following the Sunday morning service.

Support St. James' mission and ministry as we Grow, Go, and Gather. Your online offering can be made at our website: stjamesgr.com. Click on the "GIVE" button and follow the instructions. It's that simple! Thank you for supporting the Lord's work.



St. James needs a part-time church secretary. After many years of faithful service, Karen has resigned from the position of church secretary. If you are interested in this part-time position, please ask Pastor

Schaeffer for a Job Description.

Friends in Faith, with funding from Thrivent Financial, is helping the North End Community Ministry provide an evening meal for the community on **May 17** from 4:30 - 7:00 PM. It is held at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 224 Carrier St. NE. If you would be interested in helping, please contact Dale Rosema or Melissa Ensing.

ISJ will be holding the annual Walk-a-thon/Trike-a-thon on Friday, May 13. Students will be around the church collecting pledges. We also invite you to come and cheer on our students that afternoon as they complete their laps.

To my friends at St. James, I give a big thank you for the birthday song. All the smiling faces gave me joy. God Bless you.

Thank you!
Betty Oldenburg

Our 14th annual ISJ golf outing on Saturday, **June 4th** at Arrowhead Golf Course in Lowell. Sign your team up today to enjoy a day of golf, food, prizes, and fun! There are different levels of sponsorship for one or both events ranging from \$100 to \$350. Questions? Call: 616-363-0505 or email: isjoffice@mychristianschool.com. **All proceeds from these events will be used for student resources at ISJ.**

FULL TIME TEACHER NEEDED. West Michigan Lutheran is sad to announce that Kalera Rahn will be leaving her position at the end of the school year. The WML Call Committee has met and begun the interview process for this position. If you know of other possible candidates, please let them know that: West Michigan Lutheran High School is looking for a full-time certified mathematics and science teacher with computer capabilities. They can contact Kristine Angers for more information at kangers@wmlhs.org or call (616) 455-2200.

Those who serve Today:

Deacons: Jerry Talen

Ushers: Dale & Grace R., Caleb B.

Lector: Carol Bifulco

Organist/pianist: Beth McKay

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

May Altar Guild: Irene Talen

Those who serve next Sunday: May 15

Deacon: Craig Popma and Bryan Ensing

Ushers: Urbanski Family

Lector: Jen Welch