



St. James Lutheran Church
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com

Blessed for Life
Sanctity of Life Sunday
January 22, 2023

The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, & Welcome

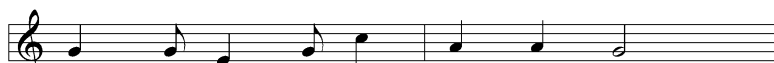
Entrance Hymn: LSB 930 All You Works of God, Bless the Lord



1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
2 Sing, you sun and you moon a - bove,
3 Frost of win - ter with song so cold,
4 Hills and moun - tains, now sing His worth,



All you an - gels, now bless the Lord;
Stars of heav - en, now sing His love;
Dews of sum - mer, your song un - fold;
All you green things that grow on earth;



Come, you heav - ens and pow'rs that be,
Dew and show - ers, you winds that blow,
Light and dark - ness, you day and night,
Seas and riv - ers, you springs and wells,



Praise the Lord and His maj - es - ty:
Heat and fire, you ice and snow:
Clouds of thun - der, you light - nings bright:
Beasts and cat - tle, you birds and whales:

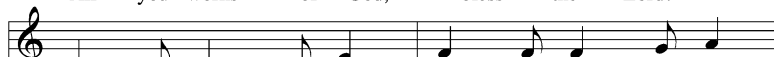
Refrain



Raise your voic - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,



All you works of God, bless the Lord!



Raise your voic - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,



All you works of God, bless the Lord!

5 Come, humanity, sing along,
Sing, you people of God, a song;
Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,
Join, you spirits and souls at rest: Refrain

6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;
All you humble, His praise impart;
God the Father and Son adore,
Bless the Spirit forevermore! Refrain

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Jamaican; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–80

Text: © 1995 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553

Tune: © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** I said, “O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you! *Psalms 41:4*
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.**
- P** His heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad. *Psalms 41:6*
- C** **We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**
- P** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. *Psalms 41:9*
- C** **We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
- P** They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.” *Psalms 41:8*
- C** **We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**

P But you, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up. *Psalm 41:10*

C **For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. *Psalm 41:11*

C **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

P You have upheld me because of my integrity and set me in your presence forever. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! *Psalm 41:12-13*

C **so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.**

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor. In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Psalm 41:1-2*

C **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: LSB 814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

- 5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the sufferers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.
- 6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His beloved Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76
Text and tune: Public domain

The Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation, grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:26–31a

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the

earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

²⁹And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12 What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

17 For 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. 18 For 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:12-25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — 16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. 23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and

proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. 24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The 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.

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 765 God Moves in a Mysterious Way

1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way His
 2 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But
 3 His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, Un -
 4 Blind un - be - lief is sure to err And -
 5 You fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The

won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps
 trust Him for His grace; Be - hind a frown - ing
 fold - ing ev - 'ry hour; The bud may have a
 scan His work in vain; God is His own in -
 clouds you so much dread Are big with mer - cy

in the sea And rides up - on the storm.
 prov - i - dence Faith sees a smil - ing face.
 bit - ter taste, But sweet will be the flow'r.
 ter - pret - er, And He will make it plain.
 and will break In bless - ings on your head.

Text: William Cowper, 1731–1800, alt.
 Tune: The CL Psalms of David, 1615, Edinburgh
 Text and tune: Public domain

The 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.)*

The 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 Hymn: God Of The Living

Verse 1

God of the living
 Give us this day
 A new beginning
 Covered in grace

Fill us with kindness
Patience and love
Always remind us
What you have done

Chorus

You have raised us up from death to life
By your Son our Savior Jesus Christ
Sending him to save
Vanquishing the grave
Worthy is your name
God of the Living

Verse 2

God of the living
Teach us your ways
So we can follow
Paths you have made
Give us the courage
When we're afraid
Give us endurance
When comforts fade (Chorus)

Bridge

Every heart a new creation
Every morning a new day (Chorus)

CCLI Song # 7007340

Kip Fox

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The Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

A Hymn: Living Hope

Verse 1

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven

And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 2

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Chorus

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope (2 Xs)

Verse 3

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)
Jesus Yours is the victory (Chorus 2 Xs)

Ending

Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope

CCLI Song # 7106907
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A Prayer

P O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

The Recessional Hymn: “Lord of Life” (Tune: Hyfrydol, LSB 700)

1. Lord of life, Whose hand has made us,
Formed us each with tender care.

You had crowned man with Your image,
Not intending such despair.
Yet through sin the glory faded,
Death and doom came in its place.
But in spite of our condition,
We've been rescued by Your grace!

2. God so loved the world, He gave us,
Jesus Christ to bear our sin.
On the cross His life He offered,
That we might be His again.
And the Holy Spirit calls us
By the gospel's joyful ring.
Making us His own dear children
Us, eternal life to bring.

3. Lord of Life, Who rose in triumph,
Conquering death and giving hope,
You have called us and equipped us,
In a sinful world to cope;
Teaching us to love each other,
To befriend and help in strife;
To forgive and seek to comfort,
And preserve the gift of life.

4. Help us, Lord, to see as You do
Life is precious in each stage.
From the unborn to the feeble,
Life is precious in each age.
Help us, Lord, to be Your witness
And to show the world we care.
So that people may not perish,
But, instead Your life may share.

From For Life: ProLife Songs for the Classroom, Choir, and Congregation. Edited for Lutherans For Life, Frank Mogan, 2000. ©Text: Rev. Gerald Scheperle, 1985. Used by permission.

The Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Events of the Week: January 23-29, 2023

Monday	6:30 p.m. Communion service
Tuesday	6:30 p.m. Discovery Class
Wednesday	10:00a.m. Darrell's Bible Class
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: January 15, 2023

General Fund	\$6149.00
ISJ Academy	\$0.00
Tessaro Ministry	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$6149.00

Those Who Serve Today:

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Craig Popma

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: David Hood

Ushers: Urbanski Family

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

January Altar Guild: Cindy McAuliffe

Announcements

Hello from Ashley Beffrey!

I just wanted to say thank you for the warm welcome I have received here at St. James. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to work with Pastor and all of you. I am a mother of two beautiful children Lydia (9) and Simeon (7). I am also the wife of Rev. Ryan Beffrey who is serving Epiphany Lutheran Church in Dorr. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and helping in any way that I can.

February Cookie Love Outreach

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else ...”

1 Thessalonians 3:12

You are invited to let your love overflow! For Valentine’s Day St. James’ LWML will be assembling trays of cookies to show St. James love to first responders, care staff at congregational settings, neighborhood school staffs, and other care-givers in our community. Everyone can help share the love of our Lord by getting involved!

You can use your hands to embrace our neighbors by doing one of the following ...

Bake some cookies with love!

Assemble trays of delicious cookies at the February 5th LWML meeting!

Carry the love into the community by delivering a tray!

Wrap individual baked goods with plastic wrap or small snack bags. Deliver your goodies to church on or before Sunday, February 5th. If you would like to write cards of encouragement for the organizations that receive the treats, or if you would like to help deliver trays, speak to Sandra before January 29th.

The Discovery Class has begun, but it’s not too late to participate. The Discovery class met for the first time this past Tuesday. If you would like to attend this 12-session review of the Christian faith, please come out to the class. The class meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

The ISJ children will NOT be singing at St. James on January 29th. Therefore, we will have Holy Communion per usual on the Fifth Sunday of the month, January 29th.

Navigating Culture's Challenges: Saturday, January 28, 3:30-7:30 PM -- Most Christian people have a sense that the world around them is dramatically out of step with their own convictions about what is true and right. It's no doubt that our culture has changed significantly in many of our lifetimes about how it thinks of things like identity, sexuality, and morality in general. Understanding the ideas and forces that brought these dramatic changes in the surrounding culture can help Christians better negotiate the world around them. More importantly, it helps them clarify and sharpen their own thinking and interactions with family, friends, and coworkers who embrace the world's latest ideas about individual autonomy, personal identity, and sexuality. The seminar will not only explore the reality of the world in which we live but will consider the truth about what it means to grow and thrive as a human being uniquely created by God. It's presented by Dr. Joel Biermann, a professor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and includes a catered dinner. The cost is \$10 per person. Childcare is available for kids potty-trained and up. **Register by January 24 at stmatthewgr.com/navigating-culture.**

Knit/Crocheted Together in Love

Please join us after church on Sunday, January 22, 2023, from 10:45am to 1:00pm anyone ages 13 and up. Bring your own snacks or lunch, knitting needles or crochet hook and yarn if you have some.

Information for the Newsletter

If you would like to feature anything in the newsletter for February, please Email your information no later than Wednesday January 25, 2023 to the church office Email and Ashley will be happy to include it.

WML ENROLLMENT OPENS MARCH 1ST!

Looking for an affordable and exemplary Christ-centered education then check out West Michigan Lutheran High School. Contact the WML office at (616) 455-2200 or email office@wmlhs.org to get the simple and easy enrollment paperwork.

Darrell's Bible Class

We meet every Wednesday at 10:00am at church. They are currently considering the impact of science on religion and how that affects us in our everyday lives. Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there soon!

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.