



**St. James Lutheran Church  
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**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer  
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LENT 4  
MARCH 19, 2023

## BREAD OF LIFE

### AS WE GATHER

The bread we bake in our homes or buy from the store is good for today. But by tomorrow, it may be gone. The gifts we receive in this world satisfy us for a moment; however, the gifts we receive in the promised treasures of God's Word are gifts that are eternal. When Jesus describes Himself in John 6 as the bread of life, we know that He highlights for us His mission of salvation. As our bread of life, Jesus comes to forgive us, renew us, and lead us toward a meaningful life in relationship with Him. Let us taste and experience that life together this day as the Holy Spirit calls us to walk with Jesus and be satisfied by His presence among us.

**The Opening Hymn**            “O Christ, You Walked the Road”  
(LSB 424)

### Invocation

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

**Opening Sentences**        *2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5*

- P** For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
- C** so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
- P** But He was wounded for our transgressions;
- C** He was crushed for our iniquities;

- P** upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
- C** **and with His stripes we are healed.**

**Confession and Absolution**    *Based on Philippians 2:1–11*

- P** Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

*We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.*

- P** With humble hearts, let us pray together:
- C** **Lord Jesus, the Father’s only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**
- P** Our souls are hungry and in need. We waste away without Your daily bread in our lives.
- C** **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—**
- P** to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.
- C** **With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, the true bread from heaven who satisfies the hunger of our souls. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

- P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You reveal Yourself as the bread of life who satisfies all the hungry souls that return to You in repentance and faith.
- C** **Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;**
- P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 16:2–5, 11–18*

- A** The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the sixteenth chapter.

<sup>2</sup>And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, <sup>3</sup>and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” . . . <sup>11</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, <sup>12</sup>“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’” <sup>13</sup>In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. <sup>14</sup>And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the people of Israel saw

it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” <sup>17</sup>And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. <sup>18</sup>But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

- A** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 19:7–10, 14*

- P** The law of the LORD is perfect,
- C** **reviving the soul;**
- P** the testimony of the LORD is sure,
- C** **making wise the simple;**
- P** the precepts of the LORD are right,
- C** **rejoicing the heart;**
- P** the commandment of the LORD is pure,
- C** **enlightening the eyes;**
- P** the fear of the LORD is clean,
- C** **enduring forever;**
- P** the just decrees of the LORD are true,
- C** **and righteous altogether.**
- P** More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
- C** **sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**
- P** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
- C** **be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. 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.**

**Epistle Reading**

*1 Corinthians 10:1–4, 15–17*

**A** The Epistle is from First Corinthians, the tenth chapter.

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. . . . <sup>15</sup>I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup>The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup>Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Choir Anthem:** “Just As I Am.”

**Holy Gospel Reading**

*John 6:32–37*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

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

<sup>32</sup>Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup>They said to Him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me

shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## The Nicene Creed

**The Sermon Hymn** “Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread”  
(LSB 625)

**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!)

## The General Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

**P** Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

**C** Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.

**P** Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus’ great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

**C** that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.

**P** Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

**C** Enable us to savor You as the true bread of life, trusting that You forgive us, renew us, satisfy us, and give our lives meaning.

**P** Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially . . .*], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.

**C** All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**A Song:** “Behold the Lamb of God” (Townend)

### **Verse 1**

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away  
Slain for us and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King

### **Verse 2**

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ  
Torn for you eat and remember  
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life  
Paid the price to make us one  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of love



## Around the table of the King

### **Verse 3**

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin  
Shed for you drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in  
To receive the life of God  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King

### **Verse 4**

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise  
To respond and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
As His body here on earth  
As we share in His suffering  
We proclaim Christ will come again  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven  
Around the table of the King

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## **The Announcements and Blessing**

### **The Service of The Sacrament (Pp. 208ff.)**

**The Distribution:** (We will sing, "The Wonderful Cross" --  
Chris Tomlin)

### **Verse 1**

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died  
My richest gain I count but loss

And pour contempt on all my pride

## **Verse 2**

See from His head His hands His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

## **Chorus**

O the wonderful cross  
O the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find  
That I may truly live  
O the wonderful cross  
O the wonderful cross  
All who gather here by grace  
Draw near and bless Your name

## **Verse 3**

Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were an offering far too small  
Love so amazing so divine  
Demands my soul my life my all

CCLI Song # 3148435  
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## **The Nunc Dimittis, The Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus & Benediction (P. 211ff.)**

### **The Closing Hymn: LSB 761 “Rock of Ages”**

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**Events of the Week: March 20 – March 26, 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: March 19, 2023**

General Fund	\$3507.00
Building Fund	\$75.00
ISJ Academy	\$0.00
Tessaro Ministry	\$80.00
Memorials	\$130.00
Evangelism	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3792.00</b>

**Those Who Serve Today March. 12th.**

**Officiant:** Pastor Glenn Schaeffer  
**Lector:** Cindy McAuliffe  
**Organist:** Beth McKay  
**Deacons:** Jerry Talen / Dave Hood  
**Ushers:** Urbanski Family  
**Video/Sound/Recording:** Nathan Urbanski, John, and Marjie Weiss  
**March Altar Guild:** Kim Urbanski & Carol Bifulco

## **Those Who are Serving Next Week: March 26th.**

**Officiant:** Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

**Lector:** Marjie Weiss

**Organist:** Beth McKay

**Deacons:** Bryan Ensing

**Ushers:** Jim/Nancy Spears, Caleb Butler

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

**March Altar Guild:** Kim Urbanski & Carol Bifulco

## **Announcements**

**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 Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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!

**Christian Summer Children’s Camp: Camp Concordia** 30 minutes north of Grand Rapids, Michigan, gives your children and grandchildren an opportunity to experience a Lutheran camp experience with trained cabin leaders,

lifeguards and program leaders. Weekly experiences include meals, swimming, archery, canoeing, campfire devotions, cookout, Bible adventures and more all wrapped around a Christ-centered message. Get more information at [www.campconcordia.org](http://www.campconcordia.org) If interested a few brochures will be on the table outside the sanctuary near the church office. A poster will be posted on the bulletin board across from the coat room.

### **The EGGS-traordinary Easter Carnival:**

This EGGS-tra special event will be a basket full of carnival fun including egg hunt, games & activities, crafts & music and the Eggs-trodinary account of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead! This year St. James is partnering with ISJ Academy the ISJ PTL to share the Jesus love with the Creston community. So please join us on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 1-3p.m. and check out the newsletter for ways to get involved.

### **Praying with Boldness and Humility:**

Messiah Lutheran Church is hosting a Spiritual Growth Seminar on Saturday March 25, 2023. Different pastors from the area and a professor from Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne will be presenting. If you would like to attend, please RSVP no later than March 20, 2023 to Messiah. For more information and to see the list of presenters please see the flyer on the bulletin board across from the coat room.

**LCMS Foundation:** We can discover great joy by thinking of the benefit that will come from the gifts we give from our estates. Your emotional connection with a current mission activity of your favorite ministry may blind you to the practicality of providing financially for it in the future. A typewriter repair fund set up thirty years ago would no longer make sense. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you work through your thoughts to make gifts that will be sound for the future. Contact Julie Burgess

Gift Planning Counselor  
Church Extension  
Fund

Email: [Julie.burgess@lfnd.org](mailto:Julie.burgess@lfnd.org) Mobile: 713-822-5284

**Good Friday Tre Ore Service:** Please join us on April 7, 2023, from 12:00pm – 3:00pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church. To hear the seven last words of Jesus. You may come and go as you are able during this three-hour service. A man's last words are often the most significant. For more information and to see a list of speakers please see the bulletin board. Our very own pastor Schaeffer will be speaking on "My God, My God".

**Memorial Services for Art Nacke and Bee Ruble.** Two dear friends in Christ joined the Church Triumphant recently. Art's Memorial service will be at St. James on Saturday, March 25 at noon with a catered luncheon to follow. If you are planning to attend the luncheon, there is a sign up sheet on the table by the office. Please make sure you are signed up today! There will also be a Memorial service at St. James for Bee Ruble which is tentatively scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. More information will be shared with the congregation as plans for the service become more solidified.

**Information for Newsletter:** Believe it or not it's that time again. If you would like to have information posted in the April Newsletter, please send it to Ashley at [Office@st.jamesgr.com](mailto:Office@st.jamesgr.com) no later than Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> in "Word Form" not PDF. Ashley will not change the layout of your flyer or announcement it is just simply easier to place in the document when sent out.



## **St. James LWML Invites you to Show Your Heart for Africa!!!**

Join us March 26<sup>th</sup> for **Coffee and Refreshments after the Worship.**

**A free will offering** will be collected for Single Mothers and Babies in Rwanda!

All donations will be sent to Pastor Eldaphonce, a Lutheran Pastor who serves a church in a small town in Rwanda. His congregation is helping support 20 unwed teenage mothers and their babies by providing them with cereal flour, wheat flour, maize flour, sorghum, millet and soya beans, rice, sugar, cooking oil, soap, cosmetics, and fabric.

Rwanda has many young single mothers who do not have the means to support themselves and care for their babies. Many of these young women became pregnant by selling themselves as a means to ward off starvation. The number of women in this situation has increased in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**Pastor Eldaphonce and his congregation are putting Jesus's love into action.** It takes \$300 to provide one woman the basic staples for living for one year. 20 mothers times \$300 is \$6,000 – which is a lot of money for the community church. Our brothers and sisters in Christ thank God for our partnership! If you have a heart for this ministry of the Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda, you can make your donation to the LWML and earmark it for “Rwandan Mothers and Babies” or place it in the donation basket at the March 26<sup>th</sup> “Coffee Time”!

## 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.