



**St. James Lutheran Church
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LENT 2

MARCH 5, 2023

WATER GIVES ME LIFE

AS WE GATHER

Water is life. Water is everywhere. Not only is this true in the world around us, but it is also true in the Scriptures. Throughout the Bible, we witness our Creator giving us new life—cleansing, reshaping, even re-creating—through the water of the Spirit and through the living and active Word of Jesus. Today our attention is drawn to the promised treasure of the life-giving water that God uses to claim us as His children and unite us to His Son’s death and resurrection. With the Savior, who steps into the water with us, we “*daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever*” (Small Catechism, Baptism, Fourth Part).

THE BELL CHOIR (Eventide), Call to Worship, & Welcome

THE OPENING HYMN “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” (LSB 435)

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** Even though You claimed us as Your own in the waters of Baptism, we often do not walk in the newness of life.
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, who blesses us with new birth in the water and the Spirit and assures us that our lives belong to Him. 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.
C **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, through water You reshape and restore Your fallen creation, entering our lives in Baptism so that we may be cleansed by Your Spirit.

C Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 7:11–23

A The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, the seventh chapter.

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹²And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in. ¹⁷The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. ²²Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of

the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 23

P The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C **He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**

P He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

C **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,**

P for You are with me;

C **Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C **You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C **and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. 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.**

THE EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 3:17–22

A The Epistle is from First Peter, the third chapter.

¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is,

eight persons, were brought safely through water.
²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

A CHOIR ANTHEM: “One House Abides Unending”

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1–8

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE SERMON HYMN The Sound of Grace (Kip Fox)

Verse 1

Never-ending unrelenting constant source of hope
Running down from lofty mountains
Into springs below
Oh I am soaked from head to toe in

Chorus 1

Grace sweet grace
A fountain for my soul
Grace sweet grace
A mighty waterfall
Drops of mercy all around
Everywhere the sound of grace

Verse 2

All-consuming shadows looming
Valleys of distress
Draining every strength within me
Til there's nothing left
But I am endlessly refreshed in (Chorus 1)

Bridge

It never stops running over
This rushing water on my shoulders (4Xs)

Chorus 2

Grace sweet grace
A fountain for my soul
Grace sweet grace
A mighty waterfall
Grace sweet grace
A fountain for my soul
Grace sweet grace
A mighty waterfall

Drops of mercy all around
Everywhere the sound of grace

CCLI Song # 7032751
Kip Fox | Matt Armstrong
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SERMON: “Water Gives You Life” (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 OF THE CHURCH

- 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 see the blessings You have poured out into our lives through the washing of water with the Word.**
- 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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

A HYMN “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (*LSB* 440:1, 4-6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BLESSING

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (pp. 194-198 in *LSB*)

THE CHOIR WILL SING THE AGNUS DEI

THE DISTRIBUTION

A DISTRIBUTION HYMN Grace Upon Grace (Matthew West)

Verse 1

What reason do I have to wake up
With the rising sun
And not be held down by the weight
Of all the things I've done
What reason do I have to feel
This hope instead of hurt
How can it be I don't receive
The judgement I deserve

Chorus

Wave upon wave of grace upon grace
Endlessly washing my sins away
I know the only reason I can stand here
Free of all my shame
Is wave upon wave of grace upon grace (upon grace)

Verse 2

How can you see me at my worst
And still say I am loved
What promise can I stand on
When I don't feel good enough

When the enemy's reminding me
Of all that I've done wrong
What freedom do I have to sing
This new creation song

Bridge

What can wash away my sin
And make me new again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Tag

Wave upon wave of grace upon grace upon grace

Ending

What can wash away my sin
And make me new again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

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THE NUNC DIMITTIS AND CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE (pp. 199-202)

A CLOSING HYMN

“Glory Be to Jesus” (*LSB* 433)

THE POSTLUDE

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Events of the Week: March 6 – March 12, 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: February 26, 2023

General Fund	\$2590.00
Building Fund	\$0.00
ISJ Academy	\$0.00
Tessaro Ministry	\$10.00
Memorials	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$2625.00

Those Who Serve Today March. 5th.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Irene Talen

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Craig Popma / Bryan Ensing

Ushers: Dale / Grace Rosema, Orlin Bowman

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

March Altar Guild: Kim Urbanski & Carol Bifulco

Those Who are Serving Next Week: March 12th.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Ann Schaefer

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Dave Hood

Ushers: Jim McKay / Derren Kippen / Caleb Butler

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

March Altar Guild: Kim Urbanski & Carol Bifulco

Announcements

“Promised Treasures”: This Lenten season, we have a fresh opportunity to embrace God’s amazing love for us, His baptized children, in new ways. St. Paul clearly says that *“faith comes from hearing”* (Romans 10:17), but the Gospel is also communicated through the physical senses of sight, smell, touch, and taste. Jesus mentions that a good teacher not only brings out new treasures but reminds people of old and rich treasures as well (see Matthew 13:52). So each Sunday in Lent, we will take a weekly journey to concretely see, smell, touch, and taste a number of biblical elements. Just as Israel wandered through the wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting the Promised Land, we await heaven in the wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free. In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the new promised land. Until we enter our eternal promised land, however, the Lord calls us to be His light in this dark world (see Colossians 3; Ephesians 4). This series will begin with ashes, then proceed to salt, water, light, bread, fragrant oil, and palms. Then, during Holy Week, the focus shifts toward water and blood, wood, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind us of God’s eternal love in Christ, fill us with renewed hope, and increase our joy, knowing that because we are His baptized

children, God is near to us now more than ever. Each Sunday there will be a sermon, a Bible studies and a worship service that will remind us of God's Promised Treasures. Use the Lenten season as a time to mature in your faith by attending the worship services and participating in the Bible studies! Lenten calendars will be distributed on Sunday, February 19th, that will count down to Easter and as we count down, the Lenten calendar will help us see, smell, touch or taste a biblical item that reminds us of God's eternal love for us in Christ.

A Notice About Monday Evening Services:

During the season of Lent, there will no Monday evening services. The attendance at the Monday evening services and the midweek Lenten services tend to be very small, so we are "*combining*" them. We encourage you to attend the Wednesday evening services. The Monday evening services will resume on Monday, April 17th.

Church Directory: Ashley is working on coming out with a new and updated church directory. Please look for the draft that is on the table by the church office, look and fix anything that may have changed over the year. It is alphabetical by last name. She will leave it out until the end of the month. Thank you!

Dorcas Luncheon : The Dorcas Society invites all women to join us for lunch on Thursday March 9th at Cheers on Plainfield Ave. at 12:30 pm. Signup sheet is located outside the Church office or you can contact Rachel Palmer 616-883-6949 or email at palmerm@comcast.net. to sign up and/or if you need a ride.

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 Sunday, April 22nd, 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!

Mailboxes: Ashley is working on making new mailbox signs and organizing the coat room. Please keep an eye out that your box may change its location.

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 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.

Thank You: ISJ Academy cannot thank all of the individuals who donated receipts from SpartanNash stores over the years enough! As I indicated at the end of the year the Direct Your Dollars campaign from SpartanNash was ending. With a big push from many of you and others, we were able to turn in our \$150,000 in receipts before December 31 and the

school has received the \$1,000 donation from SpartanNash. This will be used to help purchase items that some of the teachers are in need of. God does continue to bless the school and you are all a big part of that!!

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.

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.