



**St. James Lutheran Church  
2040 Oakwood Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505**

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**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer  
[glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com](mailto:glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com)

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 17, 2023**

**The Order of Service**

**The Preservice Music, the Call to Worship, & Welcome**

**The Hymn of Invocation:** LSB 737 “Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing”

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**A Hymn of Praise:** 10,000 Reasons (Redman/Myrin)

**Chorus**

Bless the Lord O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

### **Verse 1**

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes (Chorus)

### **Verse 2**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find (Chorus)

### **Verse 3**

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

### **Chorus**

Bless the Lord O my soul  
O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before  
O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name  
Worship Your holy name  
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

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## The Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Old Testament Lesson:

Genesis 50:15–21

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**A Hymn:** LSB 606 "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

## The Epistle Lesson:

Romans 14:1–12

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord

is able to make him stand. <sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." <sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**The Holy Gospel:**

Matthew 18:21–35

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

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

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. <sup>23</sup>"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly

distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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

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

**The Creed:** LSB 953 "We All Believe in One True God"

**The Sermon**

**The Offering**

**The Psalm for the Day:**

Psalm 103:1-13

**P:** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**C: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

**P:** who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**C: who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

**P:** who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**C: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.**

**P:** He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

**C: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**P:** He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

**C: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

**P:** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**C: As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

**P:** As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

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

A Hymn: LSB 683, "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

### The Announcements and Blessing to online Worshipers

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 216

The Words of Institution

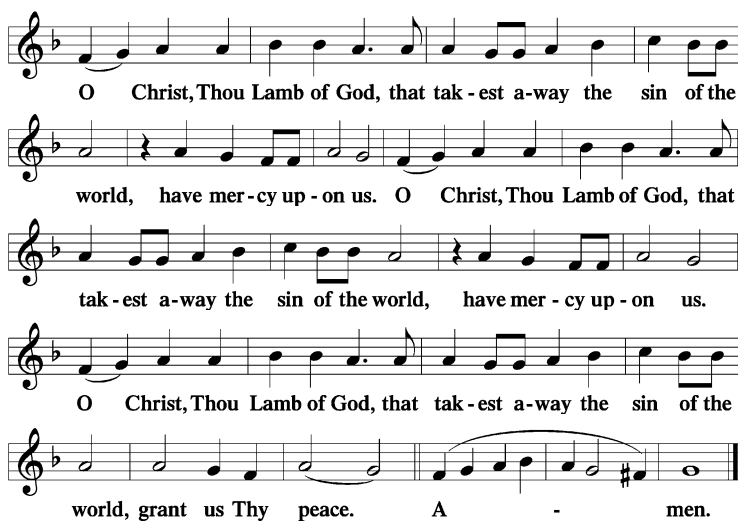
Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

The Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

The Distribution

*(During Holy Communion, you are invited to sing LSB 623, "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray")*

The Post-Communion Collect

The Closing Hymn: LSB 816, "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Five from Lutheran Service Book

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## This Week at St. James

Today (9/17) .....	Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM <b>Communion Service – 9:30 AM</b> Bible Study – 11:00 AM FIF Meeting – 11:00 AM
Monday (9/18) .....	<b>Communion Service – 6:30 PM</b>
Wednesday (9/20) .....	Darrell Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Thursday (9/21) .....	Adult Bells – 6:00 PM Adult Choir – 7:15 PM
Saturday (9/23) .....	Pastors Day Off – 9:00 AM LWML Fall Retreat – 9:00 AM
Sunday (9/24).....	Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM <b>Worship Service – 9:30 AM</b> Bible Study – 11:00 AM

## Looking Ahead

### Serving Today (9/17)

Officiant .....	Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector.....	Marjie Weiss
Organist.....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s) .....	Jerry Talen / Dave Hood
Ushers.....	Walt and Karen Kryzanowski / Jim McKay
Video/Sound/Recording.....	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
September Altar Guild.....	Melissa Ensing / Marjie Weiss

### Serving Next Sunday (9/24)

Lector.....	Cindy McAuliffe
Organist.....	Beth McKay
Deacon(s) .....	Bryan Ensing
Ushers.....	Jim and Nancy Spears
Video/Sound/Recording.....	Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
September Altar Guild.....	Melissa Ensing / Marjie Weiss



## Financial Discipleship: September 10 & 11, 2023

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

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> is the sale**) (**Thursday, 9:00am-4:00pm**) (**Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm**) (**Saturday, 9:00am-12:00pm**)

**Choirs Begin:** We would like to welcome anyone from High School and older to join us for the Bell Ensemble and Choir. Rehearsals have started this past Thursday but please join us if you missed the first one, the Bell Ensemble is at 6:00pm and then the Choir starts at 7:15pm every Thursday. We can't wait to see all the returning faces along with new faces. If you have any questions, please see or call Beth McKay at 616-304-5536.

**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.

**NECM Meijer Simply Give Campaign:** Plainfield Meijer is launching another "Simply Give" program from now until Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> is "Double Match Days". If you would like more information the flyer will be hanging up across from the coat room.

**LWML Grand Rapids Zone & Rapid Waters Zone Fall Retreat:** *"How to be a Godly Woman in an Ungodly World* September 23, 2023, 9:00am – 3:00pm at Camp Concordia *Registration Fee: \$20.00 (includes coffee, donuts, and lunch)* To register, use the sign-up sheet located on the table by the office or text or email Grace at 616-822-3625, [grosema\\_school@yahoo.com](mailto:grosema_school@yahoo.com) or Carol at 616-822-5440, [carol\\_bifulco@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_bifulco@yahoo.com)

**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**.

**KidzTime:** will be starting up in a few weeks and we will need volunteers to make the program a success! We need both "teachers" who can lead simple children's lessons/activities (materials will be provided to you), and "assistants" who can be present for the safety of the children and help out as needed with the lesson and activities. If you are interested in helping out with this program, please contact Christina Shourds at (858) 922-1928 or [cashourds@gmail.com](mailto:cashourds@gmail.com). A Signup Genius link will be made available to allow you to select dates that you are able to serve.

## 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.