



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

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**Office:** 616-363-7718  
**Email:** [office@stjamesgr.com](mailto:office@stjamesgr.com)  
**Website:** [www.stjamesgr.com](http://www.stjamesgr.com)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stjamesgr](http://www.facebook.com/stjamesgr)  
**Online Giving:** [www.stjamesgr.com/give](http://www.stjamesgr.com/give).

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

**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24, 2023**

**Morning Prayer Service (p.235)**

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

**Hymn:** "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" (Townend)

**Verse 1**

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

**Verse 2**

Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

**Verse 3**

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

## Versicles and Venite

*LSB 235-237*

### Psalm 27:1-9

*Psalm 27:1-9*

**P** The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

**C** When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.

**P** Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.

**C** One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his temple.

**P** For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high upon a rock.

**C** And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

**P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**C** You have said, "Seek my face."

My heart says to you,  
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."

**P** Hide not your face from me.  
Turn not your servant away in anger,  
O you who have been my help.  
Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation!

**Office Hymn: 801 "How Great Thou Art"**

### **The Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 55:6-9*

**L** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 55.

<sup>6</sup>"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **The Epistle Reading**

*Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30*

**L** A reading from Philippians, chapter 1.

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

<sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two.

My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. <sup>27</sup>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The Holy Gospel

*Matthew 20:1-16*

**P** A reading from Matthew, chapter 20.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup>And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you

and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?  
<sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

**The Sermon Hymn: 527 “O Savior, Precious Savior”**

**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!)

**A Hymn of Praise: The Power of the Cross (Getty)**

**Verse 1**

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day  
Christ on the road to Calvary  
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then  
Nailed to a cross of wood

**Chorus 1**

This the pow'r of the cross  
Christ became sin for us  
Took the blame bore the wrath  
We stand forgiven at the cross

**Verse 2**

Oh to see the pain written on Your face  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin  
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow (Chorus 1)

**Verse 3**

Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head  
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life  
Finished the vict'ry cry (Chorus 1)

**Verse 4**

Oh to see my name written in the wounds  
For through Your suff'ring I am free  
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live  
Won through Your selfless love (Chorus 2)

**Chorus 2**

This the pow'r of the cross  
Son of God slain for us  
What a love what a cost  
We stand forgiven at the cross

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

**Benedicamus and Benediction**

*LSB 241-242*

**Hymn to Depart: 826 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying**

**Acknowledgments**

Morning Prayer from Lutheran Service Book  
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**This Week at St. James**

- Today (9/24) ..... Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM  
**Worship Service – 9:30 AM**  
Bible Study – 11:00 AM
- Monday (9/25) ..... **Communion Service – 6:30 PM**  
(Ashley out of town for the week)
- Wednesday (9/27) ..... Darrell Bible Study – 10:00 AM

**Thursday (9/28)** ..... Adult Bells – 6:00 PM  
 Adult Choir – 7:15 PM  
**Saturday (9/30)** ..... Pastors Day Off – 9:00 AM  
 Drop Off for Sale Begins – 9:00 AM  
**Sunday (10/1)**..... Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM  
**Communion Service** (Mites Sunday) – **9:30 AM**  
 Bible Study – 11:00 AM  
 LWML Meeting – 6:00 PM

## Looking Ahead

### Serving Today (9/24)

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

### Serving Next Sunday (10/1)

Lector..... Irene Talen  
 Organist..... Beth McKay  
 Deacon(s) ..... Jerry Talen / Craig Popma  
 Ushers..... Jim and Nancy Spears  
 Video/Sound/Recording..... Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss  
 October Altar Guild..... Sherry Schmidt / Jennifer Schmidt  
 KidzTime ..... Teacher and Assistant Needed

## Financial Discipleship: September 17 & 18, 2023

General Fund	\$2,875.00
<i>Needed each week for budget \$5,769.00 (-\$2,212.75)</i>	
Tessaro Ministry (Nigeria Mission)	\$50.00
Rwandan Mothers From LWML	\$511.25
<u>ISJ Academy</u>	<u>\$120.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Contributions</b>	<b>\$3,556.25</b>



## Announcements

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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**)

**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.

**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**.

**Newsletter:** The October Newsletter will be coming out soon. If you would like something to be in the newsletter for October, please send it to the office no later than this Wednesday. Please remember to send it in "Word Format".

**Calling all bakers:** Would you like to help raise funds for "Having a Heart for Africa" - our project that supports single moms and their babies in Rwanda, while at the same time giving a treat to our Creston neighbors? If so, bring some baked goods to the church for the Second-Best Sale which is scheduled for October 12th-15th. Place two or three cookies or squares in a Ziplock bag or on a wrapped plate. Feel free to bring a dozen or more to the church on the days leading up to the sale. Thank you for your servant hearts!



## WE ARE HIRING!

ISJ Academy located in Grand Rapids, MI is actively seeking applicants to join the ISJ Community for the current 2023-2024 School Year. Current positions are open for an Elementary Teacher with a love for Math and/or Spanish either Part or Full Time (Gr. 2-8), Preschool Aides with a focus on the afternoon shift as well as Substitute teachers to add to our current list when the need arises. Job descriptions can be found on our website at <https://www.mychristianschool.com/jobs>. If you feel so moved or know of an individual(s) that you feel would be a good fit within our ISJ family please encourage them to reach out to the school with any questions and/or their Cover Letter and Resume for review to [careers@mychristianschool.com](mailto:careers@mychristianschool.com) . Thank you!