



**St. James Lutheran Church
We Grow. We Go. We Gather.**

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Transfiguration Sunday
February 11, 2024

The Order of Service (Morning Prayer)

"*Seek Ye First*" (Choir), The Call to Worship & Welcome

Hymn: 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Versicles & Venite

LSB 235-236

Office Hymn: 413 O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair

Prayer of the Day

The Old Testament Lesson: 2 Kings 2:1-12

L A reading from 2 Kings, chapter 2.

¹When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

²And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

³And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho.

⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the

Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:1-6

L A reading from 2 Corinthians, chapter 3.

¹²Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, with

unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

¹Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

A Song: "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

Verse 1

Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord
Emmanuel God is with us
Blessed Redeemer living Word

Verse 2

Jesus loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches Son of God
Prince of Peace Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the universe Light of the world

Verse 3

Praise him Lord above all lords
King above all kings God's only Son
The Prince of Peace who by his Spirit
Comes to live in us Master and Friend

CCLI Song # 21291

Naida Hearn

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The Gospel Lesson: Mark 9:2-9

P A reading from the Gospel of St. Mark, chapter 9.

²After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

- 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.**

Hymn: 416 Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

Sermon

Offering

Hymn: 414 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

The General Prayer of the Church

A Song: "Above All" (LeBlanc)

Verse 1

Above all powers above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began.

Verse 2

Above all kingdoms above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure
What You're worth.

Chorus

Crucified laid behind the stone
You lived to die rejected and alone

Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
Above all

(Repeat Verse 1-2 and chorus)

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Collect for Grace *LSB 241*

The Lord's Prayer *LSB 241*

The Benedicamus & Benediction *LSB 241-242*

Hymn to Depart: 417 Alleluia, Song of Gladness (*Tune: Picardy, LSB 621 The choir will sing the first three verses and the congregation will sing verse 4.*)

1 Alleluia, song of gladness,
Voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem
Ever raised by choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding
Thus they sing eternally.

2 Alleluia, thou resoundest,
True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluia, joyful mother,
All thy children sing with thee,
But by Babylon's sad waters
Mourning exiles now are we.

3 Alleluia cannot always
Be our song while here below;

Alleluia, our transgressions
Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin must flow.

4 Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee,
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter
With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing
Alleluia joyfully.

Text & Tune: Public domain

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This Week at St. James

Today (2/11) Bible study – 11:00 AM
LWML – 11:00 AM
Friends in Faith – 11:00 AM
Tuesday (2/13) GR Circuit Pastors Meeting – 8:30-1:00 PM
Wednesday (2/14)Darrell Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Pancake Supper – 5:30 PM
Ash Wednesday service – 6:30 PM
Thursday (2/15) Adult Bells – 6:00 PM
Adult Choir – 7:15 PM
Sunday (2/11)..... Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM
Worship Service – 9:30 AM
Bible Study – 11:00 AM

Serving Today (2/11)

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Glenn Schaeffer
Lector.....Carol Bifulco
OrganistBeth McKay

Deacon(s).....Dave Hood
UshersJim & Nancy
Spears; Dale and Grace Rosema
Video/Sound/Recording Nathan Urbanski/John & Marjie Weiss
KidzTime..... Cindy McAuliffe/Mary Ward
February Altar Guild.....Cindy McAuliffe
Adult Choir

Financial Discipleship: February 4 & 5, 2024

General Fund: \$9,805.00

Needed each week for our General Fund budget \$5,769.00

Building Fund: \$75.00

St. James Tuition Assistance: \$200.00

Tessaro Ministry (LBT, Nigeria): \$25.00

Poinsettia –Youth Fund: \$351.70

Bottle Return – Youth Fund: \$41.50

TOTAL Contributions: \$10,498.20

Announcements

Ash Wednesday Service: Join us on February 14th for our Ash Wednesday service. It begins at 6:30 p.m. The service will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Dorcas Society February Gathering All women of St James are invited to gather on Thursday, February 15 at 12:30 at Russ' on Alpine Ave. Following lunch together, we will be reviewing and discussing an article on *“Why churches need their senior members and what senior members want from their church.”* This article appeared in the CEF publication. This will initiate a discussion on the ministry with our senior members at St. James. We will also be writing greetings to several of our sisters in Christ who are no longer able to worship with us and join in our gatherings. Please contact Rachel Palmer (616-883-6949 or at palmerrm@comcast.net to make your reservation.

Please RSVP by February 13. Please come, share your ideas, and enjoy this time together.

What's happening on Sunday, March 17th??? We are going to have a special meal (with some Rwandan cuisine) served following the service; Pastor Schaeffer will share with us what he will be doing in Rwanda when he travels there in April; and we will have an opportunity to financially support Pastor Schaeffer's trip. Reserve the date on your calendar and watch future bulletins and the March newsletter for more details.

The Altar Guild Needs You: We are looking for individuals or families who would be willing to volunteer their time to Altar Guild. If you are interested there is a binder in the Altar Guild room that will have all the information that you will need. Deb or Kelsey will be available to walk through the process with you. If you are interested in serving the church in this way please let the office, Deb, or Kelsey Butler know as soon as possible.

You're Invited to Participate in St. James' Leadership Retreat -- On the weekend of April 12-13th you are invited to participate in St. James' leadership retreat. The retreat will begin on Friday evening (7 p.m.-9 p.m.) and will continue Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.). The retreat will be held at the Warner Building (downtown Grand Rapids). We will spend the time in prayer and studying God's Word. We will identify the opportunities and challenges we are facing as a congregation and begin to develop a plan to address these opportunities and challenges. *If you plan to attend the retreat, please let Pastor Schaeffer know by **April 2.***

Mark your calendar for the 16th Annual ISJ Golf Outing Fundraiser! Dreaming of warmer days? This year's ISJ Golf Outing Fundraiser will take place on June 1st at Arrowhead Golf Course in Lowell. It's time to assemble your team and get signed up! This will be an 18-hole shotgun start scramble format like in years past. Early bird registration for a foursome

runs through April 12th and costs \$375. After April 12th the cost for a foursome cost is \$400. If you are not able to golf but interested in supporting the event you can do so through the same link/QR code. Proceeds from this event support the school by providing additional resources, technology devices, and supplies for the classroom. If you have questions, please reach out to the school office at isjoffice@mychristianschool.com or a school board member (Amy Ferris, Erin Reed) from the congregation.

Christian Summer Children's Camp: Camp Concordia 30 minutes north of Grand Rapids, Michigan, allows your children and grandchildren to experience a Lutheran Camp experience with trained cabin Leaders, lifeguards, and program leaders. Weekly experiences include meals, swimming, archery, canoeing, campfire, devotions, cookouts, Bible adventures and more all wrapped around a Christ-centered message. Get more information at www.campconcordia.org. There is also information on the bulletin board in the hallway.

A Brief History of "Shrove Tuesday"

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the last day of what was once called "*Shrovetide*," originally a three-day period before the beginning of Lent. Eventually, the previous Thursday through Saturday was added to make a full week.

The word "*shrove*," is from the Anglo-Saxon "*to write down*," or "*prescribe*," as in to prescribe a particular penance after confession. Shrovetide itself is the English equivalent of what became known in the greater part of Southern Europe, and eventually the Americas, as the "*Carnival*." Strangely enough, this word, in spite of wild activities to the contrary, is derived from the Latin term for "*taking away of the flesh*" (*carneum levare*). The original idea was that during the week immediately before Lent everyone would go to his

priest and confess his sins, and the priest would in turn prescribe or "*shrive*" what he needs to do in the way of penance during the upcoming Lenten season. Most of the time this meant depriving, or "*taking away*" some pleasure of the flesh.

Human nature being what it is, it is understandable that prior to a long period of going without a fleshly enjoyment of some kind, people allow themselves somewhat exceptional freedom in the way of festivity. Thus, this period has come to be known for great excesses in sin and vice of all kinds. In France and Latin countries, it is called "*Mardi gras*" and in Germany "*fetter Dienstag*."

The English custom of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday came from the need to use up all eggs and fat or oil, which were originally prohibited in the Christian's diet during the forty days of Lent. This also partially accounts for the association of eggs with the Resurrection festival at the end of Lent.

Today, Shrove Tuesday has all but disappeared from Christian practice, while at the same time, sad to say, the wild mutation of Carnival has taken hold and indeed run amok. If I might make a small suggestion: The observance of Shrove Tuesday with a pancake supper and an evening devotion would be a small way of paying homage to our Christian forbearers and setting our sights properly on the coming remembrance of the Passion of our Lord.

Source: Intrepid Lutherans -- <http://www.intrepidlutherans.com/2012/02/shrove-tuesday.html>