



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

*We Grow, We Go, We Gather*

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**The Confession of St. Peter**  
**January 14, 2024**

**The Office of Matins (p. 219)**

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

**Common Versicles** *LSB 219*

**Antiphon (Common)** *LSB 220*

**Venite** *LSB 220*

**Antiphon (Common)** *LSB 221*

**Office Hymn:** 912 “Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

**The First Reading:** Acts 4:8-13

**A:** The First Reading is Acts 4:8-13

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead – by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

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

**G:** **Thanks be to God.**

**The Second Reading:** 2 Peter 1:1-15

**A:** The Second Reading is 2 Peter 1:1-15

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so

that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

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

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

**A Song:** Jesus, Messiah

### **Verse 1**

He became sin who knew no sin  
That we might become His righteousness  
He humbled Himself and carried the cross  
Love so amazing love so amazing

### **Chorus**

*Jesus Messiah Name above all names  
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel  
The Rescue for sinners  
The Ransom from heaven  
Jesus Messiah Lord of all*

### **Verse 2**

His body the bread His blood the wine  
Broken and poured out all for love  
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn

Love so amazing love so amazing (Chorus)

### Bridge

All our hope is in You

All our hope is in You

All the glory to You God

The Light of the world (Chorus)

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### The Gospel Reading:

Mark 8:27–35

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

**C:** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

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

**C:** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

### Responsory

*LSB 221*

**Hymn:** 517 “By All Your Saints in Warfare”

*sts. 1, 10, 3*

**The 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.)

**The 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!)

**Offering Hymn:** 409 “Hail, O Source of Every Blessing” ( We will sing the Hymn during the offering)

**Te Deum** *LSB 223*

**Kyrie** *LSB 227*

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

**Hymn:** 395 “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

**Collects**

**Confession of Peter**

Heavenly Father, You revealed to the apostle Peter the blessed truth that Your Son Jesus is the Christ. Strengthen us by the proclamation of this truth that we too may joyfully confess that there is salvation in no one else; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**☩ Amen.**

**Collect for Grace**

**Benedicamus** *LSB 228*

**Benediction** *LSB 228*

**Hymn to Depart:** 837 “Lift High the Cross”

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## **This Week at St. James**

**Today (1/14)** ..... Gizmo on FB – 8:00 AM  
**Worship Service - 9:30 AM**  
Bible Study – 11:00 AM  
F.I.F Meeting - 11:00 AM  
LWML Meeting – 6:00 PM

**Monday (1/15)** ..... **Communion Service - 6:30 PM**



## Announcements

**Martin Luther called the Lord's Prayer the "greatest martyr"** because it is often misunderstood, misused by people who do not understand its meaning, and spoken with little thought given to the meaning of the petitions. Pastor Schaeffer begins a course today following the worship service on "The Lord's Prayer." All are welcome to study this prayer given to us by our Lord Himself!

**Sometimes Silence is Golden.** Other times it is a relationship killer. Two people are estranged. Angry. At odds. A friend intervenes with the suggestion, "Well, have you tried talking about it?" Reconciliation takes conversation, verbal interaction, words. Under the theme *Love Talks: Daring Conversations Toward Reconciliation*, the 2024 Theological Conference is designed especially for laity of all ages. The conference, which will take place on February 3 in Lansing, will equip you to engage in the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). The world around us needs us to engage with others in the ministry of reconciliation, both with people and with God. At the very heart of all reconciliation is the Word Himself, the Word made flesh, Jesus. Let's get started with daring conversations of reconciliation. After all, love talks.

**WHEN?** February 3, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**WHERE?** Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy Lansing, MI, 48917

**Early Bird Registration Cost** (includes boxed lunch):

\$30 General Registration / \$35 after January 15

\$20 Students / \$25 after January 15

Livestream is free but you must register to receive the link.

For more information, visit: <https://michigandistrict.org/event/theological-conference-2024/#overview>. If interested in attending this conference, please talk with Pastor Schaeffer.

### **Epiphany and Its Season - It's Significance**

Epiphany is one of the oldest seasons in the Christian Church Year, second only to the Easter season. This season of lights emphasizes Jesus' manifestation (or epiphany, from the Greek *epiphaneia*) as God and man. The earliest Christians called the Feast of the Epiphany the *Theophany* ("revelation of God"). When the Gentile Magi come to worship Jesus, they show that now everyone has access to God. Now all people, Jew and Gentile, can come to God's temple to worship, because Jesus is

the new temple: God in the flesh. The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6) marks the celebration of the visit of the Magi, sometimes called, *“The Christmas of the Gentiles.”*

Epiphany, which begins with evening prayer on January 5<sup>th</sup> and ends the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, may include as many as nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. Because Easter is early in 2024 (March 31<sup>st</sup>), there will be only six Sundays in the Epiphany season. The season is marked at its beginning and at its end by two important feasts of Christ.

On the first Sunday after the Epiphany, the Church celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord. The Father had sent His Son to bear the sins of the world. So, Jesus steps down into baptismal waters so that He can soak up the sins of the world: He is baptized into our sins, so that our Baptism might be into His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

The Feast of Transfiguration is celebrated on the last Sunday in the Epiphany season. This festival commemorates the moment on the Mount of Transfiguration when three of Jesus’ disciples glimpsed their Lord in divine splendor, seeing Him as the center of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). Jesus proclaims to His disciples, then and now, that He is the long-awaited one who has come to die for the sins of the world and to be raised again in glory.

### **Lector and Usher Sign-ups**

If you would like to serve as a lector and or an usher please see the sign-up sheets in the lobby on the table next to the office.

### **Altar Guild Needs You**

We are looking for individuals or families that 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.

**Knit/Crocheted Together in Love** We invite you to join us in the classroom located on the first floor, after church on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> for *“Knit/Crocheted Together in Love”*. Please come to learn the basics of knitting/crocheting, to share your knitting/crocheting skills, and/or to enjoy Christian fellowship while working on your own project. **What to bring:** Your own snack/lunch or something to share. Also, if possible, bring yarn, and knitting needles/crochet hook. If not, we will have supplies for you to borrow.