

St. James Lutheran Church

1741 S State Street
Greenfield Indiana 46140

*The mission statement of our congregation is:
To bring people to Christ,
encouraging relationships with Him and others.*

**SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**
Jesus Asks Us For
Single-minded Devotion



July 24, 2022

Meditation: *Prayer is vital in our relationship with Jesus. When we pray, we must remember that Father God is good and intends good things for His children. As the disciples observed Jesus praying, they wondered about best prayer practices. Jesus taught them the Lord's prayer followed by two examples of persistent prayer. The Lord answers prayers- we just have to ask.*

Today's chancel flowers are given for the Glory of God



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Greenfield, IN 46140
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Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

The mission statement of our congregation is:

To bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships with Him and others.

*Rev. Dr. Richard Blue Jr., Pastor
Joe Faith, Music Director*

TO ALL GUESTS...

- **THANKS** for joining us for worship today. We hope your experience will be one of being touched by God and of being enriched through our experience of fellowship. **Please fill out the Connection Card found in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.** And please come again!!
 - **PARTICIPATE**
 - The worship service is printed in the bulletin and can also be viewed on the video screen for your convenience. Bulletins are emailed to all members each week.
 - **Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during the worship service.**
 - The service is streamed live and available online afterward on YouTube. Links can be found on the [St. James website \(www.stjamesnalc.org\)](http://www.stjamesnalc.org) and [Facebook page](#).
 - **COMMUNE** — All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is present with his body and blood in the bread and wine are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. The ushers will direct those receiving the sacrament down the center aisle to the altar rail. **If you require gluten free host, please let the servers know.**
 - **NEED ASSISTANCE?**
 - **Hearing devices** are available for those who have trouble hearing through the loudspeaker system.
 - Hand sanitizer is available on the tables in the Narthex and in the pews.
- Please feel free to ask an Usher for assistance, they will be happy to help you.

**PRELUDE
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Joe Faith

Please Stand

† We Lift Our Hearts in Worship †

INVOCATION AND PRAYER

P: In the name of the Father, the Son (+), and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P: Make us to know Your ways, O Lord, and teach us Your paths. Lead us in Your truth and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation; for whom we wait. (Psalm 25:4-5)

C: Amen

P: If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination.)

P: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love.

C: According to Your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen. (Psalm 51)

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake, God forgives you all your sins. As the Word of God proclaims: If any are in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Cor 5:17-18)

C: Amen.

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God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil roun'd us Scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour your pow'r; Crown your an - cient Church's . . . sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; Let the gift of your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 Lest we miss your king - dom's goal, Lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 Serv - ing you whom we a - dore, Serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 138, the Psalm of the Day

P: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

L: I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;

C: I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name

L: for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,

C: for you have so exalted above all things your name and your word.

L: When I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.

C: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life.

L: You stretch out Your hand against the anger of my foes; with Your right hand You save me.

C: The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; your steadfast love, LORD, endures forever.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray Lord Jesus, we are just imperfect people operating out of our flesh. We need the Holy Spirit in our lives to fill us with You. When we call on Your name, You answer! You never leave us, nor forsake us. You are faithful and unfailing. We rejoice in You, Jesus. We are so glad that You are our God!

C: We praise You, Jesus, for Your unfailing love. Praise the Lord! Amen

Please be seated

† We Hear God's Word †

[Read aloud both the introduction and Scripture]

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:20-33 (page 14 in the pew bible)

God intended to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, but Abraham pleaded with the Lord to save the cities if there were at least ten righteous people found. The Lord agreed with Abraham, but only found Abraham righteous in the end.

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ²¹ that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know." ²² The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be

it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" ²⁶ The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, ²⁸ what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?" "If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it." ²⁹ Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?" He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." ³¹ Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?" He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it." The Lord went on his way when he had finished his conversation with Abraham, and Abraham returned to his tent.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **"Alleluia!"**

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 11:1-13 (page 892-893 in pew bible)

Prayer is vital in our relationship with Jesus. When we pray, we must remember that Father God is good and intends good things for His children. As the disciples observed Jesus praying, they wondered about best prayer practices. Jesus taught them the Lord's prayer followed by two examples of persistent prayer. The Lord answers prayers- we just have to ask.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." ² He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation." ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. ⁹ "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who

seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for^[f] a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Tracy Guffey

THE MESSAGE HYMN

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
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 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;

10,000 Reasons

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 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 forever
more!

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

Ending
Lord, I'll worship your holy name
Lord, I'll worship your holy name
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to
find.

Please be seated

MESSAGE FOR OUR OLDER DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Richard Blue Jr.

Please Stand

† We Respond to God's Word †

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: *Let these words not be lip service. May they spring up from our hearts like a well as we boast in the Lord!*

C: **Praise the Lord God of Heaven and of earth! Praise His holy name! All of Creation praises God, for He is exalted and is worthy to be lifted high. He reaches down to the lowly, stretches His mighty arm to save, and He does not go back on His Word.**

Praise Jesus Christ, Son of God! Praise His holy name! He is divinely both God and man and is the sacrificial Lamb of God who bore the sins of the world. On earth, He lived in relationship with His Father- God- and sought His face in prayer.

Praise the Holy Spirit! Praise His holy name! He is the Spirit of the living God. He fills us with His good fruit so that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to this world. He guides us to the truth always and sets us free from bondage.

Hallelujah! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

VBS Showcase Video

Now we join with Christians all over the world in worshipping God through our giving of our financial resources. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. Instead, we hope that we are able to give something to you. We welcome you to give only as your heart desires. For members and friends, the vision and ministry of St. James depends on your giving. We thank you in advance for your generosity. This time of offering is a significant act of worship, and we now offer our offerings and tithes.

THE OFFERING RESPONSE "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" LBW #564

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for Your faithfulness. We are so grateful that we can always count on You. Out of Your abundance and great mercy, You have given us so much. And so, we give You this offering today. With it we worship You and give our whole selves to You. Take it now and use it for Your kingdom and Your glory. Extend and multiply its reach and influence, we pray. May it be a great blessing to many. We ask all this in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

† We Celebrate the Lord's Supper †

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: As we remember the Lord Jesus' gift of sacrifice for us, let us close our eyes and imagine sitting with Him reclining back. On the table, bread and wine is displayed- the perfect meal to portray the perfect sacrifice. Here is our Lord, wonderful and present, and here we are... broken and needy. He breaks the bread- His body- and he drinks of the cup- His blood. We take it in, for in just a while, Jesus would walk the road to Calvary.

C: Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice. Thank You for Your broken body. Thank You for Your spilled blood.

P: We fix our eyes on You, Jesus, and we hope and wait for the day we will meet You in glory!

C: Praise You, Jesus! Amen.

P: And we join with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, as we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF JESUS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

C: Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

Please be seated

THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN

You are Still Holy

Holy, You are still holy,
Even when the darkness surrounds my life
Sovereign, You are still sovereign
Even when confusion has blinded my eyes
Lord I don't deserve Your kind affection
When my unbelief has kept me from Your
touch
I want my life to be a pure reflection of Your
love

CHORUS:

And so I come into Your chambers
And I dance at Your feet Lord
You are my savior, and I'm at Your mercy
All that has been in my life up to now
It belongs to You
You are still holy

Holy, You are still holy
Even though I don't understand
Your ways
Sovereign You will be sovereign
Even when my circumstances don't
change
Lord I don't deserve Your tender
patience
When my unbelief has kept me from
Your truth
I want my life to be a sweet
devotion to You

CHORUS:

And so I come into Your chambers
And I dance at Your feet Lord
You are my savior, and I'm at Your
mercy
All that has been in my life up to
now
It belongs to You
You are still holy

THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

P: May you experience overwhelming waves of peace, joy, and love as you pursue the Lord in prayer. May He open up the Heavens and rain down on your lives.

C: We will persist in prayer and believe in faith that God hears our every word.

THE BENEDICTION

P: *As you go your ways today, pray wholeheartedly. Worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth.*

C: **We will. For the Lord is good, and worthy of all of our praise! Amen.**

† We Depart in Peace †

THE CLOSING HYMN "Be Thou My Vision" ELW 793 Eb4



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly; the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light:
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: Irish traditional

SLANE
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THE DISMISSAL

Worship Volunteers

This Week, July 24th	9:30 am Pastor Richard Blue	Next Week, July 31th	9:30 a.m. Pastor Richard Blue
Assisting Minister	Debbie Mowrey	Assisting Minister	Christian Gries
Lector	Dawn Hahm	Lector	June Gries
Ushers	Linda Hess Wanda Stephens-Wooten	Ushers	Sheila Bryan John Browder
Greeters	Liz Clark Terry Clark	Greeters	June Gries Ron Westerfeld
Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott	Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott
Communion Assistant	June Gries	Communion Assistant	June Gries
Acolyte	Darrel Turner	Acolyte	Andrew Turner
Sound Technician	Dan Ivers	Sound Technician	Dan Ivers
Video Technician	Geoff LaFlower	Video Technician	Geoff LaFlower
Bread Baker	Janet Farrow	Bread Baker	Kenya Ostermeier
Children's Sermon	Tracy Guffey	Children's Sermon	
Counters (Monday) Wk4	Ron Westerfeld Marsha Westerfeld	Counters (Monday) Wk1	Maggie Bode Carol Hudson