

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.*

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

What Disciples Do

September 18, 2022



Meditation: "My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.
I am hurt for my poor people, I mourn, I am dismayed."
Help us, O God of our salvation. Help us!
"Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?"
Help us, O God of our salvation. Help us!

**Today's chancel flowers are given in celebration of Karen Bell's birthday by
Christian and June Gries and the Westerfeld's 61st wedding anniversary.**



1741 S. State Street
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

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**

Please Stand

† We Lift Our Hearts in Worship †

INVOCATION AND PRAYER

P: In the name of the Father, the Son (+), and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

C: Amen.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

C: We confess that we find Your medicine hard to swallow.
The quick fixes of this world are so much more pleasant,
leaving us free to go back to our usual routines.
But Your medicine is powerful.
And if we take it, it will remake and renew our lives.
It will reorient us to You and to You alone.
Turn us toward Your love for justice and true worship.
Forgive our sins, for which You weep.
Forgive our hesitation.
Grant us courage to choose You as our physician,
and to serve You and You alone. Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: The God of our salvation, the God who weeps for us and for our world,
desires everyone to be saved. Christ Jesus, a human like us,
gave Himself as a ransom for all. Through the love of the one God
and the one mediator, we are forgiven.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN

ELW 880 "O God, Beyond All Praising"

Verse 1

O God beyond all praising
We worship You today
And sing the love amazing
That songs cannot repay
For we can only wonder
At every gift You send
At blessings without number
And mercies without end
We lift our hearts before You
And wait upon Your word
We honor and adore You
Our great and mighty Lord

Verse 2

The flow'r of earthly splendor
in time must surely die,
Its fragile bloom surrender to you,
the Lord most high;
But hidden from all nature
the eternal seed is sown-
Though small in mortal stature,
to heaven's garden grown:
For Christ, your gift from heaven,
from death has set us free,
And we through Him are given
the final victory.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We look upon our world, our neighborhoods,
our families, and see suffering and want.

How long, O Lord?

We see deep suffering, brutal violence,
destroyed homes, and ravaged nations.

How long, O Lord?

Let your compassion come quickly to meet us,
for we are brought low.

How long, O Lord?

Help us, O God of our salvation!

Help us, O Source of our hope!

Verse 3

Then hear O gracious Savior
Accept the love we bring
That we who know Your favor
May serve You as our king
And whether our tomorrows
Be filled with good or ill
We'll triumph through our
sorrows
And rise to bless You still
To marvel at Your beauty
And glory in Your ways
And make a joyful duty
Our sacrifice of praise

OPENING PRAYER

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: God of grief,

You see our hurt and weep:

"O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears."

Sometimes we share Your grief,
and we despair.

Sometimes we are so used to the way things are,
that we scarcely notice.

But one day, one night, one morning,
maybe this morning—Your pain, our pain,
our world's pain, hits us.

And we call out to You,

"Is there a balm in Gilead? Is there healing?"

Today we wait for Your answer,

You who weep for us and with us.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated

† We Hear God's Word †

[Read aloud both the introduction and Scripture]

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 8:19-9:1 (page 657 in pew bible)

Listen to the cry of my people from a land far away:

"Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King no longer there?"

"Why have they aroused my anger with their images, with their worthless foreign idols?"

²⁰ "The harvest is past, the summer has ended and we are not saved."

²¹ Since my people are crushed, I am crushed I mourn, and horror grips me.

²² Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?

Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?

9 ¹ Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears!

I would weep day and night for the slain of my people.

P: The Word of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see!
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me."

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13 (page 899 in pew bible)

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

16 Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

³ "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— ⁴ I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

⁵ "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

⁶ " 'Nine hundred gallons^[a] of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.' ⁷ "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?'

"A thousand bushels^[b] of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

⁸ "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

P: The Word of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Alison LaFlower

Please stand

THE MESSAGE HYMN

The Lord is my Shephard ELW 778

Verse 1

The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.
He makes me to down to lie in pastures green;
He leadeth me in the quiet waters by. He
leadeth me, He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

Verse 2

My soul He doth restore again, and me to walk
doth make within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for His own name's sake; within the paths
of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

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

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of
the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried; He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again; He
ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come
again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please be seated

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

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.

Please Stand

THE OFFERING RESPONSE

Doxology

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

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Lord, we got up this morning, ate our breakfast, got dressed,
and came to church—
all to give You praise and thanksgiving.
May these gifts be a blessing for those who had no bed this morning
from which to arise;
for those who had no breakfast and are hungry this day;
for those who have no new clothes; for those who long to worship You
but cannot.
Take these gifts and use them as You will, O God.
In Jesus' name we pray. 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: It is a right and good thing to give our thanks and praise to God, who made heaven and earth and all that is in it.

God commanded humankind

to have dominion over the earth,

to produce from its bounty a life of sharing and community,

that all may find a saving relationship with God.

Through our sin, we have defiled the earth, and threaten our own existence with ruin.

Through our greed, ignorance, and hate, we have defiled God's gifts to us,

Yet, through it all, God's love never failed, even to the point of sending Jesus Christ

to be our new life and salvation. By delivering us from captivity to sin,

God has remained faithful to us, tempering anger with grace and mercy.

And so, with Your people on earth, and all the company of heaven,

we praise Your name and join their unending hymn, saying:

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: The bread is ready, the cup is filled, the table is set.
Let all who are hungry for the love of God, come and be fed.
Let all who are thirsty for new life, come and share the cup.
Let all who want to follow Jesus, come and join the feast.

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD

THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN

As the Deer

Verse

As the deer (as the deer)
Thirsts for the water Lord
(Thirsts for the water Lord)
So my soul (so my soul)
Longs for Thee (longs for Thee)
My soul (my soul)
Thirsts for the Living God
(Thirsts for the Living God)
Yes my soul (yes my soul)
Longs for Thee (longs for Thee)

Ending

Longs for Thee (longs for Thee)
Longs for Thee (longs for Thee)
Longs for Thee (longs for Thee)
Longs for Thee

Chorus

And I pour out my soul deep within me
Deep within me I pour out my soul
Take me deeper Lord
Deeper Lord in You
Take me deeper Lord
Deeper Lord in You

CCLI Song # 846287
Dennis Jernigan

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THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

P: May the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, make us strong, filling us with His peace.

C: We have come as guests invited to His banquet, not because we are worthy, but because He is love. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: Be faithful with little. Be faithful with much. Be faithful with what belongs to another. Be faithful with what is your own. Serve only one master. There is one God. We will serve this God alone. And may the grace, mercy, and peace of the one God be with you. Amen.

C: Amen.

† We Depart in Peace †

THE CLOSING HYMN

ELW 818 Eb 4 “O Master, Let Me Walk With You”

Chorus

O Master let me walk with You
In lowly paths of service true
Tell me Your secret
Help me bear the strain of toil
The fret of care

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear winning word of love
Teach me the wayward feet to stay
And guide them in the homeward way

Teach me Your patience
Share with me a closer dearer company
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong
In trust that triumphs over wrong

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broad'ning way
In peace that only You can give
With You O Master let me live

CCLI Song # 1758776
Dale Wood | H. Percy Smith | Washington Gladden

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THE DISMISSAL

Worship Volunteers

This Week, September 18	9:30 am Pastor Richard Blue	Next Week, Sept 25	9:30 a.m. Pastor Richard Blue
Assisting Minister	Christian Gries	Assisting Minister	Ron Westerfeld
Lector	Christian Gries	Lector	Marieta Boone
Ushers	Tom Fisher Nancy Fisher	Ushers	Linda Hess Wanda Stephens-Wooten
Greeters	John Shaw Joan Shaw	Greeters	Liz Clark Terry Clark
Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott	Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott
Communion Assistant	Karen Bell	Communion Assistant	Tina Beck
Acolyte	Eli Stearns	Acolyte	Darrel Turner
Sound Technician		Sound Technician	Dan Ivers
Video Technician	Geoff LaFlower	Video Technician	Neal Guffey
Bread Baker	Kenya Ostermeier	Bread Baker	Kenya Ostermeier
Women's Bible Study Snacks	June Gries	Women's Bible Study Snacks	Carol Hudson
Children's Sermon	Alison LaFlower	Children's Sermon	John Browder
Counters (Monday)	Christian Gries Phil Miller	Counters (Monday)	Ron Westerfeld Phil Miller