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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.

P: We are so competitive, Lord. We want to know who will be best and first, and we hope that it is each one of us. You call us special, and we interpret it to mean "the best". And we feel that we are entitled to all that is due to the "best". Jesus reminded us that the best of us will be the servants, will be those who are willing to help and witness to others, not for their own honor but for God's honor and praise. Far too long, we have decided that we know what is best for the whole world. We want to run the "whole show", but we don't want to listen to You, God. You want us to bring peace, to listen to others needs and wants. We want to impose our wills on everyone. We have gotten way off the track of discipleship. Bring us back, patient God. Shake the dust of arrogance from us and nourish us with humility and joy. Help us to be the kind of disciples that serve You faithfully. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

C: We can get caught up in selfish pursuits and completely overlook the wonders of Your creation, O God. All around us are majestic reminders of the beauty You offer to us. But we are weak and easily trapped into attitudes of indifference or destructive behavior. You have not given this world to us that we should destroy it, but rather that we should cherish it and make sure that all receive from its bounty. Forgive our overwhelming greed and selfishness. Help us to let go of the petty desires for wealth, position, and power, and bring us into a ministry which proclaims Your love and justice for all Your people. These things we pray in the name of the Master Servant, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

P: God hears the cries of our hearts, sees our actions, knows our attitudes. In the midst of our sinfulness, God reaches out to heal and forgive us. Receive the forgiveness which God has offered to you. Live in God's love. AMEN.

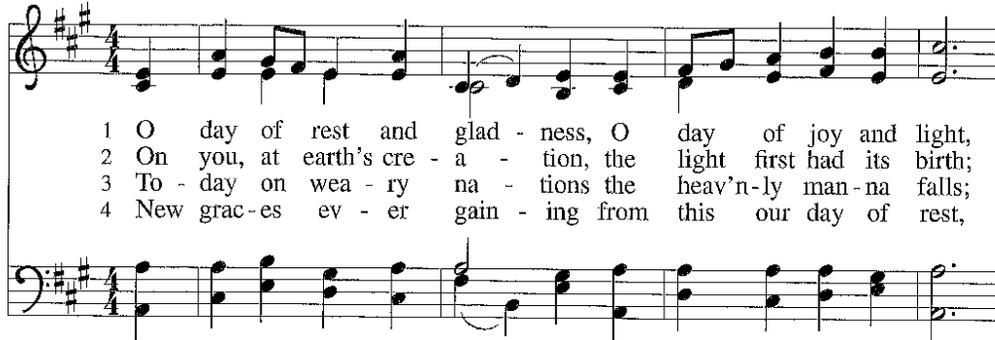
OPENING HYMN

"O Day of Rest and Gladness" ELW 521

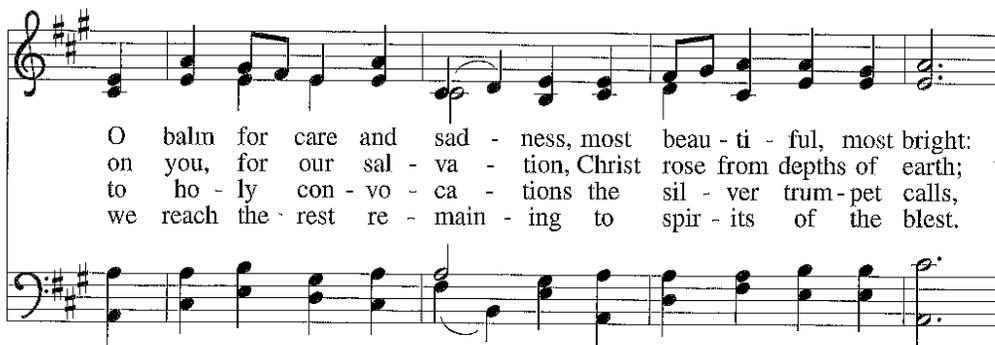
GATHERING

521

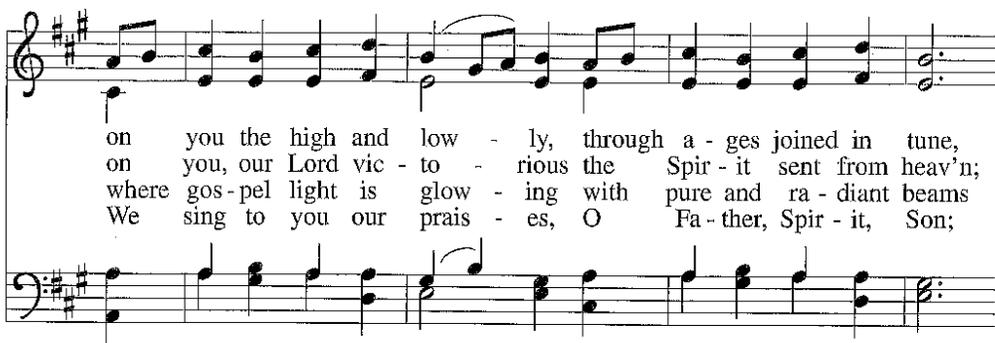
O Day of Rest and Gladness [H]



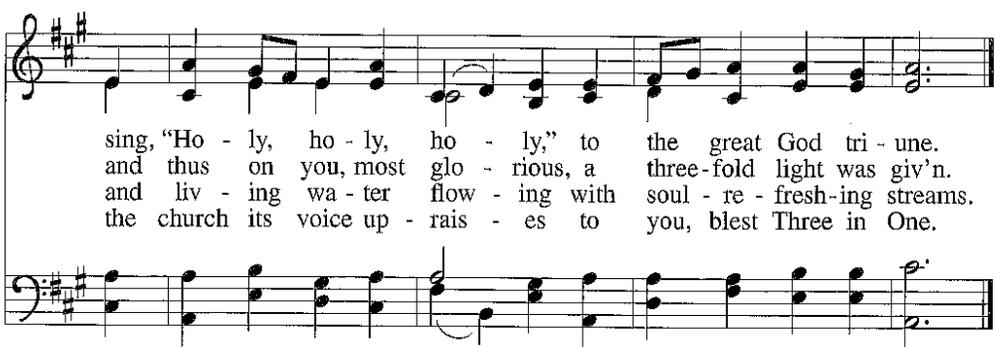
1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
 2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
 3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n-ly man-na falls;
 4 New grac-es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
 on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
 to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum-pet calls,
 we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.



on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
 on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
 where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
 We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.
 and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three-fold light was giv'n.
 and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams.
 the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Power and might and majesty belong to God who created and is creating.

C: Thanks be to God for God's mighty wonders.

L: Like the image of the powerful wind, and heavens as a garment, God's majesty is revealed in all creation.

C: We look around us at the wonders and marvel and the infinite variety and beauty which God has created.

L: Who are we, that God should pay attention to us?

C: We are God's beloved children, the stewards whom God has selected to care for the world. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

P: Lord, everywhere we look we see the imprint of your creative love. The wondrous works of nature show your majesty. As we gather today to celebrate your love and creation, keep us mindful that we are part of that created order, meant to be stewards and not destroyers. Prepare us to work for you in ministries of peace and justice. AMEN.

Please be seated

STEWARDSHIP TEMPLE TALK

John Browder

† We Hear God's Word †

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:27-34, page 680 in pew bible

²⁷ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals. ²⁸ Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant," declares the LORD. ²⁹ "In those days people will no longer say,

'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.'

³⁰ Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge. ³¹ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to^[a] them,^[b]" declares the LORD. ³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all

know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

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 18: 1-8 Page 901 in pew bible

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

⁴ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

June Gries

Please stand

I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo - ry



and tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

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

C: 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

P: Gracious God, You have granted us wisdom, understanding, and knowledge far greater than that of any teacher; You have given us love and grace freely from Your abundance. As you have shared your gifts with us, we share these gifts with You, that all the world may know You. As You have led us by the hand, we offer our hands to Your service, in praise and thanksgiving. 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

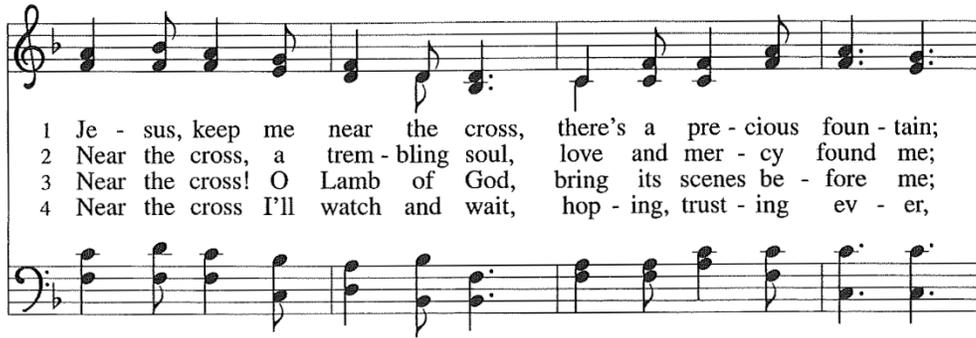
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Please Stand

COMMUNION HYMN

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335

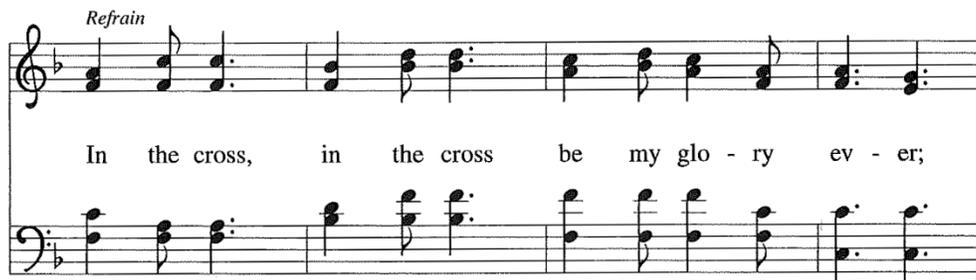


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Remain Standing

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: You have been called to serve the Lord with gladness. Go from this place knowing that God's blessings have been poured on you so that you may be a blessing to others. Be at peace and bring the good news of God's love and peace to all whom you meet. AMEN.

C: Amen.

† We Depart in Peace †

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 543

1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love’s bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son’s sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it’s pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
 Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House
 Arr. © Oxford University Press

AR HYD Y NOS
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Worship Volunteers

This Week, October 16	9:30 am Pastor Richard Blue	Next Week, October 23	9:30 a.m. Pastor Richard Blue
Assisting Minister	Christian Gries	Assisting Minister	Debbie Mowrey
Lector	Christian Gries	Lector	Dawn Hahm
Ushers	Tracy Guffey Neal Guffey	Ushers	Linda Hess Wanda Stephens-Wooten
Greeters	John Shaw Joan Shaw	Greeters	Liz Clark Terry Clark
Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott	Altar Guild	Karen Bell
Communion Assistant	Karen Bell	Communion Assistant	June Gries
Acolyte	Eli Stearns	Acolyte	Darrel Turner
Sound Technician	Ronald Kissell	Sound Technician	Dan Ivers
Video Technician	Neal Guffey	Video Technician	Geoff LaFlower
Bread Baker	Terri Gast	Bread Baker	Karen Bell
Women's Bible Study Snacks	Diana Clements-Scott	Women's Bible Study Snacks	June Gries
Children's Sermon	June Gries	Children's Sermon	Amanda Blue
Counters (Monday)	Christian Gries Phil Miller	Counters (Monday)	Christian Gries Phil Miller