

St. James Lutheran Church

1741 S State Street
Greenfield Indiana 46140

Our congregation's mission statement is to bring people to Christ,
encouraging relationships with Him and others.



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 29, 2023

Meditation: Who are the people of God? Not those with correct beliefs or worldly wisdom, but those who act with justice and compassion, who walk humbly with their God; those whom the world might call foolish because they choose to live kingdom values rather than worldly values; those who go against the status quo and work to bring about God's beloved community on earth, here and now.

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



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.

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

John Browder

Worship Assignment Information Update

Terry Clark

Please Stand

† **We Lift Our Hearts in Worship** †

INVOCATION AND PRAYER (Micah 6, Psalm 15, Matthew 5, 1 Corinthians 1)

P: Loving God,
we come this morning
seeking to abide in your presence.
Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom,
that we may know how to live as your people.
Open our hearts to your spirit of truth,
that we may love all your people with a love
that speaks of justice, kindness,
and radical grace.
May this time of worship
be authentic and pleasing to you. Amen.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**C: Far too often, O God,
we desire to look wise
in the eyes of the world.
We have not spoken truth with our hearts.
We have said and done hurtful things to our friends.
We have forgotten our true identity,
wandering into ways that are not yours.
We have lost the path of true worship,
focusing on form and words rather than deeds.
We have forgotten what true discipleship is.
And because of this, you have a quarrel with us.
Forgive us and help us live into becoming
the people you have created and called us to be:
people of justice and love and truth
and humility, and yes, even foolishness.
May we be fools for Christ,**

**embracing our true identity,
even in the face of the world's scorn and derision.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

P: God has called us and blesses us
when we live God's ways and not the world's.
God's love embraces us
even when we fall short of what God desires
for our lives and actions.
Know that the God of blessing
loves and forgives us with a fierce tenderness.
And in so knowing, may our lives and souls
be transformed.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart ELW 873 (versus 1-4)

873

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,

your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joiçé! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 Re - joice! Re - joiçé!

5 At last the march shall end;
 the wearied ones shall rest;
 the pilgrims find their home at last,
 Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
 the Lord whom we adore:
 the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
 one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.
 Music: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916

MARIC
 SM and refra

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: People of God, who do you come to worship?

C: We come to worship the one true God.

L: How will you worship?

C: Not with words alone, but by living lives of justice and love.

L: Come, you who belong to God.

Come, you who are foolish in the eyes of the world.

C: Come and abide in God's tent and in God's heart, now and forever.

OPENING PRAYER

P: Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence.

Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people.

Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace.

May this time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you. Amen.

Please be seated

† We Hear God's Word †

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8 (pages 800-801 in your pew bible)

The LORD's Case Against Israel

6 Listen to what the LORD says:

"Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.

²"Hear, you mountains, the LORD's accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

For the LORD has a case against his people;
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

³"My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer me.

⁴ I brought you up out of Egypt
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.

I sent Moses to lead you,
also Aaron and Miriam.

⁵ My people, remember
what Balak king of Moab plotted
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.
Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5: 1-12 (Page 830 in pew bible)

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Please Be Seated

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

John Browder

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rise Up, O Saints of God!! ELW 669



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! His king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, his word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

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 Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary**

and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC- Special Music

THE OFFERING RESPONSE

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

Let the vineyard be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with Your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives—
in places we often fail to recognize as blessing.
Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand
the depth of your love and blessing.
Today, we give out of that blessedness,
dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love,
giving all that we are and all that we have
to bring about your beloved community,
here and now. 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

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to
give You thanks, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For in Him, you have shown us the path to righteousness and blessedness, as we hear
in Matthew 5: 1-12. In Him, you have given us the example of how to live a life that
reflects your love and grace to the world.

In Him, You have made us citizens of the kingdom of heaven, and we come to this
table to partake of the gifts of your son's body and blood, given for the forgiveness of
our sins.

And so, with all the angels and saints we proclaim Your glory, as with one voice we sing:

Sanctus

People: Holy, Holy, Holy 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.

Words of Jesus

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way after supper, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

People: 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. Amen.

Invitation

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are now invited to partake in the sacrament of Communion. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has given us the gift of his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our faith. As we partake in this sacrament, we remember his sacrifice and the promise of eternal life.

All who believe in Jesus Christ and trust in his promises are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper.

Let us partake in the sacrament of Communion with joy and thanksgiving, as we remember the love and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Communion

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

We Are Called ELW 720

We Are Called

720



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: David Haas

Text and music © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

WE ARE CALLED

Irregular

Remain Standing

THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

Pastor: Eternal God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ; and for showing us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. Through the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 5: 1-12, remind us to live our lives in a way that reflects your love and grace to the world. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful citizens of your kingdom. To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

All: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: Those who live lives pleasing to God shall not be moved.
Go now to embrace the kingdom values— values of love, justice, and truth.
Go now with God's blessing, to live those values through the power
of our challenging, faithful, loving, empowering God. Amen.

All: Amen.

† We Depart in Peace †

We Are Marching in the Light of God

We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march-ing in the
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -

light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,
nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of God,
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba oo oo

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba.

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba oo oo

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba.

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

THE DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Worship Volunteer Schedule	Sunday 1/29/2023	Sunday 2/5/23
Assisting Minister	Tracy Guffey	Tracy Guffey
Lector	June Gries	Maggie Bode
Ushers	Jim & Deb Jackson	Jim & Deb Jackson
Greeters	Alan & Jeanette Berkshire	Alan & Jeanette Berkshire
Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott	Diana Clements-Scott
Communion Assistant	June Gries	Karen Bell
Acolyte	Luke Stearns	Eli Stearns
Sound Technician	Dan Ivers	Ronald Kissell
Video Technician	Neal Guffey	Neal Guffey
Bread Baker	Kenya Ostermejer	June Gries
Women's Bible Study Snacks	June Gries (Jan 30)	Sherry Coomes (Feb 6)
Slide Creators	Bill & Sherry Coomes	Terry Clark
Children's Sermon	John Browder	Amanda Blue
Counters (Monday)	Maggie Bode Cindy Gregory	Phil Miller Cindy Gregory