

# 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.



## Baptism of our Lord

January 8, 2023

**Meditation:** The Spirit of God is upon us! This is a holy day and we are a holy people! The joy of God is our strength!  
All of us, with all our gifts, we are the body of Christ!

**Today's flowers are given for the glory of God!**



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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.  
Diane Witte, interim organist*

### 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)  
"Almighty God, as we gather together on this Baptism of The Lord Sunday, we invite your Holy Spirit to be with us. Open our hearts and minds to your Word, and help us to understand the deep significance of Jesus' baptism. May the waters of baptism cleanse us from sin and give us new life in Christ. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen."

**C: Amen.**

P: Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the gift of baptism, through which we are joined to Christ and made members of his body, the Church. We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. We remember his example of humility and obedience, and we pray that we may follow in his footsteps.

As we celebrate this Baptism of The Lord Sunday, we ask that you would pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and renew our hearts and minds. Help us to repent of our sins, and turn to you in faith. Give us the strength and courage to live as your children, sharing your love with all those around us.

We pray for all those who are being baptized today. May they grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, and may they be faithful servants of your kingdom. We pray for all believers around the world, that they may be united in one body, and may share in the blessings of your salvation.

We ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

**C: Almighty God, we come before you on this Baptism of The Lord Sunday, remembering the words of John the Baptist: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us, forgive us, and renew us through the waters of baptism. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

P: "Hear the good news! God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in our sins. God made us alive together with Christ, and raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Through the waters of baptism, we are washed clean and made new. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, we are forgiven. Amen."

**C: Amen**

## **OPENING HYMN**

### **“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” LBW 50**

Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation’s story; Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations, You have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.  
Come and Worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Let us worship the Lord, who was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, and who now invites us to be baptized into his death and resurrection.

**Congregation: We come to worship the Lord, who washes us clean with the waters of baptism and gives us new life in him.**

Leader: Let us come before the Lord with hearts of repentance and faith, ready to receive his grace and mercy.

**Congregation: We come to worship the Lord, who calls us to follow him and serve him in the world.**

Leader: Let us join together in prayer and song, as we celebrate the gift of Baptism of The Lord Sunday.

**Congregation: We come to worship the Lord, who is worthy of all praise and honor. Amen."**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

P: Heavenly Father, as we gather together on this Baptism of The Lord Sunday, we come before you in humility and awe. We thank you for the gift of your Word, and we ask that you would speak to us through the Scriptures that are about to be read.

Open our hearts and minds to your truth, and help us to understand the significance of Jesus' baptism. May the waters of baptism cleanse us from our sins and give us new life in Christ.

We pray for those who will be reading the Scriptures today. Give them wisdom and discernment as they prepare to share your Word with us.

We also lift up all those who are struggling in any way. We pray for those who are sick, or grieving, or facing difficulties. We ask that you would give them strength and comfort, and that you would use your people to be a source of support and encouragement to them.

We pray all these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

*Please be seated*

## † We Hear God's Word †

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 42: 1-9 (page 622 in pew bible)

#### The Servant of the LORD

**42** “Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will bring justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not shout or cry out,  
or raise his voice in the streets.

<sup>3</sup> A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

<sup>4</sup> he will not falter or be discouraged  
till he establishes justice on earth.

In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

<sup>5</sup> This is what God the LORD says—  
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,  
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,  
who gives breath to its people,  
and life to those who walk on it:

<sup>6</sup> “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;  
I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people  
and a light for the Gentiles,

<sup>7</sup> to open eyes that are blind,  
to free captives from prison  
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> “I am the LORD; that is my name!  
I will not yield my glory to another  
or my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have taken place,  
and new things I declare;  
before they spring into being  
I announce them to you.”

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 3:13-17 (pew bible page 829)

**The Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

**MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES**

**John Browder**

*Please stand*

**THE MESSAGE HYMN      “O for A Thousand Tongues to Sing” LBW 559**

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of your name.

The name of Jesus charms our fears And bids our sorrows cease,  
Sings music in the sinner's ears, Brings life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free.  
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

*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**

*Apostles' Creed*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and 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*

**OFFERATORY MUSIC-** The Praise Band

**“Shine Jesus Shine”**

**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** Heavenly Father, as we bring our offerings before you today, we do so with grateful hearts. We thank you for the many blessings you have given us, and we pray that you would use these gifts to further your kingdom.

We pray for the work of your Church, that you would use our offerings to spread the gospel and make disciples of all nations. We pray for those who are in need, and we ask that you would use our offerings to provide for their physical and spiritual needs.

We also pray that you would use our offerings to help us grow in our own faith and commitment to you. Help us to be generous and sacrificial in all that we do, as we seek to follow Jesus' example of humility and obedience.

We pray all these things in Jesus' name. 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 up to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

On this Baptism of The Lord Sunday, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus' baptism, through which he was anointed by the Holy Spirit and declared to be the beloved Son of God. We thank you for the example of humility and obedience that Jesus set for us, and we pray that we may follow in his footsteps.

We give thanks for the gift of baptism, through which we are joined to Christ and made members of his body, the Church. We thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, who indwells us and empowers us to live as your children.

We give thanks for the many blessings you have given us, and we pray that you would use these gifts to further your kingdom. Help us to be faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us, and to use our resources to serve others in love.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen."

P: "Therefore, with the angels and all the saints, we praise you, saying:

**C: "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."**

## **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: Beloved in Christ, on this Baptism of The Lord Sunday, we are invited to the table of the Lord, where he gives us his very self in the bread and wine of Communion.

In this sacrament, we are joined to Christ and to one another, as we share in the one bread and the one cup. As we partake of this holy meal, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and we proclaim his death until he comes again.

We give thanks for the gift of this holy mystery, and we pray that it would nourish and strengthen us in faith.

All who have been baptized into Christ, and who trust in him as their savior, are welcome to the Lord's table. Let us now come to the table of the Lord, with hearts of repentance and faith, trusting in his loving mercy and grace. Amen."

*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 – *Special Music by Diane Witte***

*Remain Standing*

### **THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL**

P: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of this holy meal, in which we have shared in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that you would use this sacrament to strengthen and nourish us, that we may grow in our faith and obedience to you.

We pray that you would use this meal to unite us more closely to one another, as members of Christ's body, the Church. Help us to bear one another's burdens, and to encourage and support one another in love.

We pray for all those who are struggling in any way, that you would give them your comfort and strength. We pray for the work of your Church, that you would use it to spread the gospel and make disciples of all nations.

We pray all these things in Jesus' name.

**All: Amen.**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

P: Go forth joyfully. God is with you. Bring peace and hope to all you meet. And may God's eternal love shine through you always. AMEN.

**All: Amen.**

**† We Depart in Peace †**

### **THE CLOSING HYMN**

**“Lead On O King Eternal” LBW 495**

Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;  
Henceforth in fields of conquest your tents will be our home.  
Through days of preparation Your grace has made us strong;  
And now, O King eternal, We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And holiness shall whisper The sweet amen of peace;  
For not with swords loud clashing, Nor roll of stirring drums,

But deeds of love and mercy The heav'nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: We follow, not with fears,  
 For gladness breaks like morning Where'er your face appears.  
 Your cross is lifted o'er us; We journey in its light;  
 The crown awaits the conquest; Lead on, O God of might!

## THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace and Share the Good News of Jesus!

C: Thanks be to God!

Worship Volunteer Schedule	Sunday 1/8/2023	Sunday 1/15/23
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Joan Shaw	Debbie Mowrey
<b>Lector</b>	John Shaw	Dawn Hahm
<b>Ushers</b>	Sheila Bryan John Browder	Tracey Guffey Neal Guffey
<b>Greeters</b>	June Gries Ron Westerfeld	John Shaw Joan Shaw
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Diana Clements-Scott	Diana Clements-Scott
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	June Gries	Karen Bell
<b>Acolyte</b>	Darrell Turner	Eli Stearns
<b>Sound Technician</b>	Dan Ivers	Ronald Kissell
<b>Video Technician</b>	Geoff LaFlower	Neal Guffey
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Jane Hale	Kenya Ostermeier
<b>Women's Bible Study</b>	Marieta Boone 1/9/23	Debby 1/16/23
<b>Snacks</b>		
<b>Slide Creators</b>	Bill & Sherry Coomes	Terry Clark
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	John Browder	Allison LaFlower
<b>Counters (Monday)</b>	Ron Westerfeld Marsha Westerfeld	Phil Miller Maggie Bode