

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.



Wednesday Lent Service

March 22, 2023

Meditation: As we gather for our Lenten service, let us turn our attention to Psalm 146 and the beautiful hymn of praise it contains. This Psalm reminds us that God is a faithful and loving God who cares deeply about our lives and our struggles.

We all face difficulties and challenges in life - whether it's illness, loss, or uncertainty about the future. In these moments, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed and alone. But the words of Psalm 146 remind us that we are not alone - God is with us, and He is more than able to help us in our time of need.

The Psalmist writes that God upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. He sets prisoners free and gives sight to the blind. These verses remind us that God cares deeply for the vulnerable and the marginalized, and that He is always at work to bring justice and mercy into the world.

As we reflect on these words, let us also be reminded of our own call as followers of Christ. We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to seek justice and mercy for all. We are called to care for the sick and the suffering, to comfort the grieving, and to stand up against injustice.

In these challenging times, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and uncertain about what the future holds. But let us take comfort in the words of Psalm 146 and the knowledge that God is with us always. He sees our struggles and our pain, and He is always there to lift us up and give us strength.

May this Lenten season be a time of renewal and hope for each one of us. May we be inspired to love and serve others as Christ has loved and served us. And may we always remember that God is a faithful and loving God who cares deeply about our lives and our struggles. Amen.

Pastor Blue+

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. Pastor
Dan Petry, Music Director
Angela Rodgers, Asst 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

Please Stand

† **We Lift Our Hearts in Worship** †

INVOCATION:

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.+

All: Amen.

PRAYER:

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we come before you this evening, seeking your guidance and your presence. As we gather together in your name, we ask that you would fill our hearts with your love and your grace. We pray that you would open our minds to your truth and your wisdom, and that you would guide us in all that we say and do. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Congregation: Merciful God, 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"Are Ye Able" BR 186

186

Are Ye Able, Said The Master

EARL MARLATT

HARRY S. MASON

1. "Are ye a - ble," said the Mas - ter, "To be cru - ci - fied with me?"
2. "Are ye a - ble," to re - mem - ber, When a thief lifts up his eyes,
3. "Are ye a - ble," when the shad - ows Close a - round you with the sod,
4. "Are ye a - ble," still the Mas - ter Whis - pers down e - ter - ni - ty,

"Yea," the stur - dy dream - ers an - swered, "To the death we fol - low Thee."
That His par - doned soul is wor - thy Of a place in Par - a - dise?
To be - lieve that spir - it tri - umphs, To commend your soul to God?
And he - ro - ic spir - its an - swer, Now, as then in Gal - i - lee.

REFRAIN

"Lord, we are a - ble," Our spir - its are Thine, Re - mold them,

make us like Thee, di - vine. Thy guid - ing ra - diance a - bove

us shall be A bea - con to God, To love and loy - al - ty.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Assisting Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

Congregation: For He alone is worthy of our praise and our adoration.

Assisting Minister: In this holy season of Lent, we gather to reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, and to prepare our hearts for the celebration of His resurrection.

Congregation: We come seeking His grace and His mercy, and to be renewed by His love.

Assisting Minister: Let us open our hearts to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and let us join together in prayer, in song, and in the reading of God's holy word.

Congregation: May our worship be pleasing to Him, and may His presence be with us always.

Assisting Minister: Let us worship the Lord our God with reverence and awe, for He alone is our Rock and our Salvation.

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Dear Heavenly Father,

As we gather in your presence today, we come to you with grateful hearts for the gift of your love and mercy. We thank you for the opportunity to gather as a community of faith, to lift up our voices in prayer and to seek your face.

In this season of Lent, we are reminded of your great love for us, a love that was demonstrated through the sacrifice of your Son Jesus Christ on the cross. We are reminded of the great cost of our redemption, and we are humbled by the depth of your grace.

We pray that you would help us to draw closer to you in this holy season, to seek your guidance and your wisdom as we journey together towards the celebration of Easter. We pray that you would grant us strength and endurance as we face the challenges of life, and that you would remind us of your presence with us always.

We lift up to you those who are in need of your healing touch, both physically and spiritually. We ask that you would comfort those who are mourning, and that you would bring hope to those who are struggling.

We pray for our community, our nation, and our world, that you would bring peace and healing where there is division and brokenness. We ask that you would grant wisdom to our leaders, and that you would guide us as we seek to be agents of your love and mercy in the world.

We offer these prayers to you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

† We Hear God's Word †

FIRST READING

Psalm 146 (page 540 in pew bible)

¹ Praise the LORD.^[a]

Praise the LORD, my soul.

² I will praise the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free,

⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰ The LORD reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD.

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

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 9:27-34 (Page 835 in pew Bible)

Jesus Heals the Blind and the Mute

²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

²⁸ When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

“Yes, Lord,” they replied.

²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”; ³⁰ and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.” ³¹ But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

³² While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. ³³ And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”

³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.”

Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Please Be Seated

MESSAGE FOR OUR OLDER DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Richard Blue

† **We Respond to God’s Word** †

Please Stand

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Congregation: 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

Congregation response: Hear our Prayers

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

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Gracious God,

We come before you today with grateful hearts, mindful of the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. We thank you for the gift of life, for the love of family and friends, and for the many ways in which you have provided for our needs.

As we bring our tithes and offerings before you, we do so with joy and thanksgiving, knowing that all that we have comes from your hand. We ask that you would bless these gifts, and that you would use them to further your kingdom here on earth.

We pray for those who are in need, both in our own community and around the world. We ask that you would use these gifts to bring hope and healing, to comfort the sick and the suffering, and to provide for those who are in need.

We offer these gifts to you with grateful hearts, and we pray that you would continue to bless us, and to use us as instruments of your love and grace in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

† **We Celebrate the Lord's Supper** †

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

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on this night, He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way He took the cup also after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

Congregation: 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.

Pastor: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh

of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.

Amen.

Invitation

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, the table is set, the bread is broken, and the cup is poured. This is the feast of the Lord, where all are welcome and all are invited. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Come, receive the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Come, share in the body of Christ, which is given for you, and the blood of Christ, which is shed for you. Let us draw near with faith and repentance, and with grateful hearts, to receive the grace and the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION HYMN

Please be seated

THE DISTRIBUTION

Please Stand

THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

Pastor: Pastor: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Go in peace.

Congregation: Amen.

Please Stand

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift you up and give you peace.

As we go forth from this place, may we carry with us the light of Christ, shining brightly in the darkness. May we be a witness to his love and grace, and may we share the good news of his salvation with all whom we meet.

May the Lord guide us and protect us on our journey, and may he strengthen us to do his will. And may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love, as we follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregation: Amen.

† We Depart in Peace †

THE CLOSING HYMN

“Amazing Grace” ELW 779

779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

F C⁷ Dm B \flat F

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

C C⁷ Am F

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

B \flat F Dm F C⁷ F

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, and serve the Lord with gladness.

All: Thanks be to God.

Worship Volunteer Schedule	Wednesday 3/22/23	Sunday 3/26/23	Wednesday 3/29/23
Assisting Minister	Ben Black	Debbie Mowrey	Ben Black
Lector	Ronald Kissell	Dawn Hahm	Christian Gries
Ushers		Linda Hess Wanda Stephens-Wooten	Sheila Bryan John Browder
Greeters	Terry Clark Liz Clark	Terry Clark Liz Clark	John Shaw Joan Shaw
Altar Guild	Karen Bell	Diana Clements-Scott	Diana Clements-Scott
Communion Assistant	Debby Brooks	Karen Bell	Karen Bell
Acolyte	Benjamin Black		Eli Stearns
Sound Technician	Ronald Kissell	Dan Ivers	Ronald Kissell
Video Technician	Geoff LaFlower	Geoff LaFlower	Neal Guffey
Bread Baker	Karen Bell	Terri Gast	Karen Bell
Women's Bible Study Snacks	-	Kenya Ostermeier- March 27	-
Slide Creators	Bill and Sherry Coomes	Bill and Sherry Coomes	Bill and Sherry Coomes
Children's Sermon	-	Tracey Guffey	-
Counters (Monday)	-	Maggie Bode Christian Gries	-