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.



Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

Meditation: As we gather today, we are reminded of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were walking along, consumed by their grief and disappointment, when a stranger approached and walked alongside them. It was only when they sat down to break bread together that they realized the stranger was Jesus himself.

Just like those disciples, we too may sometimes feel lost or unsure, wandering through the trials and challenges of life. But we are reminded that, just as Jesus walked alongside those disciples, he is with us always, guiding and supporting us on our journey.

In 1 Peter, we are reminded of the precious gift of Christ's sacrifice, which has redeemed us from our sins and given us new life. We are called to live our lives with reverent fear and awe, knowing that we have been bought with a price and are called to live as Christ's own. And in Psalm 116, we hear the words of the psalmist, who cries out in gratitude for the deliverance and salvation that God has provided. Like the psalmist, we too can trust in God's faithfulness, knowing that he is always with us and will never leave us or forsake us.

Finally, in Acts 2, we are reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit, which was poured out upon the disciples at Pentecost. Through the Spirit, we are empowered to share the good news of Christ's love and redemption with all those we meet, just as Peter did on that day.

So let us go forth today, strengthened and sustained by Christ's love and grace, ready to share the good news with all those we encounter. May we live our lives with reverent fear and awe, trusting in God's faithfulness and rejoicing in the salvation that he has provided. Amen.

Pastor Blue+



1741 S. State Street Greenfield, IN 46140 Phone: 317-462-7340 Email: office@stjamesnalc.org

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 (Preaching) Rev. Benjamin Black Sr. Vicar 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 <u>St. James website (www.stjamesnalc.org)</u> and <u>Facebook page</u>.
- **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.

Welcome to our service of worship!

We are happy to have you worship with us, whether you are looking for a church home, are a new Christian, or are just curious about Christianity. We want your time with us to be as warm and friendly as possible, so we've made a list of words and phrases you might hear during our service. We hope that this list of terms will help you feel more comfortable with our service and get to know its different parts.

We know that some of these words may be new or unfamiliar to you, but please know that our goal is to create a place where everyone can connect with God in a meaningful way. Getting the idea that faith is a personal journey that looks different for everyone.

So, whether you're here out of curiosity, looking for answers to life's questions, or exploring your own faith, we want you to feel welcome, accepted, and encouraged. We believe that everyone can receive God's love and grace, no matter where they are on their spiritual journey.

Please don't be afraid to talk to any of our friendly ushers, greeters, or members during the service if you have any questions or need more information. We're here to help you!

We're glad you're here, and we hope this glossary will help you feel more at home as we worship together as a group of Christians in the Lutheran Tradition. May God's love and presence be with you during and after this service.

Glossary of Terms Used in Worship

Invocation: We start our worship service by calling out to God and asking Him to be with us, just like we would do with a close friend. (Psalm 95:1-2)

Confession and Absolution: In this solemn moment, we recognize that we are human and admit that we have flaws, make mistakes, and sin. With broken hearts, we openly tell God about our mistakes, flaws, and sins, knowing that we need His forgiveness. As Lutherans, we believe in the power of God's grace, which is freely given to everyone who wants it.

As God's representative, the pastor then says the comforting words of absolution, which tell us that God loves and forgives us no matter what. We are reminded that we can start over with a clean slate and that God's love and mercy are never-ending. (1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:8-12)

This sacred moment of the Office of the Keys is a reminder of God's grace and the gift of reconciliation given to the Church through pastors. It lets us approach God with honesty and humility and receive His forgiveness as we continue our worship service with new hearts and minds.

Kyrie: We ask God for mercy and help from the bottom of our hearts, knowing that we all need help and grace in our lives and that God is always ready to listen and help. (Luke 18:13)

Hymn of the Day/Praise: We lift our voices in song to thank and admire God for His goodness and faithfulness, just like we would thank someone who has been nice to us. (Psalm 100:1-2)

Word of God and Message: We listen carefully to readings from the Bible, which is a collection of sacred text/books that give us guidance, wisdom, and hope for our lives. The pastor then gives a practical message that helps us see how these teachings can be useful and meaningful in our everyday lives, just like getting good advice from a caring friend. (2 Timothy 3:16–17 and Romans 10:17)

Creed: Together, we say or sing a statement of our faith that affirms our belief in a God who loves us, Jesus Christ who forgives us and saves us, and the Holy Spirit who guides and empowers us in a way that speaks to our hearts and values. (John 3:16, Matt. 28:19)

Offertory: During this time, we give money to help God do his work through the church. We do this because we are part of a community that cares about each other and wants to make a positive difference in the world for the Good News, just like when we give to a cause or organization that fits with our values. (2 Cor. 9:7)

Sanctus: "Holy, Holy, Holy." We sing a hymn or chant that praises God's holiness, recognizing His greatness and majesty as we get ready for Communion, in a way that makes us feel awe and wonder, like when we are taken in by the beauty of nature or a work of art. (Isaiah 6:3, Rev. 4:8)

Words of Jesus: Words of Our Lord: We hear the sacred words of Jesus from the Last Supper, where He initiated the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. He asked us to remember His selfless sacrifice and receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. As Lutherans, we believe that in this act, Jesus is really present in the bread and wine, and that by having faith, we can share in His grace that gives us life. During this part of our worship service, we can think about how much our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, loves us and how His sacrifice still changes our lives. (1 Corinthians 11:23–26, Luke 22:19–20)

Agnus Dei: We sing a hymn or chant that shows Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. As we take Communion, we acknowledge His sacrifice and grace in a way that reminds us of His kindness and compassion. (John 1:29 and Revelation 5:12) We share the bread and wine, which represent the body and blood of Jesus. This is a physical way for us to receive His forgiveness and grace, and for our spirits to be fed, just like when we eat a meal. We approach this act with respect and gratitude because we know how important Jesus' sacrifice was and how close we are to Him. (1 Corinthians 10:16 and John 6:54) **Nunc Dimittis:** We hear or sing the words of Simeon from the Gospel of Luke. Simeon thanked God for letting him see the salvation that Jesus brought. We acknowledge that we have also received God's salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and that we can leave in peace, knowing that God is taking care of us. (Luke 2:29–32)

Benediction: We get a final blessing from the pastor, who prays for God's grace, peace, and presence to be with us as we go back to our daily lives. It's like getting a warm goodbye and best wishes from a caring friend. (Numbers 6:24–26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Almighty God, To whom all hearts are open, All desires known, And from whom no secrets are hid: Cleans the thoughts of our hearts By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, That we may perfectly love you And worthily magnify your holy name, Through Jesus Christ our lord. AMEN.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Congregation: Most merciful God, We confess That we are captive to sin And cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you In thought, word and deed, By what we have done An by what we have left undone. We have not loved you With our whole heart: We have not loved Our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake Of your Son, Jesus Christ, Have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, So that we may delight in your will And walk in your ways, To the glory of your holy name. Amen.

FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, And for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Jesus Christ, And by His authority, I therefore declare to you The entire forgiveness of all your sins, In the name of the Father, And of the Son, And of the Holy Spirit. **ALL: Amen**

Please stand

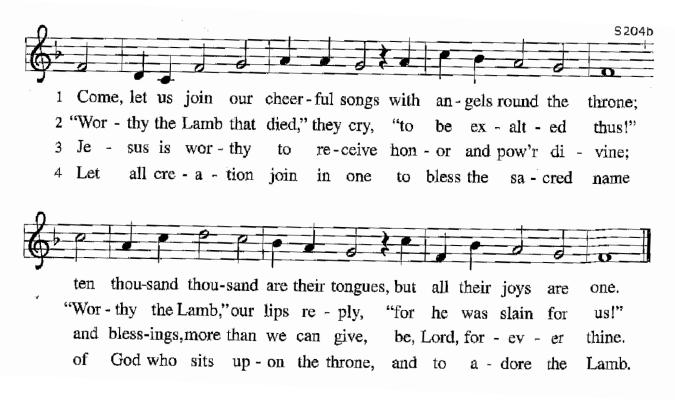


GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

Kyrie



Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Assisting Minister: O God, your Son makes Himself known to all His disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see Him in His redeeming work, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior.

Amen.

+ We Hear God's Word +

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41 (pages 936-937 in pew Bible)

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ³⁶ "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

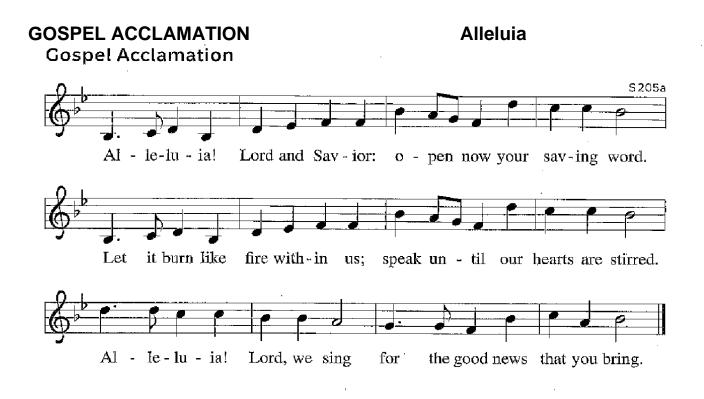
³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Pastor: The Word of God for the people of God

Congregation: Thanks be to God





THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 24:13-35 (page 909 in Pew Bible)

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Please be seated

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Open my Eyes that I May See

CCLI Song # 2828718

Verse 1

Open my eyes that I may see Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me Place in my hands the wonderful key That shall unclasp and set me free

Chorus

Silently now I wait for Thee Ready my God Thy will to see Open my eyes illumine me Spirit divine

Verse 2

Open my ears that I may hear Voices of truth Thou sendest clear And while the wave notes fall on my ear Everything false will disappear

Verse 3

Open my mouth and let me bear Gladly the warm truth everywhere Open my heart and let me prepare Love with Thy children thus to share

MESSAGE FOR OUR OLDER DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Richard Blue

Please Stand

+ We Respond to God's Word +

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

Assisting Minister: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Congregation: 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 Holy Spirit, Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, And he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assisting Minister: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, Let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Response of the Congregation: Hear Our Prayers

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping 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.

OFFERTORY MUSIC-

Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord

CCLI Song # 2298355

Open the eyes of my heart Lord Open the eyes of my heart I want to see You I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord Open the eyes of my heart I want to see You I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy holy holy

Open the eyes of my heart Lord Open the eyes of my heart I want to see You I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord Open the eyes of my heart I want to see You I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy holy holy

Holy holy holy Holy holy holy Holy holy holy I want to see You

THE OFFERING RESPONSE

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.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Dear God, we bring these offerings before you today with hearts full of gratitude and thanksgiving. We recognize that all we have comes from you and we give back to you a portion of what you have given us. We ask that you would bless these offerings and use them to further your kingdom on earth. May they be used to bring hope, healing, and love to those who are in need. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Amen.

Please be seated

+ We Celebrate the Lord's Supper +

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

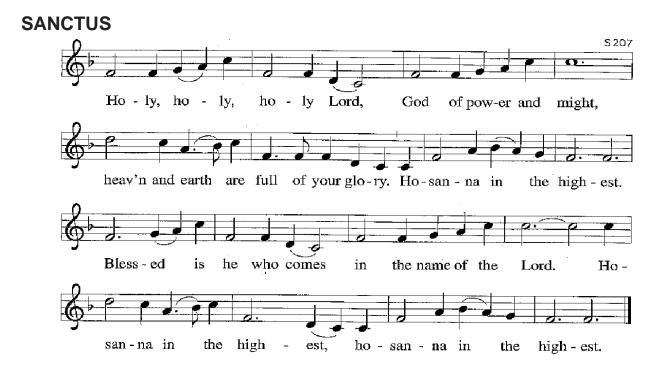
Pastor: The Lord be with you **Congregation: And also with you.** Pastor: Lift up your hearts. **Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.** Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, for in your great love and mercy you have revealed to us the fullness of your salvation through your Son, Jesus Christ.

We give thanks for the ways in which you have walked alongside us, just as you walked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. We give thanks for the ways in which you have opened our eyes to your truth, just as you did for those disciples as they broke bread with you. And we give thanks for the ways in which you have nourished us with your grace and your presence, just as you did for those disciples as they recognized you in the breaking of the bread.

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



WORDS OF JESUS

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:

"Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: , "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. 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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION

Pastor: Come, all who are weary and burdened, come and find rest in the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Come and be nourished at his table, where he invites us to share in his body and blood, and to be strengthened for the journey ahead. Come and join us in worship, as we lift up our hearts in praise and thanksgiving to our God who loves us beyond measure.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD (sung)

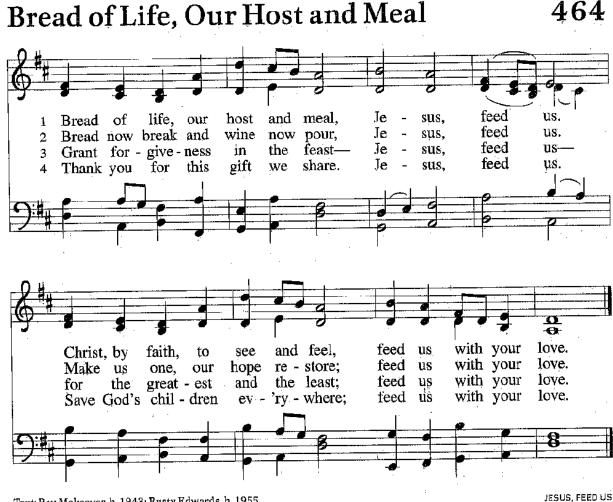
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; Grant us peace.

Please be seated

THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN

Bread of Life ELW 464



Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955 Music: Ray Makeever, arr. Rusty Edwards Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company ESUS, FEED US 7475

THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

Pastor: Gracious God, we give you thanks for this sacred meal, for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who has fed us with his body and blood. May we go from this place strengthened and sustained by your grace, to live as your faithful disciples in the world. Bless us with your peace, fill us with your love, and guide us with your Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always, just as Jesus walked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. May the eyes of your hearts be opened to recognize Christ in your daily lives, and may you be filled with the joy and hope of his resurrection. Go forth now in the power of the Spirit, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all you meet, and may God's peace and blessings be upon you now and forevermore. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen!

+ We Depart in Peace +



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Dismissal:

Pastor: Go in peace and Share the Good News! Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Worship Volunteer Schedule		
	Sunday 4/23/23	Sunday 4/30/2023
Assisting Minister	Debbie Mowrey	Rev. Ben Black
Lector	Dawn Hahm	Marieta Boone
Ushers	Linda Hess Wanda Stephens- Wooten	Linda Hess Wanda Stephens- Wooten
Greeters	Liz Clark Terry Clark	June Gries Ron Westerfeld
Altar Guild	Diana Clement- Scott	Diana Clements- Scott
Communion Assistant	June Gries	Debby Brooks
Acolyte	Tatum Crye	Benjamin Black
Sound Technician	Dan Ivers	Ronald Kissell
Slide Technician	Geoff LaFlower	Geoff LaFlower
Live Stream Technician		
Bread Baker	Debby Brooks	Debby Brooks
Women's Bible	June Gries	Marietta Boone
Study Snacks	(4/24/23)	(5/1/23)
Slide Creators	Bill & Shery Coomes	Bill & Sherry Coomes
Children's Sermon	Alison LaFlower	Amanda Blue
Counters (Monday)	Christian Gries Phil Miller	Ron Westerfeld Marsha Westerfeld