



January 21/22, 2023

Saint James Lutheran Church – Johnston, Iowa

We're glad you're here and hope you will come again!

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand at the sound of the bells.

Introit – ACS 982, Many Will Come (*use words in italics – sing twice*)

1* 2

Man - y will come from east and west, and from
OR Man - y will come from east and west, and from

north and south, and will eat in the king - dom, the
north and south, to be washed in the wa - ters, the

king - dom of God. Blest are they, oh, blest are
wa - ters of life. Blest are they, oh, blest are

they who eat bread in the king - dom, the king - dom of God.
they who are washed in the wa - ters, the wa - ters of life.

* *May be sung in canon*

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Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathering Song #873 – Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! Vss. 1, 2, 3 and 6

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

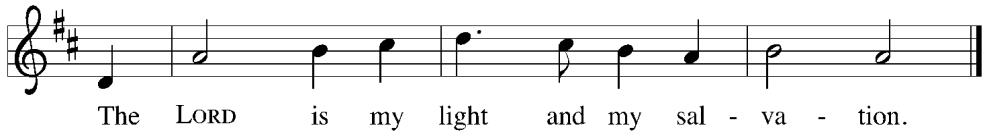
²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 27:1,4-9 (Saturday, spoken responsively; Sunday, chanted responsively. All sing the Antiphon as marked by the R)



¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then [|] shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I [|] be afraid?

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one [|] thing I seek;**

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God [|] in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will [|] give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- [|] on a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies [|] who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;

I will sing and make music [|] to the LORD. R

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, [|] when I call;

have mercy on me and [|] answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— [|] “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, [|] I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- [|] vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not,

O God of [|] my salvation. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone

else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (vs 1 prior to Gospel reading; vs 4 after gospel reading)

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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 receive 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 for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

The assembly stands.

Hymn of the Day #710 – Let Streams of Living Justice

Creed

**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 Intercession

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
The assembly may share a sign of God's peace and then be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

The offering plates are passed.
This QR Code will take you to online giving via Tithely.



Offering Music (Sunday only): Epiphany Singers
When the Poor Ones #725

Great Thanksgiving

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

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 for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

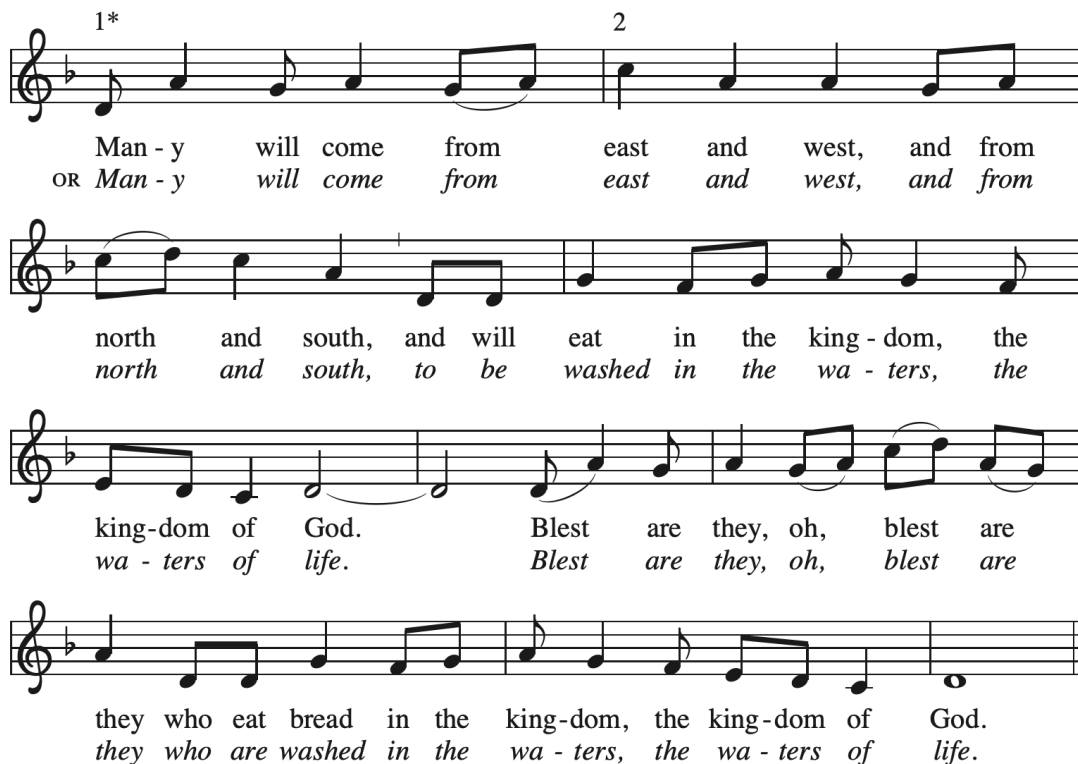
**as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

ACS 982 Many Will Come (*use non-italics verse*)

1* 2



Man - y will come from east and west, and from
OR Man - y will come from east and west, and from

north and south, and will eat in the king - dom, the
north and south, to be washed in the wa - ters, the

king-dom of God. Blest are they, oh, blest are
wa - ters of life. Blest are they, oh, blest are

they who eat bread in the king-dom, the king-dom of God.
they who are washed in the wa - ters, the wa - ters of life.

* *May be sung in canon*

Please be seated.

Communion Music (Sunday): #482 – I Come with Joy

All are welcome at the Lord's table. We receive communion by intinction (i.e. dipping the wafer into the cup). Please use a little Purell on your hands before coming forward. For those who would prefer not to dip their wafer, you may be assured that the crucified and risen Christ is fully present for you in, with and under one element.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending: #551 – The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

This Weekend at Saint James:

- Bible Study, 10:15am
- Fellowship for all in Gathering space

Coming Up at Saint James:

- **January 25** – Wednesday Education night:
 - 6:00–7:00pm, Preschool through Grade 5
 - 7:00–8:00pm, Confirmation
 - 7:00–8:00pm, High School Youth
- **January 29, 10:00 am** – annual meeting of the congregation
- **February 1 – Choirs will resume.** Taking a break for month of January.
- **February 1 – Camp night at St. James!** Attention Preschool-High School Families (and adults interested in joining for some camp fun this summer!): A representative from Lutheran Lakeside Camp will join us during our education programming to lead some fun camp activities, as well as answer questions about summer Bible camp.
 - 6:00-7:00—Preschool-5th Grades (pizza served for all)
 - 7:00-8:00—6th-12th Grades (pizza served for all)