



# March 18/19, 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 918, Now is the Time of Grace

*(Congregation sings refrain; leader/choir sings verses. We begin and end with refrain.)*

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9

Music: TIME OF GRACE, Marty Haugen

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Verses — Leader

- 1 This is the fast that God would choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the captives go free, and to break the yoke of oppression. Refrain
- 2 Sharing your bread with the hungry and welcoming homeless in, offering hope and offering help, this is what God requires. Refrain
- 3 Then shall your light break forth as dawn, and healing shall come to you quickly; then you shall call and God shall answer, God's love shall go before you. Refrain

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## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

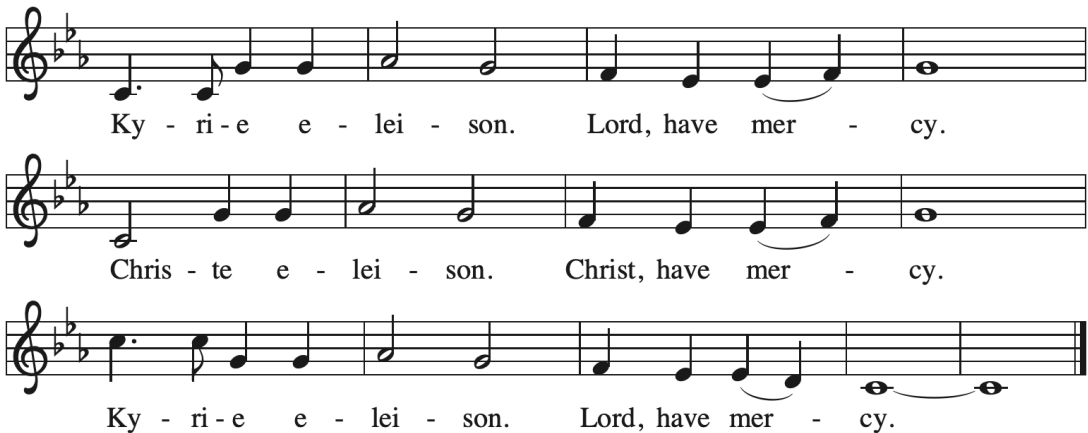
Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

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

## Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## **Prayer of the Day**

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

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

## **Children's Sermon**

### **First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse,

“The LORD has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

### Psalm 23

*(Saturday, spoken responsively; Sunday, chanted responsively. All sing the Antiphon as marked by the R)*



Psalm 23:5

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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<sup>1</sup>The LORD<sup>|</sup> is my shepherd;

I shall not<sup>|</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down<sup>|</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be-<sup>|</sup> side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my<sup>|</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways<sup>|</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall<sup>|</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they<sup>|</sup> comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence<sup>|</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is<sup>|</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days<sup>|</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>|</sup> LORD forever. R**

## Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

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

## Gospel Acclamation



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

## **Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13**

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

<sup>1</sup>Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## **Sermon**

*The assembly stands.*

**Hymn of the Day:** #436, Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

## 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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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 Music (Sunday):** Choir: Keep Your Lamps

### **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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:





Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

## 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.**

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

**Communion Music (Sunday):** ACS #966, Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

*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**

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

**Sending:** #327, Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

## This Weekend at Saint James:

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

## Looking Ahead:

- **Lent 2023: Soups, Stories & Songs from 6-7pm on Wednesdays**
- **March 18/19, Food Pantry Weekend Match Challenge!** Doug Woods was the kind of person who found delight in giving and made a lasting difference in his community. Every March, Doug matched up to \$10,000 to increase giving at the Pantry. It was tremendously successful, and ten years later has raised more than three quarters of a million dollars in support of the DMARC Food Pantry Network. The family of Douglas M. Woods has decided to carry on his legacy. We encourage you to consider a donation towards this match by March 31.
- **March 20, Easter Flower orders due:** Please let Linda know if you would like to order any of the following flowers in honor or memory of someone to decorate the altar for Easter:
  - Lily (5-9 blooms)      \$11.35
  - Begonia (6")            \$14.99
  - Begonia (4.5")         \$7.99
  - Hyacinth (6")           \$10.99
  - Hydrangea (6")        \$24.99
  - Daffodil (6")           \$10.99
  - Tulip (6")               \$10.99
- **Holy Week 2023:**
  - Palm Saturday, April 1, 5pm and Palm Sunday, April 2, 9am
  - Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7pm
  - Good Friday, April 7, 7pm
  - Easter Saturday, April 8, 5pm and Easter Sunday, April 9, 9am
- **April 5 at 6:00pm: First Communion Class for parents and students.** If you would like your child to make his or her First Communion, please let Rebecca know. The kids will make their first communion at one of the Holy Week services.