

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to order an Easter flower to adorn the altar for Easter services, please choose from the selection to the right and email your order to Linda at:
steward@stjamesjohnston.org

Palm Branches (14-16 per bunch) \$7.99
Easter Lily (single stem) 5 to 9 blooms: \$12.60
Rieger Begonias 4.5" \$8.23 and 6" \$14.99
Hyacinth 6" \$10.99
Hydrangea 6" \$15.99
Daffodil 6" \$10.99
Tulip 6" \$10.99
Mum 6.5" \$11.99



NEW Mark your calendars:

- Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, 10:00 a.m. at Meadowview of Johnston (5555 Pioneer Parkway)
- Luther College Jazz Orchestra tour will be performing at Saint James on Sunday, March 29, at 4:00 p.m. We will also be providing a meal for the orchestra after the show. If you are interested in helping with the meal, please contact Linda @ steward@stjamesjohnston.org
- You're invited to Palm Sunday Public Witness walk on March 29. The march will begin at 2:30 p.m. at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church (511 Des Moines Street) to the statehouse. At 3:00 p.m., "Grounded in Matthew 25", the public witness continues at the statehouse with music, the Word, and a Call to Action to Stand With Our Neighbors.

Wednesday Night Schedule through March 25

5:45-6:30 Soup supper
6:30-7:00 Holden Evening Prayer and GROW education
7:00-8:00 Confirmation, ABIDE HS Youth, and Bible Study

Prayer of the Day

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Psalm 31:9-16 (spoken responsively)

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

**For my life is spent with sorrow and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.**

I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

**I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.**

For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.”

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly

and gave him the name that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Gospel: John 18:1-27

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

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³² (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ⁴⁰ They shouted in reply, “Not this man but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a rebel.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Prayers of Intercession

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs... O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death’s power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

What's Happening

March 11-13

- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
5:45pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer, GROW (preschool-5th)
7:00PM Confirmation, ABIDE HS Youth Game Night,
and Bible Study
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group at Saint James
4:00pm Hope Agency Cheer practice

March 14-20

- Saturday 5:00pm Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
- Sunday 9:30am Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
Sunday 10:30am Fellowship
- Monday 9:00am Bible Study
10:30am Chair Yoga
- Tuesday 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group at HyVee
9:00am Online Bible Study ([Connect Here](#))
- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
5:45pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer (**NO GROW**)
NO Confirmation, ABIDE HS Youth (Spring Break)
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee Group at Saint James
4:00pm Hope Agency Cheer practice

Celebrations March 14-20:

Birthdays: Doreen Roberts, Rowan Warden, Jacob Helgeson, Barbara Day,
Leif Gustafson, Vicki Renner

Anniversaries: Bill & Susan Stamp

Connect with Us!

5665 Merle Hay Road, PO Box 62, Johnston, IA 50131
(515) 276-0134 – Steward@StJamesJohnston.org

www.StJamesJohnston.org Here you can connect to:

- Our online service and our online giving portal
- Our calendar
- Our Online Bible Study
- Our staff and much more!

Text Pastor Bill at 515.669.7631 or Email Pastor Bill at Pastor@StJamesJohnston.org

First time visitor? Email Pastor for a Welcome gift.

