

Lent 4

March 15, 2026

11:00 a.m.

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH | stjamesgp.org | 313.884.0511
170 McMillan Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Pastor Denise M. Grant | pastor@stjamesgp.org

WELCOME

Welcome to Saint James, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Southeast Michigan Synod. Thank you for being part of this gathered assembly as we worship God, and receive the sacrament. If this is your first time worshipping with Saint James, we extend a special greeting to you and invite you to introduce yourself to your neighbor in the pew. If you have questions about Saint James or are looking for a spiritual home, please reach out to Pastor Grant (pastor@stjamesgp.org).

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The celebration of the sacrament, **Holy Eucharist** (also called the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion), is central to our worship. Saint James practices an open table for Holy Communion, which means that all people are invited to participate in the sacrament. Jesus is the host of the meal and extends a wide welcome. Children are welcome to participate, but may also come forward with folded arms to receive a blessing. Distribution information is found on page 10.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*In silence
preparations are
made (personally
and corporately)
for worship.*

SILENCE

PRELUDE *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* Wayne L. Wold

GATHERING

STAND

*The sign of the
cross is made in
remembrance of
our baptism.*

CONFESSION

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the
work of the Spirit:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain
the living water Christ offers:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*The words of this
Confession
acknowledge that
we have fallen
short of God's
commands to love
and serve. We ask
God to forgive us
that we would try
again to serve
faithfully.*

*It is because of
Jesus' death on the
cross, where sin
and death are
defeated forever,
that the sins that
would otherwise
bind us and keep us
from a good and
right relationship
with God,
are forgiven.*

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death* ELW 452

APOSTOLIC GREETING

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



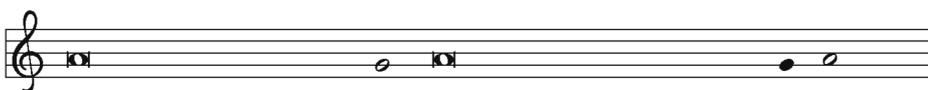
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Notice the use of the word 'us.' This indicates that the Kyrie is not only a personal plea for God's mercy, but also a corporate (common to everyone.)

Together we pray for God's mercy and peace to be upon us and all people: our community, the Church, and the world.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

The Prayer of the Day also known as The Collect begins with a silence of 5 to 10 seconds is kept to quietly collect ourselves to speak and listen to God in prayer.

SIT

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.

WORD

FIRST LESSON

see page 12 of this bulletin

PSALM

see page 13 of this bulletin

SECOND LESSON

see page 14 of this bulletin

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci -
ful, slow to an-ger, and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

STAND and SING

The Proper Verse, which is a single line of scripture that highlights the theme of the day's scriptures, is sung by the choir or cantor.

Text: Joel 2:13
Music: Anne Krentz Organ
Music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
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Verse : *Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life. (John 8:12)*

REPEAT ACCLAMATION

HOLY GOSPEL

see page 14 of this bulletin

RETURN ACCLAMATION Christ, the Life of All the Living ELW 339:1

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.

HOMILY

SIT

HYMN OF THE DAY I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ELW 815

STAND

APOSTLES CREED

*We are baptized
in God's Triune
name: Father, Son
and Holy Spirit.
Each part of The
Apostles Creed
tells about one
part of the Trinity,
reminding us what
God has done and
will do.*

**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 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.**

INTERCESSIONS

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

THE PEACE

In the season of Lent, our focus turns to reconciliation with God: confessing our sins, repenting of them, and having our relationship with God made right. Having been reconciled to God (by Jesus) we are therefore able to be reconciled to one another, that is, we can forgive one another. When we share the peace of the Lord with another person, we are asking for forgiveness and in turn forgiving them.

TABLE SETTING *Seed That in Earth Is Dying* ELW 330:1, 3

- 1 **Seed that in earth is dying
grows into ears of grain.
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel
turn into golden wine.
God, through this mystery grant us
faith in our deepest darkness,
life in our night and death.**

- 3 **Seed that in earth is dying
rises to bear much fruit.
Christ, as we meet at your table,
give us the bread of life.
Lord, we do thank and adore you!
Unceasing praise of the ages
rises from night and death.**

REMAIN
STANDING
& SING

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929
English text © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER

Merciful Lord, you invite us to keep the season of Lent so that we remember the humble ministry of Your Son. Give us the devotion to live more sparingly and then share what is saved that our neighbor may rejoice to see Your unselfish love through us, through Jesus Christ our LORD. **Amen.**



TITHES & OFFERINGS

Instead of 'passing the plate,' Saint James receives offerings in a) offering plates near each sanctuary entrance, b) via online giving at stjamesgp.org, and c) via Zelle app (QR code). Your gifts support the ministry of the church.

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving is understood as an act of praise and thanksgiving. Following Jewish customs, the emerging Christian liturgies blessed God (that is, thanked God) for God's kindness and love.

THE 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.

PREFACE

SANCTUS

The Sanctus is a series of angelic acclamations which accompanied Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3 also Psalm 118:26).

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might live with and serve all your creatures.

When disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, keeping your covenant with us, and teaching us through your prophets the hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin.

To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

The Words of Institution are prayed.

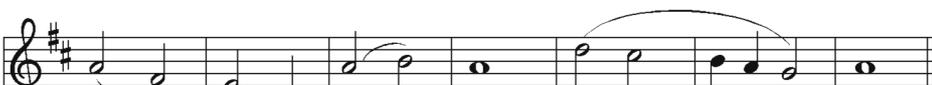
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.



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

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

In the Eucharistic Prayer, the church gives thanks for God's mighty works in the past, in creation and redemption through Jesus Christ, and thereby proclaims its faith in the blessings that come in the future both in this life and in eternal life yet to come.

We pray with the words that Jesus first taught to his disciples when they asked him how to pray. Mt 6:9-13

The bread is broken and distributed for all. We share in the body and blood of Jesus, whose real presence is with us in this sacred meal.

THE BREADING OF THE BREAD

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;
our peace and reconciliation.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

LAMB OF GOD

*The Lamb of God
is drawn from the
Gospel of John;
John 1:29*

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.

SIT

SAINT JAMES COMMUNION PRACTICE

Distribution

Come forward via the central aisle.

Communion Distribution is offered by **intinction**.

Receive the host (bread/Jesus' body) in the hand, hold it and then **dip it** into the cup with wine (Jesus' blood). Or consume it and take an individual cup of wine (purple) or juice (golden).

A gluten free host is offered by saying "gluten free" to the pastor.

If you prefer to receive the sacrament in the pew, please let an usher know before worship that this is your preference.

Return to your place via the outside aisles for private prayer.

DISTRIBUTION & DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

CHOIR *Draw Night and Take the Body of the Lord*
S. Drummond Wolff

HYMN *What God Ordains is Good Indeed* **ELW 776**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

SENDING PRAYER

Merciful God, renew in us the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, and fast from self-indulgence, that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* **ELW 324**

DISMISSAL

Saved by faith and formed to serve in the name of Christ,
go forth into the world to serve with gladness.
Be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good;
do not repay evil with evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted;
honor all people; love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Chorale* Raymond H. Haan

*After all have
communed
STAND as
indicated by the
Presider.*

*Let us endeavor
to put the
traditional
Lenten disciplines,
prayer, fasting,
and works of
love, into practice
that our words
and deeds would
reveal our Savior
to the world.*

*May this season
be a time of
spiritual renewal,
that creates a
greater sense of
God's presence
with each person
and with this
community.*

FIRST LESSON 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

¹ 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." ² 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.'" ³ 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." ⁴ 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?" ⁵ 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.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ 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." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ 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." ¹² 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." ¹³ 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.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the lyrics 'You have anointed my head with oil.' The second staff contains a bass line with a few notes and rests.

The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not¹ be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down¹ in green pastures
and leads me be-¹ side still waters.

³You restore my¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways¹ for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they¹ comfort me. Refrain

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is¹ running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the¹ LORD forever. Refrain

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SECOND LESSON Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

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

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Return to page 5 for Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read.

following the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Return to page 5 for the Return Acclamation

Worship Leaders for March 15

Assisting Minister: Susan Allison
Communion Assistant: Lena Picek
Lector: Andrew Picek
Altar Guild: Tracey Simpson
Livestream: Sue Martin
Ushers: Hank & Tracey Simpson

Worship Leaders for March 22

Assisting Minister: Mary Moellering
Communion Assistant: Nancy Kopka
Lector: Jim Lingscheit
Altar Guild: Gini Bunchek & Karol Evard
Livestream: Lisa Shrader
Ushers: Dalton Black & Arnold Brammeier

Worship Leaders for March 25 (6:30 PM)

Candle Bearer: Rich Moellering
Lector: Mary Moellering
Ushers: Mary & Rich Moellering

Offering Plates

Saint James places offering plates at each entrance to the sanctuary. For more information about offerings, including electronic giving, see the bulletin. Thank you for your faithfulness in stewardship. Every contribution helps to support Saint James' mission and the proclamation of the gospel in the world. Find us on Zelle using: giving@stjamesgp.org

Remember in Prayer – The family of Bob Rimbo - Nancy Gurs - Laura Blake - Russ Halleen - All deployed military and their families.

Contact Emily Moellering or Pastor to add a name to the Prayer List or to ask the Prayer Team to pray for a specific need.



Coffee Hour Please join us each Sunday after service for Coffee Hour in the Welcome Area (beyond the municipal parking lot doors near the nursery.) Grab a cup of coffee or juice and a goodie and enjoy some Christian fellowship.

Got News? Please send items for inclusion in the Saturday email newsletter to Alicia Taub no later than Thursday at noon of that week. All items for the Sunday bulletin must be sent to Emily Richardson at office@stjamesgp.org no later than Tuesday.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, March 15

Lent 4

11am: Holy Eucharist | Choir Sings
Fellowship immediately following worship
6pm: Luther League Dinner & Ice Cream (Gilbert's Lodge)

Monday, March 16

Office Closed on Mondays
4pm: Joyful Noise Children's Choir (at St. Paul)

Tuesday, March 17

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)
9am-12pm: Office Hours
12pm: Noon Eucharist (at St. Paul)

Wednesday, March 18

9am-1pm: Office Hours | *Pastor Grant's Office Day*
12pm: Noon Eucharist
4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)
4:30pm: Choir (Music Room)
5:30pm: Lenten Supper (St. Paul)
6:30pm: Vespers Service | 7:15pm: Bible Study (St. Paul)

Thursday, March 19

9am-12pm: Office Hours

Friday, March 20

Office Closed on Fridays | *Pastor's Day Off*

Sunday, March 22

Lent 5

11am: Holy Eucharist
Fellowship immediately following worship

Monday, March 23

Office Closed on Mondays
4pm: Joyful Noise Children's Choir (at St. Paul)

Tuesday, March 24

8am: Men's Club Chorus (Undercroft)
9am-12pm: Office Hours
12pm: Noon Eucharist (at St. Paul)
1pm: Book Club (at Jeanette Knutson's home)
6:30pm: Council Meeting (Upstairs Lounge)

Wednesday, March 25

9am-1pm: Office Hours | *Pastor Grant's Office Day*
12pm: Noon Eucharist
4pm: Handbells (Sanctuary)
4:30pm: Choir (Music Room)
5:30pm: Lenten Supper (Gathering Area)
6:30pm: Vespers Service | 7:15pm: Bible Study (Sanctuary)

March 29th—Palm Sunday, 11 AM at Saint James
April 2nd—Maundy Thursday, 7 PM at St. Paul

*The Weekly Newsletter of Saint James Lutheran Church
For the Week of March 15, 2026*



WITH CHRIST IN PEACE Former Saint James Pastor Bob Rimbo entered the Church Triumphant on March 4, 2026. Bob served as Pastor of Saint James from 1987-1991 before becoming our Synod Bishop in 1998. A memorial service will be held for him on March 22 in Manhattan.

CHURCH COUNCIL The next church council meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 PM** in the upstairs lounge. All members are welcome to attend any council meeting.



BOOK CLUB meets next on **Tuesday, March 24 at 1 PM** at Jeanette Knutson's home. We will be reading *James* by Percival Everett. All are welcome to join for any month's discussion! April's selection is *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell.

PRAYER SHAWLS meets next on **Thursday, March 26 at 10 AM** in the second floor conference room. All knitters and crocheters are invited to attend!

LENT On Wednesdays during Lent, join us at **12 PM** at Saint James for Eucharist weekly until **March 25**. Midday services will also be available weekly at **St. Paul** on **Tuesdays at 12 PM** until **March 24**.

On Wednesday evenings we will host supper at **5:30 PM**, Vespers at **6:30 PM** and Bible Study at **7:15 PM**. We will alternate each week between Saint James and St. Paul for supper, Vespers, and bible study. **March 18th will be held at St. Paul**. Feel free to attend any or all of Wednesday evening's events — there is no expectation to attend all 3. **Please sign up for the suppers on the kiosk.**

SPECIAL EASTER GIFTS Saint James has a tradition of collecting monetary donations during the Lenten season. These gifts go towards ELCA World Hunger, Samaritas, our Easter Sunday floral arrangements and guest musicians on Easter Sunday. Please consider contributing to help with these non-budgeted expenses, it is greatly appreciated. One check should be made for the total of all gifts, made payable to Saint James Lutheran Church. Please fill out the Special Easter Gifts form (available in the front pews at church or linked here) and return the form and your check to the church office. Gifts received by **March 29th** will be acknowledged in the Easter bulletin.



PALM SUNDAY is **March 29th, 2026!** Journey through Holy Week with us beginning with 11 AM worship that Sunday. **Maundy Thursday** worship will be **7 PM** on **April 2** at **St. Paul**. **Good Friday** will be held at **7 PM** on **April 3** at **Saint James**. Our first Easter celebration is the **Easter Vigil** on **April 4** at **7 PM** at **St. Paul**. We will celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday, **April 5** at **11 AM**.

SAINT JAMES is invited to a special Laetare Sunday Vespers program today at **4 PM** at **St. Matthew Catholic Church** (6021 Whittier, Detroit). More information is on the kiosk.