



Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH | stjamesgp.org | 313.884.0511

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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 the Risen Lord 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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

WORSHIP & HOLY EUCHARIST

All of the materials needed for this liturgy can be found in this bulletin and in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) book found in the pew rack. The celebration of the sacrament, **Holy Eucharist** (also called the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion), is central to our worship. As host of the meal, Jesus extends a wide welcome for all to participate. Distribution information is found on page 10. If you would prefer to commune in the pew, please alert an usher prior to the start of worship.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *The Lord Be Near Us* Hal H. Hopson

GATHERING

STAND

ENTRANCE HYMN

Built on a Rock

ELW 652

*The ELW
(Evangelical
Lutheran Worship)
is the red worship
book in the pew
rack. In the ELW,
find hymns not
printed in the
bulletin and
harmony to those
printed.*



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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INVOCATION & APOSTOLIC GREETING

KYRIE

The sign of the cross is made in remembrance of Holy Baptism.

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

Notice the use of the word 'us.' This indicates that the Kyrie is a corporate (common to everyone) prayer in which together we pray for God's mercy and peace to be upon us and all people: our community, the Church, and the world.

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Drawn from the hymns in the book of Revelation, the words of this hymn of praise joins Passover and Easter with a glimpse of the kingdom now, and reign of God yet to come.

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

SIT

WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

see page 13 of this bulletin

PSALM

see page 14 of this bulletin

SECOND LESSON

see page 15 of this bulletin

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(All)
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

STAND & SING

Verse *If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (John 8:31-32)*

REPEAT ALLELUIA

HOLY GOSPEL

see page 16 of this bulletin

RETURN ACCLAMATION**Thy Strong Word****ELW 511:3**

*The acclamation
is sung as the
procession returns
to the chancel.*

3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

SIT HOMILY**STAND HYMN OF THE DAY A Mighty Fortress Is Our God ELW 503****NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

INTERCESSIONS

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

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

*The sign of peace
is a greeting
between believers
that invites the
peace of God to
dwell within and
between each
person. This
means that
sharing the peace
is much more
than an act of
hospitality.*

REMAIN
STANDING & SING

*The ushers bring
the gifts of bread
and wine forward
as the table is set.*

TABLE SETTING *Now We Join in Celebration*

ELW 462:2



2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!



For this bread and cup of bless-ing are for us the sure pos-sess - ing



of your lov-ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,



pledge of your un - fail-ing pres-ence, fore-taste here of heav'n-ly glad - ness.

PRAYER

God of grace, God of abundance, God of the harvest and feast, we bring these gifts to your table, that all might be fed. Unite us as one, and form us into the body of Christ for the world. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

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 below). Your gifts support the ministry of the church.

MEAL

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.

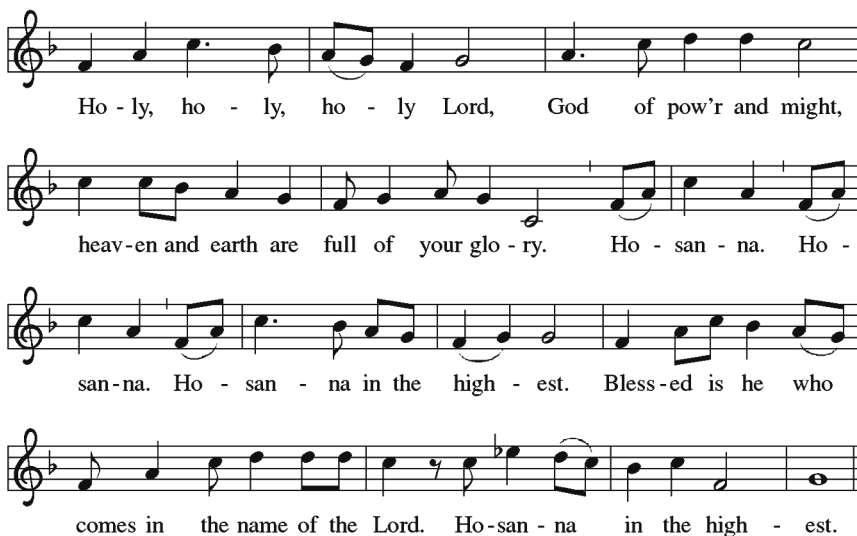
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 his kindness and love.

PREFACE

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;
who overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven
we praise your name and join there unending hymn:

SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*In the Eucharistic
Prayer,
the church
gives thanks for
God the Father
and creator; for
Jesus who saves
and redeems us;
and for the Holy
Spirit that stirs
and enlightens
our faith that we
might proclaim
the mighty work
of God in word
and deed.*

You are indeed holy, almighty, and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

The Words of Institution

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



*The word
eucharist means
'thanksgiving.'
When we use this
term for the
sacrament the
emphasis is on
the joy and cele-
bration with
which we thank
the Risen Lord
Jesus for his real
presence as we
receive his body
and blood.*

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



The sacrament of the altar is known by several names including Holy Communion, The Lord's Supper, and The Eucharist.

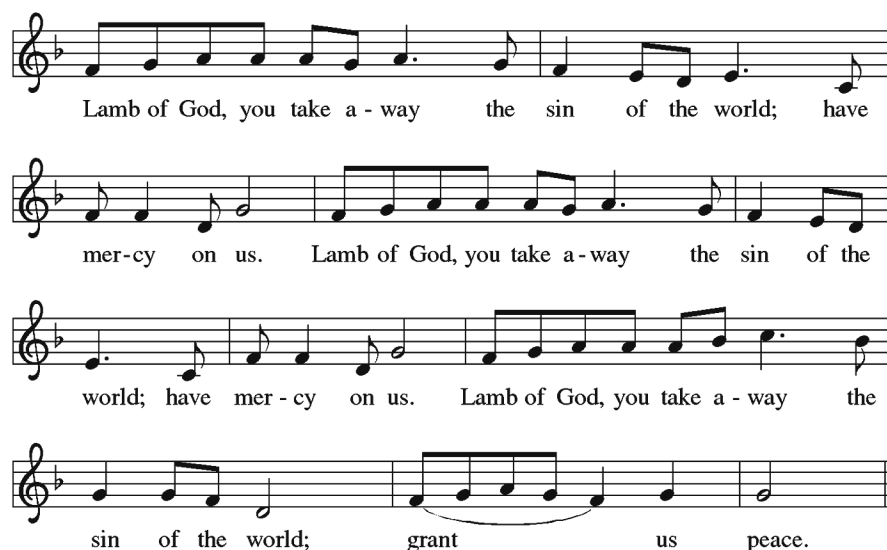
LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name...**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**This is the feast of the Lamb of God
who frees us from our sins, and unites us as one people.
Let us rejoice and be glad!**

LAMB OF GOD



SIT

SAINT JAMES COMMUNION PRACTICE

Welcome	Saint James practices an open table for Holy Communion, which means that <u>all people are invited to participate in the sacrament</u> . 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.
Benefit	What is the benefit of sharing in the meal? The words “given for you” and “shed for you” show us that the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament. (Luther’s Small Catechism)
Distribution	Come forward via the central aisle. Receive the host (bread/Jesus’ body) in the hand, 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. Return to your place via the outside aisles for private prayer.

SIT **DISTRIBUTION**

**CHOIR
HYMN**

*This My Church Shall Be
The Church’s One Foundation*

Carol Meuhlig
ELW 654

STAND

SENDING

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING PRAYER

O Lord, we thank you for your Spirit who calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies us by the means of grace. As we have received you in this meal, so send us out that we may faithfully feed others with the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The sign of the
cross is made in
remembrance of
Holy Baptism*

BENEDICTION

HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown

ELW 550

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

*We are sent into the
world to proclaim
the good news of
God!*

POSTLUDE

Marie Mehler, trumpet

SIT

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 25, 2026

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

The Lord of hosts is with us; the

God of Ja - cob is our strong - hold.

Psalter for Worship tone 34

Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹God is our refuge and strength,
 a very present help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
 and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
³**though its waters rage and foam,**
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**
the holy habitation of the Most High.
⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
 God shall help it at the break of day.
⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
 God speaks, and the earth melts away. *Refrain*
⁷**The LORD of hosts is with us;**
he God of Jacob is our stronghold.
⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,**
what desolations God has brought up on the earth;
⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
 who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰"Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted ¹ in the earth."
¹¹**The LORD of ¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob ¹ is our stronghold. Refrain**

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SECOND LESSON Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

before the Gospel

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

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

following the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Return to page 6 for the Gospel Acclamation