

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2024

Hymn of Invocation

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death? Christ a -
What truth can calm the trou - bled soul? God is
Un - to the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, He
lone, Christ a - lone. What is our on - ly con - fi -
good, God is good. Where is His grace and good - ness
lives; Christ, He lives!" And what re - ward will heav - en
dence? That our souls to Him be - long. Who holds our days with - in His
known? In our great Re - deem - er's blood. Who holds our faith when fears a -
bring? Ev - er - last - ing life with Him. Then we will rise to meet the
hand? What comes, a - part from His com - mand? And what will
rise? Who stands a - bove the storm - y trial? Who sends the
Lord, Then sin and death will be de - stroyed, And we will
keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.
waves that bring us nigh un - to the shore, the rock of Christ?
feast in end - less joy, When Christ is ours for - ev - er - more.
O sing ha - le - lu - jah! Our hope springs e -
ter - nal; O sing ha - le - lu - jah! Now and
ev - er we con - fess Christ our hope in life and death.

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

- L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

- L** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- L** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Kyrie

- L** Lord, have mercy upon us.
C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Confession and Absolution

- L** Let us confess our sin to God:
You are the Lord and you alone! You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them, and you preserve them all.
- C** **You have called us to yourself and given us a covenant. You have become our God and made us your people, and yet we have turned away from you. We have rebelled against you. You have delivered us many times according to your covenant mercies. You have warned us, and yet we have acted presumptuously. You have sent us prophets, and we have turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened our necks and would not obey your law.**
- L** You are the Lord and you alone! You are our God, great and mighty. You keep covenant and steadfast love.

C We deplore our sins before you, and before each other. They have only gotten us into trouble. They have only enslaved us. They have not given us the happiness they promised. Deliver us from our sin and the power and attraction of sin through the faithful suffering and death of our Savior Jesus Christ, whose intercession we plead, and in whose name we pray. Amen.

L Because of Jesus, God has forgiven all our sin. Hear the gospel of Christ from 1 John:

"We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world."

C Amen.

Reflection on God's Forgiveness

Isaiah 44:21-23

L Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant;

C **I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.**

L I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like a mist;

C **Return to me, for I have redeemed you.**

L Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth;

C **For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.**

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 147:1-11

L Praise the LORD!
For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

C **The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

L He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

C **He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.**

L Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

- C** The LORD lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.
- L** Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!
- C** He covers the heavens with clouds;
he prepares rain for the earth;
he makes grass grow on the hills.
- L** He gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.
- C** His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,
- L** but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love!
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

Gloria in Excelsis

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
- C** We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You,
We give You thanks for Your great glory,
O Lord God, King of Heaven, Father Almighty.

Lord Jesus Christ, the one and only Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world -
Receive our prayer and have mercy on us.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone, Jesus, with the Holy Spirit, are Most High
In the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; ²³who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 9:16-27

¹⁶If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹Immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her.

³¹And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

³⁶And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.



Sermon Hymn # 543

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
 neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
 is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
 sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.;

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven; Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Please take a moment to sign and pass the "Record of Friendship" booklet or use the QR code located on the inside cover of the booklet.

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

P Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

C Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna, in the highest.

Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord:

Glory to You, O Lord in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei

P Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

C Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace. Amen.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn # 761

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,

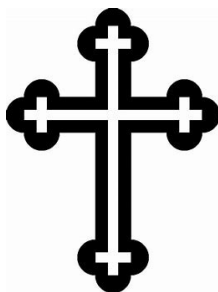


Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

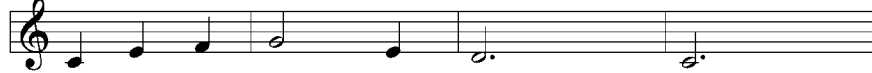
Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78; Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872; Text and tune: Public domain



Distribution Hymn # 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Distribution Hymn

Oh, How Good It Is



1. Oh, how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God
2. Oh, how good it is on this jour - ney we share,
3. Oh, how good it is to em - brace His com - mand



dwells to - ge - ther in spir - it, in faith and un - i - ty.
 to re - joice with the hap - py and weep with those who mourn.
 to love one a - noth - er, for - give as He for - gives.



Where the bonds of peace, of ac - cep - tance and love
 For the weak find strength, the af - flict - ed find grace,
 When we live as one, we all share in the love



are the fruits of His pre - sence here a - mong us.
 when we of - fer the bless - ing of be - long - ing.
 of the Son with the Fath - er and the Spir - it.



Refrain

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord;



and with one heart we'll live out his Word.



Till the whole earth sees the Re - deem - er has come



For He dwells in the pre - sence of his peo - ple.

Nunc Dimittis

P Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your Word.

C For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
Which You have prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of Your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 924

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text (sts. 1-2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.;
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79; Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

This Week at-a-Glance

Today

- Worship Service – 9:00 AM
- Sunday School – 10:45 AM
- [Adult Bible Study](#) - 10:45 AM
- Youth Confirmation – 11:45 AM, Downstairs
- Discovering Christianity – 6:00 PM

Wednesday

- Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 7:30 AM
- Youth Group– 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Announcements

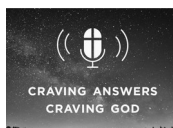
February Ministry Spotlight: Altar Guild

The role of the Altar Guild extends far beyond creating an aesthetically pleasing atmosphere, encompassing a variety of tasks that contribute to the smooth functioning of worship services. One of the primary responsibilities of the Altar Guild is preparing and maintaining the communion trays and their contents. This task involves attention to detail and a deep sense of reverence. The Guild not only sets up the trays but also ensures their cleanliness.

In addition to communion preparations, the Altar Guild takes charge of adorning the narthex and the church entrance with thematic decorations. These visually appealing displays serve as a warm welcome for worshippers and create an atmosphere that reflects our St. James community. The Guild's creative touch contributes to the overall ambiance of the church, enhancing the worship experience for the congregation.

They are also instrumental in preparing for special ceremonies, ensuring that every detail aligns with the significance of the event.

The work of the Altar Guild requires a collaborative effort, and they are always in need of more helping hands. Volunteers, whether able to commit to one Sunday a month or desiring a more involved role, are welcomed to join the team. Nic Schatte, the contact person for the Altar Guild, can be reached at nic@saintjamesglencarbon.org.



As a Christian, what is your understanding of the religion of Islam? Both religions are descended from Abraham. What are the similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam? If you had a chance to witness your faith to a Muslim, how would you do it? That's the topic of our most recent episode of [Craving Answers, Craving God](#). Check it out!

Metro East Lutheran High School invites you to an Open House this Sunday, February 4th

Stop by anytime between 1:00 – 3:00 PM to tour our campus, meet our teachers, chat with administrators, and get answers to all of your questions about the Knight life. For more information, call the school office at 618-656-0043 or email admissions@melhs.org

Ministry Clarity - INTENTIONALLY MOVING FORWARD WITH MISSION & MINISTRY

St. James held a congregational ministry planning event/dinner late last year. Our discussion was led by Pastor Tom Eggebrecht from Lutheran Church Extension Fund. The purpose of this event was to present opportunities, previously defined by the Ministry Planning Team, that can help us bridge the gap between where we are now in ministry and where we want to be based on our Mission Pillars (Community, Healing, Restoration). This was a very successful event that provided great insight. The Ministry Planning Team is now in the process of taking the information gathered at the event and using it to create a ministry plan for each of our three pillars. This is a very exciting process that should be completed by mid-Spring. At that time, it will be presented to the congregation for review/approval.

We encourage everyone to please:

- Pray for this process - That God would lead us to understand His will for St. James.
- Pray for our Ministry Team - That each member would seek God's will and apply it to this process of creating a ministry plan to His glory.
- Approach any Ministry Team member with questions you may have.

o [Eric Robinson](#), [Shanna Covarrubius](#), [Nic Schatte](#),
[Stacey Staake](#), [Joe Rathert](#), [Aaron Mueller](#), [Cheryl Schnicker](#)

St. James Guiding Statement

*Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and
welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises.*

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