The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany February 23, 2025



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Confession and Absolution

Invocation

- $oldsymbol{\mathbb{L}}$ In the name of the Father and of the $oldsymbol{+}$ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Kyrie

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

Exhortation

- L Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- I Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession and Absolution

- Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- L Upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Savior Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the T Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Reflection on God's Forgiveness

Romans 8:35-39

- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
- No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
- **I** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth,
- Nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Service of the Word

Psalm Psalm 1

- Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
- \mathbf{C} but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.
- He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
- The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. C
- L Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
- for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.
- 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



in pow'r are

Where You

In

seat-ed At God's right hand on high-God the Fa-ther's glo-ry. "A-men!" our glad re - ply. Text: Stephen P. Starke ⁵Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

- **I** This is the word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- **L** This is the word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God

Holy Gospel Luke 6:17–26

- **L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²²"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵"Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

"Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶"Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

- L This is the Gospel of the Lord
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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: Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)



Text: Louie Giglio; Chris Tomlin; John Newton Tune: Chris Tomlin; Louie Giglio; John Newton

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Sermon

Offering

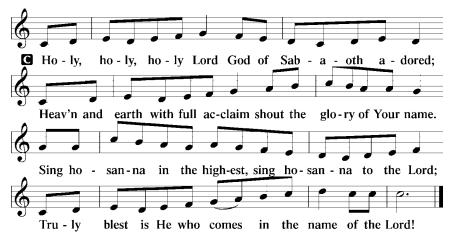
Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- **L** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- L Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Lord's Prayer

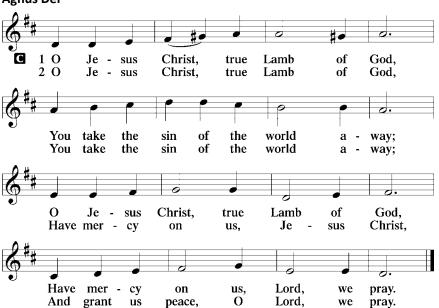
- L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and 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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."





Distribution

Distribution Hymn: I Will Wait for You



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Distribution Hymn: 543 What Wondrous Love Is This



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

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain



Distribution Hymn: 618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.
Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001220
Tune: Public domain

The Dismissal

- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart

 → in peace.
- C Amen.



Benediction

- Let us bless the Lord
- Thanks be to God
- 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.

Closing Hymn: 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer



Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91

Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932

Text and tune: Public domain

This Week at-a-Glance

Today

- Worship Service (Pastor John Lukomski) 9:00 AM
- Adult Bible Study
 10:45 AM (Fellowship Hall)
- <u>Sunday School & Youth Confirmation</u> 10:30 AM (Sanctuary)
- Campus Planning Team: Campus Tours 1:00 PM & 2:00 PM

Wednesday

- Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM
- Jr & Sr High Youth Group 6:30 PM 8:00 PM (Staake Home)

Thursday

AA Meeting – 6:30 PM

Saturday

- Circle of Friends (LWML) 10:00 AM
- AA Meeting 1:30 PM

Announcements

Altar Guild – Ministry Spotlight

The Altar Guild's work goes beyond just making the church look beautiful—it's a vital part of making sure everything runs smoothly during our worship services. Questions about Altar Guild? Reach out to Nic Schatte at nic@saintjamesglencarbon.org to learn more!

Our newest release of <u>Craving Answers Craving God</u> focuses on a controversial subject. What does the Bible have to say about homosexuality? How does a Christian engage this issue in a way that honors God while showing love for one's neighbor? It's a sensitive and important topic on our latest episode of **Craving Answers Craving God.**

<u>Circle of Friends (LWML)</u> Please join us this Saturday when Tina Barnard along with guest speaker, Wenifer Greer (District 7), will present the kick off for "Undies Sundays," a collection of underwear for students in need.

Property Team Update

- The lower-level carpet has been ordered, and soon there will be opportunities to help with demo and painting.
- The final review for phase one of the new sanctuary lighting is complete, and the order has been placed. The installation plan is in progress.
- Mark your calendars for the week of March 24 for an opportunity to lend a hand with spring cleanup.
- Plans are in place to refresh the upstairs bathrooms by painting and renewing the exhaust fans.
- Looking ahead to late spring or early summer, some concrete repairs will be made around the building, and the parking lot will be resealed and repainted.

<u>Campus Planning Team Update</u>: We are gathering information from the campus planning survey, our Elders and Deacons, and touring area churches as we discern facility needs to successfully complete the St. James Ministry Plan.

The Thursday Night (Caseyville) Community Group is looking to grow! We meet every other Thursday, for dinner and discussion, and would love to add some new faces to our group. If you're interested, please call Cheryl at 618-531-2186 or email cheryl@stjamesglencarbon.org.

Second Tuesday Women's Bible Study

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11th from 6-8pm in the fellowship hall. We will be covering session 4 of "Whatever - Keeping Your Heart in Tune With Whatever Life Brings". If you'd like, please bring your favorite sweet or savory dip to share. Text Shala Baker with any questions at 618-315-0788.

Mark your Calendars to join the <u>Life Team</u> for the **2025 Illinois Pro-Life March** in Springfield, Illinois on Tuesday, March 25th! Watch for more details to come.

<u>College Care Packages</u>: Attention all St. James members, if you are or have a college student in your family, please send their college address to Cheryl at the church office, 618-288-6120 or cheryl@stjamesglencarbon.org, for Spring College Care Packages!

Meet our guest Pastor: Pastor John Lukomski

Pastor John Lukomski was born in Independence, MO Feb. 18, 1953. He graduated from Concordia College in St. Paul, MN in 1974. He received his Ministry of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary at Springfield, IL and Ft. Wayne, IN. He received his Master of Sacred Theology from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. He served as pastor for 40 years at Trinity Lutheran in Darmstadt, IL and St. Paul Lutheran in New Athens, IL. He retired from that call May 2019. He was an active member of the local theater group: Open House Theater. He has served in various positions in the Southern Illinois District including Board of Congregational Services, Circuit Visitor, 1 st Vice-president and a 7-year term as Mission Board Chairman. You can hear him on your favorite podcast app or live on KFUO radio Saturday morning on "Wrestling with the Basics" with co-host Rev. Matt Clark, "Moments on the Lighter Side", as well as a regular guest on "Thy Strong Word." He is also known to show up as a variety of characters (Martin Luther, St. Peter, even a donkey named Max) both on KFUO and in area congregations. He is married to Lynn Lukomski, retired principal at Immanuel Lutheran School, Okawville. She and John were married on June 30, 2002. Between them they have 8 children and 11 grandchildren.

St. James Guiding Statement

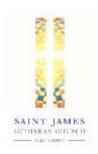
Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises.

St. James Mission Pillars

Healing Community Restoration



St. James Attendance



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