

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

## Opening Hymn: Today Your Mercy Calls Us



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.  
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in  
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,  
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.  
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,  
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;  
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.  
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.  
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain



# 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.*

## Responsive 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:  
O Lord, merciful Father, you keep covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments.
- C** **We confess that we have not listened to your servants the prophets. We have not heeded your law nor have we rejoiced in your gospel. We confess that things have fallen apart.**  
**But Lord, you keep covenant even when we do not. Your love is steadfast when ours is frail and fallible. You are faithful even when we are faithless. We want you to be our God and we want to be your covenant people. Grant us the gift of faith. By your Holy Spirit work in us steadfastness and singleness of heart, that we might manifest your love in the keeping of your commandments and the living of your gospel.**
- L** O Lord, merciful Father, hear our prayers in the name of your well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the mediator of the new and eternal covenant, to whom be glory forever and ever.
- C** **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 ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen**

- L** I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.
- C** **He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,**
- L** and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
- C** **He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.**
- L** Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

## Service of the Word

- L** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
  - C** **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
  - L** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
  - C** **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
  - L** I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
  - C** **Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**
  - L** You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
  - C** **I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**
  - L** Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.
  - C** **Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**
  - L** Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!
  - 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.**
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## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 12:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. <sup>2</sup>“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the nations. <sup>5</sup>“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God

## New Testament Reading

*2 Corinthians 5:16–21*

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God

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**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus].

<sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: . . .

“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup>but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this

son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

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## 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: Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.; Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

# Sermon

## Offering

## Prayer Response

- L** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- L** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- L** 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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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

- L** 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.
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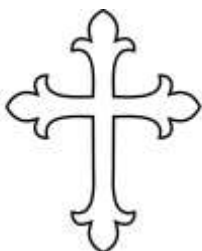
## The Words of Our Lord

- L** 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  $\text{✝}$  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  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Agnus Dei

- L** 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: I Will Wait for You



Out of the depths I cry to You, in dark - est plac - es I will  
So, put Your hope in God a - lone, take cour - age in His pow'r to



call. In - cline Your ear to me a - new, and  
save, com - plete - ly and for - ev - er won by



hear my cry for mer - cy, Lord. Were You to count my sin - ful  
Christ e - mer - ging from the grave. His stead - fast love has made a



ways, how could I come be - fore Your throne? Yet,  
way, and God Him - self has paid the price, that



full for - give - ness meets my gaze, I stand re - deemed by grace a -  
all who trust in Him to - dav find heal - ing in His sac - ri -

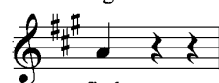


lone. I will wait for You, I will wait for You, on Your word I will re -  
fice. I will wait for You, I will wait for You, on Your word I will re -

Chorus 3: I will wait for You, I will wait for You, thru the storm and thru the



ly. I will wait for You, sure - ly wait for You till my soul is sat - is -  
ly. I will wait for You, sure - ly wait for You till my soul is sat - is -  
night. I will wait for You, sure - ly wait for You for Your love is my de -

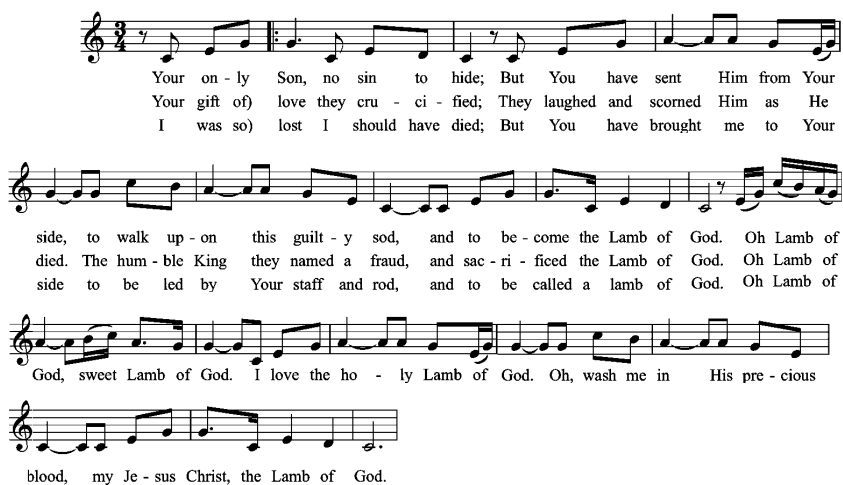


fied  
fied (To Chorus 3)  
light.

Tune: Jordan Kauflin; Matthew Merker,; Keith Getty; Stuart Townend

Tune: © 2018 Getty Music; © Jordan Kauflin Music; © Matthew Merker Music. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734

## Distribution Hymn: Lamb of God



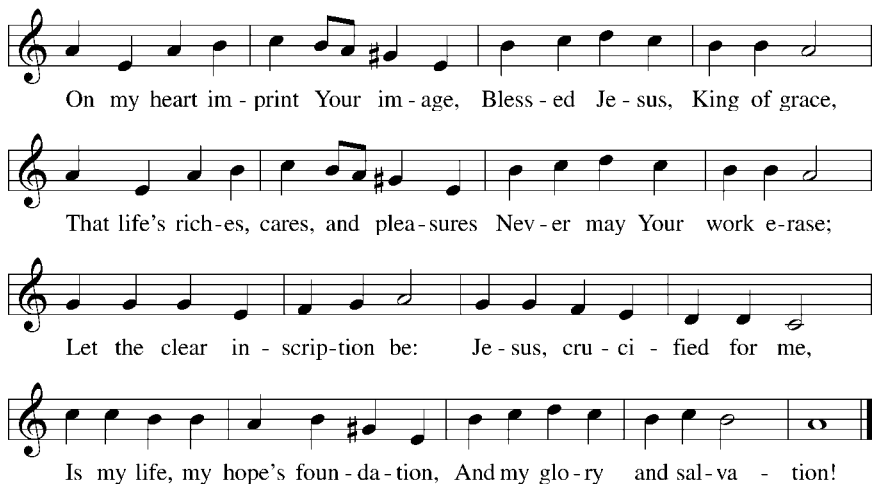
Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide; But You have sent Him from Your  
Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied; They laughed and scorned Him as He  
I was so) lost I should have died; But You have brought me to Your  
side, to walk up - on this guilt - y sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God. Oh Lamb of  
died. The hum - ble King they named a fraud, and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. Oh Lamb of  
side to be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God. Oh Lamb of  
God, sweet Lamb of God. I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me in His pre - cious  
blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

ext: Twila Paris

Tune: Twila Paris

Text and tune: © 1985 Jubilee Communications Inc. ; © Mountain Spring Music. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734

## Distribution Hymn: On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,  
That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;  
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Dismissal

- L** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.
- C** Amen.

## Nunc Dimittis

- L** 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.**

## Call to Christian Community

- L** "For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another" (1 John 3:11). After singing our last song, please take time to greet one another, and if you see someone you don't know, introduce yourself. The Christian life isn't meant to be lived alone, but in community. Now receive God's Blessing:

## Benediction

- L** Let us bless the Lord
- C** **Thanks be to God**
- L** 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
- C** Amen.
-

## Closing Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re-deem-er, Pil-grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys-tal foun-tain Whence the heal-ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor-dan, Bid my anx-ious  
bar-ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might-y;  
stream doth flow; Let the fi-ery, cloud-y pil-lar  
fears sub-side; Death of death and hell's de-struc-tion,  
Hold me with Thy pow'r-ful hand. Bread of heav-en,  
Lead me all my jour-ney through. Strong de-liv-'rer,  
Land me safe on Ca-naan's side. Songs of prais-es,  
bread of heav-en, Feed me till I want no  
strong de-liv-'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
songs of prais-es I will ev-er give to  
more; shield; Feed me till I want no more.  
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
Thee; I will ev-er give to Thee.

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 Robert W. Weise) – 9:00 AM
- [Adult Bible Study](#) & Youth Confirmation – 10:45 AM (Downstairs)
- [Sunday School & Youth Confirmation](#)– 10:30 AM (Sanctuary)
- Deacon Meeting – 11:45 PM – 1:15 PM

### Wednesday

- [Men's Bible Study](#)– 6:30 AM
- Midweek Worship – 6:30 PM

### Thursday

- AA Meeting – 6:30 PM

### Saturday

- Circle of Friendship - 10:00 AM
  - AA Meeting – 1:30 PM
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## Announcements

**Easter Lilies** - Help Saint James' altar look beautiful for Easter Sunday! Order your Easter lilies (\$15 can be placed in the locked box on the church office door) In Honor of, In Memory of, or In Thanksgiving for your loved one(s). We will list the donations in our Easter service bulletin. You are welcome to take the lily home after our Easter Services or leave it for the rest of the season. To order your lily, please complete the form in the narthex today.

### **40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

"40 Days for Life is a pro-life international campaign that involves 40 days of prayer and peaceful vigils outside abortion facilities, aiming to end abortion through prayer and community outreach." This Spring, Saint James will be joining members of Good Shepherd, Collinsville on Saturday, April 12 for a vigil that will be located next to Planned Parenthood Fairview Heights, 317 Salem Pl Fairview Heights, IL. Each day of the 40 days, the vigil is held from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The amount of time each attendee is present dependent on their availability. Prayer folders are available. Sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.

If you have questions or need a prayer folder, please contact Janice Lanto 618-779-8269, Carmen Stewert 314-503-7449 or Janice Wendel 618-660-9166.

### **Second Tuesday Women's Bible Study**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8th from 6-8pm in the fellowship hall. We will be covering session 5 (Whatever is Admirable) of "Whatever - Keeping Your Heart in Tune with Whatever Life Brings". Come celebrate the arrival of spring with a tea party! If you'd like, please bring your favorite tea party fare (finger sandwiches, quiches, canapes, scones, or little sweets). Text Shala Baker with any questions at 618-315-0788.

**Help Fill Glen-Ed Pantry's Shelves with Most-Needed Items:** Consider donating some items Glen-Ed Pantry always needs: pasta side dishes, hamburger helper meal starters, oatmeal, breakfast bars, pop-tarts, saltines, other crackers, jelly, pancake syrup, laundry detergent and dish soap. Glen-Ed Pantry runs because of volunteers. To see how you can help, go to [www.glenedpantry.org](http://www.glenedpantry.org) and find out about regular or special project volunteer opportunities. Questions? Contact Bev Tieman 618-288-4201.

**Fellowship Meal** – Please join us Wednesday, April 9th in fellowship hall at 6:30 PM for a fellowship meal and devotion by Pastor Engfehr. Free-will offering will be collected to support the youth attending the National Youth Gathering this summer.

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## Meet our Guest Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Weise, Senior Emeritus Professor Pastoral Ministry & The Life Sciences Dept. of Practical Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Bob is married to Janice, 55 years. Their marriage is blessed with 5 daughters and their spouses, 12 grandchildren. They live in Edwardsville, IL. He is an avid cyclist (occasional race), plays guitar and loves spending time with his family.

They attend St. Paul Ev Lutheran Church, Wood River, IL. He has earned degrees: B.S. Ed, M.S. and Ph.D. in Zoology parasitology/hematology); M.Div., Concordia Seminary, 1982. Professor of Clinical Hematology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan, 1973-1978. Has served the Lord and His church as a parish pastor from 1982-1985 in rural Bunker Hill, Illinois and Springfield, Illinois, 1985-1992.

Bob was Professor of St. Louis Charities Foundation Chair of Pastoral Ministry and the Life Sciences, 1992-2014, Concordia Seminary, thereafter as Adjunct Professor of Practical Theology until 2021.

During his tenure at CSL, he gave many seminars and workshops in Central Europe, Russia, Latvia, and Brazil, and Germany, in addition to the dozens of presentations in the USA. Also, during this time at CSL, Weise served 6 pastoral vacancies. Currently, he is writing and attending to future church and pastoral seminars and workshops. While at Concordia Seminary, he taught classes in the following areas: Genetic Science in Christian perspective; Studies in Creation, Pastoral Theology, Bioethics, Science, Ecology and the Doctrine of Man, and the Specific Ministry Pastoral Program.

## Lent/Easter Worship Schedule

April 2 @ 6:30 PM	Midweek Worship/Pastor Bill Engfehr
April 9 @ 6:30 PM	Fellowship Dinner in Fellowship Hall
April 17 @ 6:30 PM	Holy Thursday Worship/Pastor Tony Boos
April 18 @ 6:30 PM	Good Friday Worship/Pastor John Lukomski
April 20 @ 9:00 AM	Easter Worship/Pastor Bill Engfehr
	Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt following service

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## St. James Guiding Statement

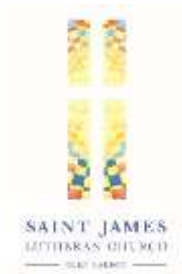
*Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises.*

### St. James Mission Pillars

[Healing](#)  
[Community](#)  
[Restoration](#)



[St. James Attendance](#)



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