

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 25, 2026

915 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

Invocation

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

Kyrie

L Lord, have mercy upon us.
C Christ, have mercy upon us.
L 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?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- L** 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 of Sins

- L** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- L** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As an ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Reflection on God's Forgiveness

- L** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
- C** **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**
- L** 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,
- C** **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 27

- L** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- C** **When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**
- L** Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
- C** **One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.**
- L** For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.
- C** **And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**
- L** Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
- C** **You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."**
- L** Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!
- C** **For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.**
- L** Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
- C** **Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.**
- L** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!
- C** **Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**
- 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

C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.

Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;

We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,

Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:12–25

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

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.

749 There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole;



There is a balm in Gil-e - ad To heal the sin - sick soul.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And think my work's in vain,

2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you can - not pray like Paul,

3 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, For Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain



But then the Ho - ly Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.

You can tell the love of Je - sus And say He died for all.

And if you lack for knowl-edge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text and tune: African American spiritual

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon - Pastor Michael Walther

Offering

Please take a moment to sign in and pass the "Record of Friendship" booklet or use the QR code on the back of this bulletin.

Prayer of the Church

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, 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



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (two sharps) and common time. The lyrics are as follows:

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

Keep the Feast

1. Joy - ful - ly we join You at Your ta - ble, plead - ing not our
 2. Who is fit to feast with such a Sav - ior? Who His san - dals
 3. Hap - py sign of friend - ship and re - un - ion with the bless - ed

right - eous - ness. By Your wealth of mer - cy we are a - ble
 could un - tie? Who are we that He would show us fa - vor,
 Three in One. Fore - taste of that glo - ri - ous com - mun - ion.

now to feast in con - fi - dence. Take this bread and eat.
 grant - ing us this gift of life?
 vis - ion of the world to come.

Take this cup and drink. Re - mem - ber how He loved us. Re -

joice and keep the feast.

Text: Skye Peterson; Ben Shive

Tune: Skye Peterson; Ben Shive

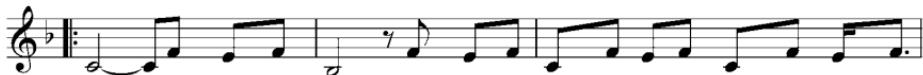
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Come, Share the Lord



1. We gath - er
(2. We'll gath - er)
(3. He joins us)



here in Je - sus' name, His love is burn - ing in our hearts like liv - ing
soon where an - gels sing, we'll see the glo - ry of our Lord and com - ing
here, He breaks the bread. The Lord who pours the cup is ris - en from the



flame. For through His lov - ing Son the Fa - ther makes us one. Come take the bread,
King. Now we an - ti - ci - pate the feast for which we wait. Come take the bread,
dead. The One we love the most is now our gra - cious host. Come take the bread,



come drink the wine, come share the Lord.
come drink the wine, come share the Lord.
come drink the wine, come share the Lord.

2. We'll gath - er
3. He joins us

Text: Bryan Jeffery Leech
Tune: Bryan Jeffery Leech
Text and tune: © 1984, 1987 Fred Bock Music Company. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734

711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.; Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68; 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  in peace.

C Amen.

Call to Christian Community

L Jesus once said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). Jesus calls His followers to live in community. After our last song, please take time to greet one another, and if you see someone you don't know, introduce yourself. 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 \ddagger give you peace.

C **Amen.**

662 Onward, Christian Soldiers

1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,
2 Like a might - y ar - my Moves the Church of God;
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, King - doms rise and wane,
4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful, Join our hap - py throng,

With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.
Broth - ers, we are tread - ing Where the saints have trod.
But the Church of Je - sus Con - stant will re - main.
Blend with ours your voic - es In the tri - umph song:

Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;
We are not di - vid - ed, All one bod - y we,
Gates of hell can nev - er 'Gainst that Church pre - vail;
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or Un - to Christ, the king;

For - ward in - to bat - tle See His ban - ners go!
One in hope and doc - trine, One in char - i - ty.
We have Christ's own prom - ise, And that can - not fail.
This through count - less a - ges Men and an - gels sing.

Refrain

On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March-ing as to war,
With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.

Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

Text and tune: Public domain

This Week at-a-Glance

Today

- Worship Service (Pastor William Engfehr) – 9:00 AM
- Adult Bible Study – 10:45 AM (Downstairs)
- Discovering Christianity Class – 10:45 AM (Downstairs)
- Sunday School – 10:30 AM (Sanctuary)

Wednesday

- Men's Bible Study – 6:30 AM (Downstairs)

Thursday

- AA Meeting – 6:30 PM (Downstairs)

Saturday

- AA Meeting – 1:30 PM
- Women's Bible Study – 10:00 AM

Announcements

Fellowship Opportunities

Bunko and Snacks – February 15 @ 6:00 PM. For more information, please contact Jen Weber, jen@stjamesglencarbon.org

St. James Life Ministry - Advocating, Educating, and Caring for All Human Life

This year's Life Sunday 2026 theme is based on Psalm 139:13-14: **"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."**

In celebration of Life Month (January), St. James is participating in the Mosaic Baby Bottle campaign. We encourage you to stand with us as we support life by filling a baby bottle with your spare change or donation. Bottles are in the narthex and can be returned anytime up to February 15th.

For more information about this and other Life Ministry Opportunities, please contact Janice Lanto or the church office.

Please save the date for additional Life Ministry Opportunities

March 19: Illinois March for Life, Springfield, IL

April 25: March on the Arch

March 28: 40 Days for Life, Fairview Heights

2026 Member Giving Envelopes are available on the credenza in the narthex. Please note that all unclaimed envelopes will be removed at the end of January.

2025 Member giving statements will be sent the last week of January via email to the email address on record. These are generated from our Shepherd Staff system and may go to your "junk/spam" folder. Please check these folders if you don't see it by end of January. If you don't receive the email or if you prefer a hard copy, please contact Cheryl in the church office at cheryl@stjamesglencarbon.org.



The will and character of the Triune God is revealed in his Word. We look to Scripture for all the revelation that we need. But does it sometimes happen that the Holy Spirit speaks to us now? Does God sometimes provide direct answers to our prayers? That's the topic of discussion on the most recent episode of **Craving Answers Craving God**.

The Call Committee encourages everyone to continue prayers for our call process, for our hearts to be open to the shepherd God has prepared for us and especially for Pastor Paul Moldenhauer and his family as he considers our pastoral call.

If you have any questions or would like to share a comment, please feel free to reach out to one of our St. James Elders at elders@saintjamesglencarbon.org. We are always glad to connect with you.

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



SAINT JAMES
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— GLEN CARBON —

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