

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 19, 2025 9:45 AM

Epiphany 3C

We Proclaim and Practice Christ's Love



CALL TO WORSHIP

How can we keep still this day?

There is joy in this place!

God's steadfast love extends to everyone.

God reaches out to us all in forgiveness and compassion.

Thanks to God for all the wonderful blessings we have received.

Let us celebrate God's joyful love for and with us! Amen.

Lord, open our hearts to the surprising ways in which you offer to us your love and your presence. Help us to truly believe in the wondrous ways that you work in our lives. Give us hearts and spirits for service to you. **Amen.**

OPENING SONG *The Joy of the Lord is My Strength*

Though the tears may fall my song will rise My song will rise to You
Though my heart may fail my song will rise My song will rise to You
While there's breath in my lungs I will praise You Lord

In the dead of night I'll lift my eyes I'll lift my eyes to You
When the waters rise I'll lift my eyes I'll lift my eyes to You
While there's hope in this heart I will praise You Lord

The joy of the Lord is my strength. The joy of the Lord is my strength
In the darkness I'll dance; In the shadows I'll sing
The joy of the Lord is my strength

When I cannot see You with my eyes Let faith arise to You
When I cannot feel Your hand in mine Let faith arise to You
God of mercy and love I will praise You Lord

Oh You shine with glory Lord of light I feel alive with You
In Your presence now I come alive I am alive with You
There is strength when I say I will praise You Lord

The joy of the Lord is my strength. The joy of the Lord is my strength
In the darkness I'll dance; In the shadows I'll sing
The joy of the Lord is my strength

OPENING LITANY (based on Psalm 36)

We come this day, Precious God,
as people in need of your steadfast love:

The joy of the Lord is our strength. In your light we see light.

We gather this day, Water-changing God,
as people looking for signs:

The joy of the Lord is our strength. In your Hope we see hope.

We worship this day, Gifting God,
as people who confess Jesus as our Lord:

The joy of the Lord is our strength In your Life we see life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: **Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people.**

Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

- ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- ² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- ⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
- ⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SONG *Open Our Eyes, Lord*

Open our eyes Lord We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord We want to see Jesus

GOSPEL READING John 2:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

SONG *All Who Are Thirsty*

All who are thirsty, All who are weak
Come to the fountain, Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy, As deep cries out to deep

(We sing) Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come (*repeat*)

All who are thirsty, All who are weak
Come to the fountain, Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy, As deep cries out to deep

(We sing) Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come (*repeat*)

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

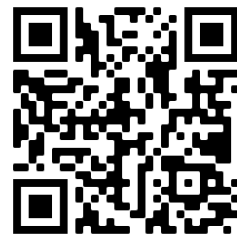
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

Our God is a God of miracles and abundance. Through Jesus Christ, we see evidence of God's miracles through Scripture: Changing water into wine, feeding five thousand, healing, and constantly showing God's blessing and mercy.

Through Jesus, God continues to be a God of miracles and abundance in our world today: taking the work of our hands, the words we speak, the money we give and using it to proclaim Grace, love, forgiveness, mercy, and salvation. May the offerings of our time, talent, and treasures be a reflection of God's miracles in our lives.



SONG Goodness of God

I love You Lord Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice You have led me through the fire
In darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord we give you today what is already yours. You provide so much for us, blessings pressed down, shaken together, running over. Thank you for giving us the ability to give, and cheerful hearts to do it. **Amen.**

COMMUNION LITANY

God of miracles, as your Son turned the water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, so now may his presence be at this meal we share.

Open us up to the surprising miracles we find in you!

As your Son was able to bring joy to the wedding party, so now may we find his joy present in this supper.

Open us up to the surprising miracles we find in you!

As your Son fed the hungry crowds, so now feed us through this meal that we may go out of this place strengthened and renewed.

Open us up to the surprising miracles we find in you!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray: **God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this miraculous meal. Give us the grace of your presence, that we may celebrate in hope, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Look around you. God's joy is poured out for you so that you might be a blessing to others. God will continually walk and work with you, relieving your burdens and giving you strength. Go into God's world, rejoicing! **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG *Your Grace is Enough*

Great is Your faithfulness O God
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart

(So) remember Your people Remember Your children
Remember Your promise O God
Your grace is enough. Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along

(So) remember Your people Remember Your children
Remember Your promise O God
Your grace is enough. Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Yeah Your grace is enough. Heaven reaches out to us
Your grace is enough for me
God I sing Your grace is enough. I'm covered in Your love
Your grace is enough for me for me

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Game Day Today! Come and cure those winter blues with a morning of Board Games, Hot Chocolate, and popcorn for all ages! Join us today from 10:30-12. All Are Invited!

Altar Flower Sign-Ups and New Altar Flower Price Increase: New altar flower sign up cards are available for 2025 in the narthex. Please note that the price of our altar flowers is increasing from 21 dollars to \$26.40. This is due to increased operating and product costs of our floral provider. The new price is effective now.

2024 Giving Statements are Available Now! You can pick them up in the Narthex.

Envelopes Offering Envelopes for 2025 are available now! Please pick them up in the Narthex.

Annual Meeting The Annual Meeting of St. James Lutheran Church will be held on January 26 at 10:45 AM in the Sanctuary. In case of bad weather, our make up date is February 2 at 10:45 AM. Please join us as we hear updates, vote on a budget, elect officers, and learn about ministry opportunities. All confirmed members are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. Following the meeting, we will gather for sub sandwiches for lunch in the gym. Annual reports will be available in late January.

CALENDAR

Monday, January 20th: Council 5:30 pm

Tuesday, Jan. 21: Do-Days 9 am

Wednesday, Jan 22: Men's Breakfast 7 am

5:30 Supper (taco bar)

6:30 Confirmation and K-6 Youth Group

7:00 Choir

Sunday, January 26: 8:30 am Service, 9 am Sunday School, 9:30 am adult bible study, 9:45 am service, Annual Meeting 10:45 am followed by lunch