

# Saint James Lutheran Church

March 30, 2025  
Fourth Sunday in Lent



*Parable of the Prodigal Son*

## **The Rev. John Locke**

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**Music Director: Mark Tollefsen**

<b>Worship Leaders</b>		
	<b>March 30</b>	<b>April 6</b>
Assisting Minister	Ruth Ann Crecelius	Ruth Ann Crecelius
Lectors	Valerie Brewer	Lindsey Smith
Communion Assistant	Sue Rink	Jane Boelke
Ushers	Sharon VanPelt, Joan Eissinger	Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
Greeter	Kathleen Heinrich	Fran DeSilva
Acolyte	Gianna Orellano	Aaron Thomas
Rover	Ed Samuelian	Dan Hewins
Worship Nursery	Tonie Neal	Erika Stockwell, Verena Min

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME

*We Stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**    *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*    ELW 807

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*We sit.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### FIRST READING Joshua 5:9-12

<sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. <sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Handbells** *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel*

**GOSPEL:** The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

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

<sup>11b</sup> “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout 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 to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands.’” <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then 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 slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound* ELW 779

## APOSTLES CREED

We join with the Great Communion of Saints in confessing our faith, using the words of the Apostle's 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, and 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 OF INTERCESSION *(Names are listed in the back of the bulletin)*

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

**God, in your mercy,  
receive our prayer.**

*We sit.*

## PEACE

The peace of God be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share this peace as a sign of our baptismal unity as children of God. The "exchange of peace" (also commonly called "sharing the peace" or "passing the peace") is an act of reconciliation that serves as a transition point between the Word and Meal portions of the liturgy.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*



Your support of the ministries of St. James, as well as the wider church, is appreciated. You may donate with cash or check (you may use an envelope from the back of the pew). You may also scan the QR code above with your cell phone, and donate digitally. Thank you for your generosity.



**ANTHEM**      **Choir**      *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*      by Austin Lovelace  
*We stand.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

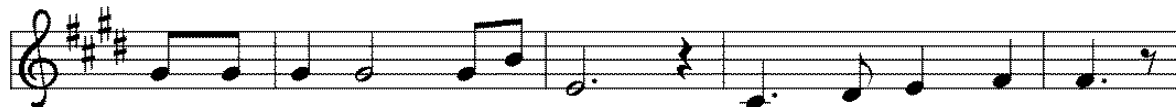
#### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**      (ELW setting 8)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,      God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry,      full of your glo-ry. Ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
 of every time and every place,  
 and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
 until he comes as victorious Lord of all.  
 Through him, with him, in him,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
 now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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 HOLY COMMUNION

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

*The assembly may be seated.*

## COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

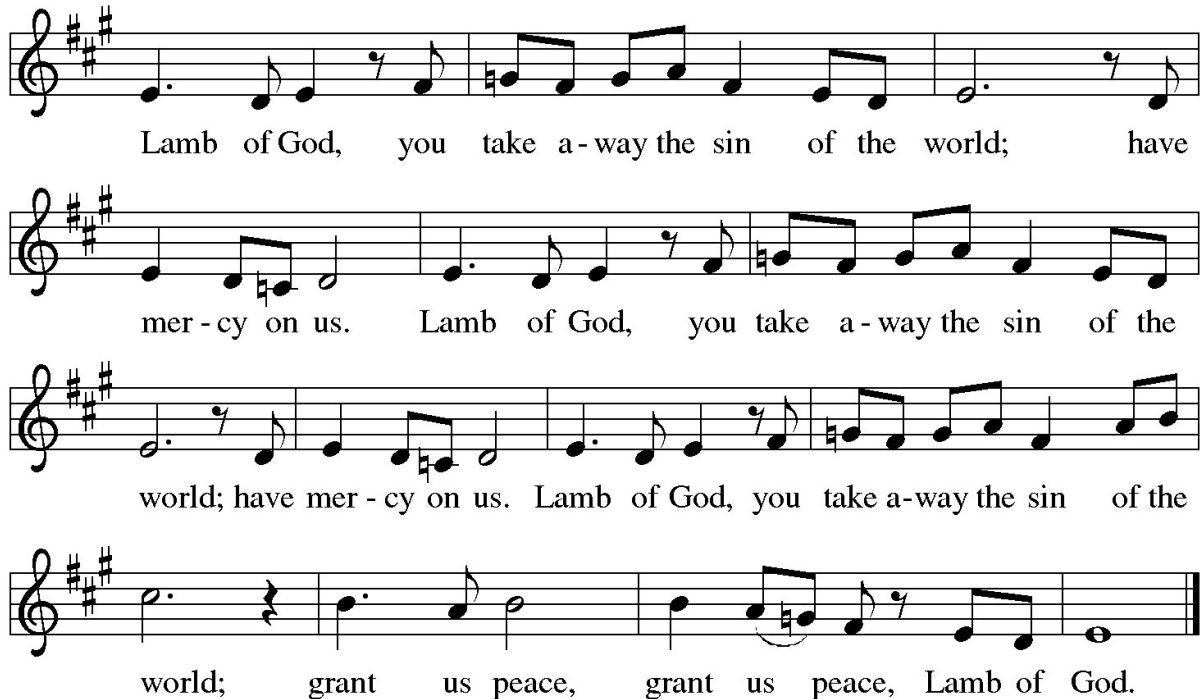
*All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available for those who prefer. We will distribute bread and wine by individual cup. Children and others not communing may fold arms across their chest, and they will receive a blessing from the communion minister.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

## COMMUNION SONGS

*Lamb of God (Setting 8)*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

*Oh, Love, How Deep*

ELW 322

*Our Father, We Have Wandered*

ELW 606



**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *We remain seated.*

Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. for  
**Amen.**

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

*We stand.*

**BLESSING**

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* ELW 763

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**



**Congregational Prayer Concerns**

The list in the weekly bulletin is intended to be for persons in immediate crisis. Generally, those names will be moved to the newsletter after 3 weeks. The newsletter has our long-term prayer list which is updated as you tell us.

**Members** · Joe Lehner · Beth Sessoms · Stella San Miguel · Gary Eissinger · Linda Schlenker  
· Bill Vittoe · Joan Eissinger · Jordan Slaymaker · Larry Schiebe

**Friends & Family**

· Claudia Joyner · Simone Ryan · Kathleen Daughy · William Franklin · Diane Stultz  
· Nancy Ferris · Abbey Boring · William “Fuzz” Killinger · Stefan Sanchez · Jim & Connie Kalina  
· Mikael Knight · Anissa Carver · Robert “Bob” Ousnamer · Emma Clark

**People at Home or in Care facilities** (restricted mobility)

· Charlotte Davis · Claudia Doyle · Brenda Killett · Carolyn Uchtorff

**Our military members** (\*deployed)

· Earl Stockham · Jessie Hewins · Rob Whitt · David Oliver · Tristan Bonde · Dan Gibson  
· Jacob Rea · Zach Turner · Joshua Trogdon · Bella Fish · Hochang Min\*

## Ministry at St. James ... March 30 – April 6, 2025

- Sun. Mar 30
- 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Sunday School)
- Women's Bible Study, Rm 127 (Praying the Hebrew Names of God)
  - Men's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall... Sunday's Scripture Lessons
  - Confirmation & High School, (Rm 123 next to chapel)
  - Children... Lower Level classroom
- 10:00 am Worship
- 3:00 pm Crop Hunger Walk (First Baptist Church, 201 Anderson Street)  
Registration: 2pm



The *CROP Hunger Walk* is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world.

- Mon. Mar 31
- 9:00 am Quilting Ministry (Annex)
- 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Den Meeting
- Tue. April 1
- 12:00 pm Prime Timers Luncheon
- 7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting
- Wed. April 2
- 5:45 pm Mid-week Lenten meal
- 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Leaders meeting
- 6:30 pm Lenten Vespers
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Thu. April 3
- 5:30 pm Theology on Tap (Men's Fellowship on the back lawn)
- Sun. April 6
- 9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Sunday School)
- Women's Bible Study, Rm 127 (Praying the Hebrew Names of God)
  - Men's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall... Sunday's Scripture Lessons
  - Confirmation & High School, (Rm 123 next to chapel)
  - Children... Lower Level classroom
- 10:00 am Worship

# What's Coming up

NO 12:30 worship service

April 2 & 9 (*Mid-Week Wednesday Meal (5:45-6:20) & Vespers (6:30-7:15)*)

Wk 4 – Apr. 2    **In community with Those on The Margins**    Mark 5:1-20,  
*Jesus crosses barriers to attend to those on the margins*

Wk 5 – Apr. 9    **In Community with Christ**    Mark 10:32-45,  
*Jesus reminds us that we are walking the way of the cross*



## Join us to help keep Fayetteville clean!

**Saturday, April 12th: 9 am - noon**

We will meet at the Church at 9 am for supplies and directions/assignments. Use the [sign up sheet in the Gathering Space](#) or contact Todd Burns (910) 308-5431 to sign up or ask for more information.

We will be at Honeycutt Park, General Lee Park (2 1/2 blocks north of St. James), Claremont Ave, and Dobbin Ave along with the side streets.



## Troop 747's annual BBQ & Fried Chicken dinner plate sale going on now!

**Tuesday, April 15, 2025 5:00-7:00pm at the church!**



See Ian Gibson, Tanner Burt or Dave Runkle for tickets, or scan the QR code and place your order online. Thanks in advance for your support!

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 747**  
**BBQ PORK DINNER**



**\$13.00**

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025**  
**EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT**  
**5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM**  
\$1 per ticket to Hurricane Helene Relief  
\*\*\*\* LOCATION \*\*\*\*  
1424 MORGANTON ROAD in HAYMOUNT

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 747**  
**FRIED CHICKEN DINNER**



**\$13.00**

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025**  
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**April 26<sup>th</sup>: 3-6 pm – Springtime Recital with Christopher Min and Friends**  
More information forthcoming



**Maundy Thursday: 4/17- 7pm**

*(Love one another is Jesus' mandate. He demonstrates by washing feet, offering a meal, breaking bread, and pouring wine.)*

**Good Friday: 4/18 - 7pm**

*(Jesus sacrifices himself on the cruelest of tortures - a wooden Roman cross. It is central to our worship of prayer and song.)*

**Easter Vigil: 4/19 - 7pm**

*(We join with Episcopal sisters & brothers at Holy Trinity, 1601 Raeford Rd.*

*We celebrate the ancient tradition of the church as we repeat God's stories of mercy, hope, and salvation. The sounds of "He Is Risen" we'll be on our lips and in our hearts.)*



**April 20th**

**Sunrise** at 7am

**Breakfast** 8-9 am

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt** 9 am

**Festival Worship** at 10am

*(We will gather outdoors as the weather permits. Bring your own chairs and blankets if needed. We will celebrate The Son Rising as the sun rises upon us. We celebrate in fellowship, food, and fun with a delicious breakfast followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. A festival of worship, featuring special music, and instruments, in our wonderfully decorated sanctuary.)*