

Saint James Lutheran Church

April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter



Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands."

The Rev. John Locke

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Music Director: Mark Tollefsen

Worship Leaders		
	April 27	May 4
Assisting Minister	Jacky Hummel	Ruth Ann Crecelius
Lectors	Matthew Shealey	Nancy Oliver
Communion Assistant	Jane Boelke	Tonie Neal
Ushers	Roscoe Killett, Joan Eissinger	tba
Greeter	Sharon VanPelt	Kathy Brown
Acolyte	Victoria Orellano	Angelus VanDervoort
Rover	Verena & Christopher Min	Dave Runkle
Worship Nursery	Heather VanDerVoort, Kathleen Heinrich	Erika Stockwell, Verena Min

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* ELW 384

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of ✠ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
Amen.

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.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We sit.

GODSPEED

for Mary Beth and Allan Winter

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING Acts 5:27-32

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

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

PSALM - Psalm 118:14-29

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!

¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.**

¹⁸ The Lord indeed punished me sorely,

but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

²⁰ “This is the gate of the Lord;
here the righteous may enter.”

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the Lord has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ **Hosanna! O Lord, save us!
We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!**

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷ **The Lord is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

²⁸ You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ **Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.**

⁵ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (from Now The Feast and Celebration liturgy, by Marty Haugen)

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

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

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

We sit.

SERMON

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Love That Soothes and Heals* ACS 939



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

Refrain



"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as



ones I died to save."

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Names are listed in the back of the bulletin)*

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Wonderful Grace of Jesus by Haldor Lillenas

We stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.
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

Come to the table of grace.

Receive the gift of new life.

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.

Dona Nobis Pacem

ELW 753

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ELW 502

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *We remain seated.*

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.
Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

SENDING

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

We stand.

BLESSING

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 · Larry Schiebe · Mary Wright

Friends & Family

· Claudia Joyner · Simone Ryan · Kathleen Daughy · Diane Stultz · Mikael Knight
· Robert "Bob" Ousnamer · Emma Clark · Robert Barnes · Jill Whitwell

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 Trogon · Bella Fish · Hochang Min* · Alex Habermehl



We will be taking photos for our Pictorial Directory after worship today in the chapel!

You can also email us your favorite individual picture (portrait size) to saintjameslutheran@gmail.com or bring a print for us to scan.

**We reluctantly offer Godspeed to Allan and MaryBeth Winter this morning.**

They are in the process of moving to their new retirement home in Fuquay-Varina, NC. They have been mainstays at St. James for many years. Allan has been involved as an assisting minister, congregation council member (and president, and vice-president), choir member, organizer of special musicians, men's group, and many other areas. MaryBeth offered her skills and talents in music ministry and Christian Education. She has been choir director at Westminster Presbyterian in Fayetteville for a number of years. Although we will feel their absence among us, we celebrate their retirement with them, and pray for them in the next phase of their life and faith journey.