



## St. James Lutheran Church

*God calls us to follow Christ, make disciples,  
and live the Gospel.*

14th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 3, 2023

### Welcome to St. James!

If you are visiting, please sign our online guestbook using the QR code for our virtual kiosk. Click on *I Am A Visitor*.

Regular text – Pastor or leader **Bold text – Congregation**  
**Please place your offering in the plate near the ushers**

**Prelude** (*lyrics*)                      *Here I Am to Worship*                      **Tim Hughes**

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

**So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down. Here I am to say that  
You're my God. You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether  
wonderful to me.**

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above. Humbly You  
came to the earth You created, all for love's sake became poor. **Chorus** And I'll  
never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. **Repeat. Chorus.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit  
who makes our joy complete.

**Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.**  
**We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.**  
**We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.**  
**For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.**  
**For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.**  
**For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**  
**Lead us back to you  
and set us on the right path;**

**in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Song      *Open Our Eyes*      Bob Cull**

O-pen our eyes, Lord; We want to see Je - sus, to reach out and  
touch Him And say that we love Him. O-pen our ears,  
Lord, And help us to lis - ten. O-pen our eyes, Lord;  
We want to see Je - sus. sus. O-pen our eyes,

**GREETING (ELW p. 120)**

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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering  
for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of  
obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,

nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8** (*spoken*)

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

### **SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with

those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

## GOSPEL RESPONSE: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Be seated)*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Charles Plummer**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

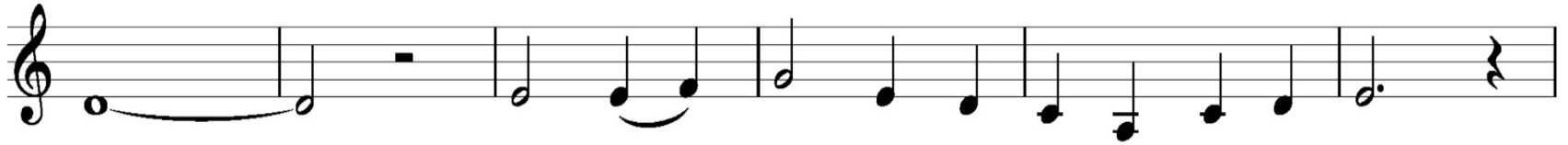
## Song of the Day

## Seek Ye First

Karen Lafferty



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and His right - eous -  
2. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, seek and you shall  
3. We do not live by bread a - lone but by ev - 'ry



ness, and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you-  
find, knock and the door shall be o - pened un - to you-  
word that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God-



Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - - - ia!

## 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, 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

*\*\*Each week throughout the year we will pray for several St. James households by name. After each portion of the prayers:*

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*The congregation is welcome to pray for persons by their first names when invited to do so. You are encouraged to pray some of the names of those who are listed on the prayer list.*

*The prayers conclude:*

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE** *(please share signs of peace with others)*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** *(lyrics)*

*Clean*

**Carlson/Carlson/Jarvi/Jarvi**

When He washes us clean like rain washing down the window, like a passing storm, clearing the air that we breathe. When He washes us clean, it all seems to come up greener. We're eager to grow, to reach out for the Son. When He fills us up like a breeze drifting in the window, like fresh morning air, like wind blowing through our hair. When He fills us up with the freshness of being believers, we're eager to grow, to reach out for the Son. **Reach for the Son, reach out and praise Him, assured it would please Him. Christ is the One, God's Son who meets us here. Reach for the Son, reach out and praise Him, assured it would please Him. Reach for the Son.** With His cleansing fire He purifies and makes what is precious. The old passes away. Behold the new has come. From His cleansing fire new life emerges from ashes. We're eager to grow, to reach out for the Son. **Chorus Repeat** Reach for the Son. Reach for the Son. Jesus the Son.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty,  
All things belong to you.  
We bring your gifts to the table,  
That all might be fed.  
Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in  
the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal-lo-wed be Thy name. Thy  
king-dom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give  
us this day our dai - ly bread, and for-give us our tres - pass - es as  
we for-give those who tres-pass a - gainst us; and  
lead us not in-to temp - ta - tion, but de-li - ver us from all e - vil.  
For thine is the king - dom and the po-wer and the glo - ry for e -  
ver. A-men, we pray for-e-ver and e - ver. To all the world we pray, A - men.  
A - men, we pray for - e - ver, we pray, A - men, A - men.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

*(Be seated)*

## COMMUNION - INTINCTION

*Our Lord Jesus welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink. Those who are not able to consume wine are able to commune fully by receiving only the wafer. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children may come and receive a blessing. Come forward in two lines up the main aisle. Communion will be by intinction. The wafer will be placed in your hand, then you may dip the wafer into the wine. Return to your seat by the side aisles.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

by Damascus Road

## COMMUNION (ELW p. 134)


The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

## LAMB OF GOD





Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world. Have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world. Have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world. Grant us peace. Grant us peace.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

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

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God,  
 for we have feasted on your Word,  
 Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
 Strengthened by this food,  
 send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
 where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
 In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

### BLESSING

The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song**                      *This Is the Day*                      **Bob Fitts**



This is the day that the Lord has made. I will re-joice  
 and cel-e-brate. This is the day that the Lord has made.  
 I will re-joice. I will re-joice and cel-e-brate. *Fine*

**ALL:** He goes be-fore me. He walks be-side me.  
*Leader:* He goes be-fore me. He walks be-side me.  
**ALL:** me. He lives with-in me. He's the lov-er of my soul.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

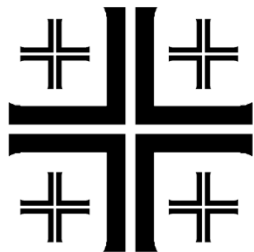
**Postlude**

***I Will Celebrate***

**Rita Baloché**

**Pastor Charles Plummer, Lutheran Home  
Music Director Rae-Myra Hilliard  
Wendy Unrath, Organist**

**Musicians today: Damascus Road**



**St. James Lutheran Church  
Lake Forest, Illinois**

**Prayer List** We remember in our prayers:

**We remember in our prayers:**

Sandy Abby	Dave Marsden (friend of Alane Wanda)
Carol Amrhein (friend of the Wandas)	Kristin Marsden (friend of Alane Wanda)
Eleanor Arneson (aunt of Nancy Clemens)	Roy Meyer (friend of the Bohacs)
Nancy Bensinger (friend of Marge Triplett)	Sue Milligan (friend of Melissa & Detlef Koska)
Linda Berner	Joy Mishkin (friend of Alane Wanda)
Warren Bjork (great uncle of Tom Bohac)	Molly Morris (friend of the Davoux family)
Anna Braun (friend of Richard & Brigitte Kaeske)	Anita and Roger Norem (friends of the Triplett family)
Emily Collins (friend of the Wanda family)	Ryan Olliges (relative of Gina Husemoller)
Phyllis Dettmann (aunt of Nancy Clemens)	Carolyn Omietec (friend of the MacAyeal family)
Margie Elkins (friend of MaryBeth Buschmann)	Peter O'Rourke (friend of Sue Thomas & Bob Hughes)
Kerstin (friend of Sue Thomas & Bob Hughes)	Deb Russell (aunt of Emily Bohac)
Kristi Gerken (niece of MaryBeth Buschmann)	Jean Schmidt (grandmother of Kelly Duncombe)
Kathryn Gilbertson	Jennifer Schlueter (cousin of Nancy Clemens)
Alexis Gladstone (friend of Sue Thomas & Bob Hughes)	Susan Shipman (sister-in-law Alane Wanda)
Jeremy Gugel (nephew of Liz Behring)	Mary Ann Sopko (aunt of Mark Wanda)
John Gugel (brother-in-law of Liz Behring)	Debbie Stonich (friend of MaryBeth Buschmann)
Jenerfer Harrison-Okarski (cousin of Donna Jarvi)	Zelmira Tomaska (mother of Paula Doyle)
Daniel Heiman	David Van Singel
Mike Jarvi	Paula Van Singel
Sandy Jaeger (sister of Chary Voss)	Chary and Sieg Voss
Peter Jorgensen (son of Madeleine Jorgensen)	Nancy Wanda (mother of Mark Wanda)
Barbara Kollacks (relative of Linda & Wolf Kollacks)	John Robert Webster (son of John Webster)
Craig Larsen (friend of the Moore family)	John Webster
Michael Lorenson (father of Choosri Goebel)	Matt Wetherbee (brother of Tiffany Alexander)
The MacAyeal Family	



VIRTUAL  
KIOSK