



St. James Lutheran Church

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



Welcome
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, January 28, 2024

Regular text – Pastor or Leader **Bold text – Congregation**
ELW - - - Hymn in Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal
ELW pg. - - Liturgy in the front of the red book
Use the ribbons in the red book to mark hymns and liturgy pages.
ACS # - - - Hymn in Blue All Creation Sings Hymnal

INTRODUCTION

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God’s works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus’ actions and words. We encounter that authority in God’s word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

PRELUDE *Pastorale* by Charles Wesley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(please stand as you are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.


God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of ✠ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God’s beloved.
Amen.

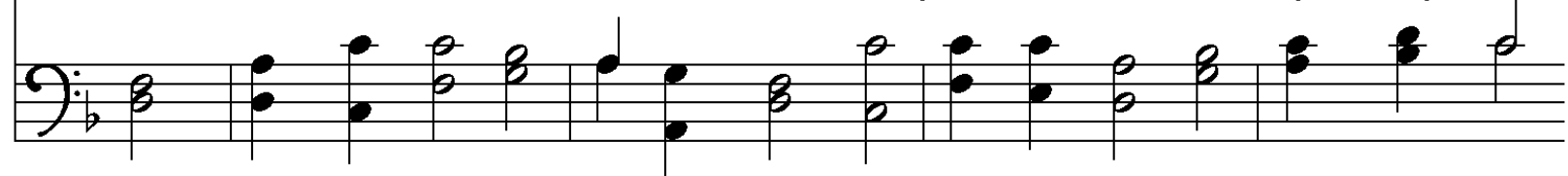
GATHERING SONG


O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

(ELW 610)




1 O Christ, the heal-er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
2 From ev - 'ry ail-ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;
3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find





How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
yet in our hearts we would con-fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.
our com - mon life de-clar-es our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
the whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man-kind.



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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APOSTOLIC 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.

KYRIE (ELW p. 98)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,

For the wellbeing of the church of God,

And for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,

And for all who offer their worship and praise,

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(be seated)

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today’s reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 111 (*sung responsively*)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion.**

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

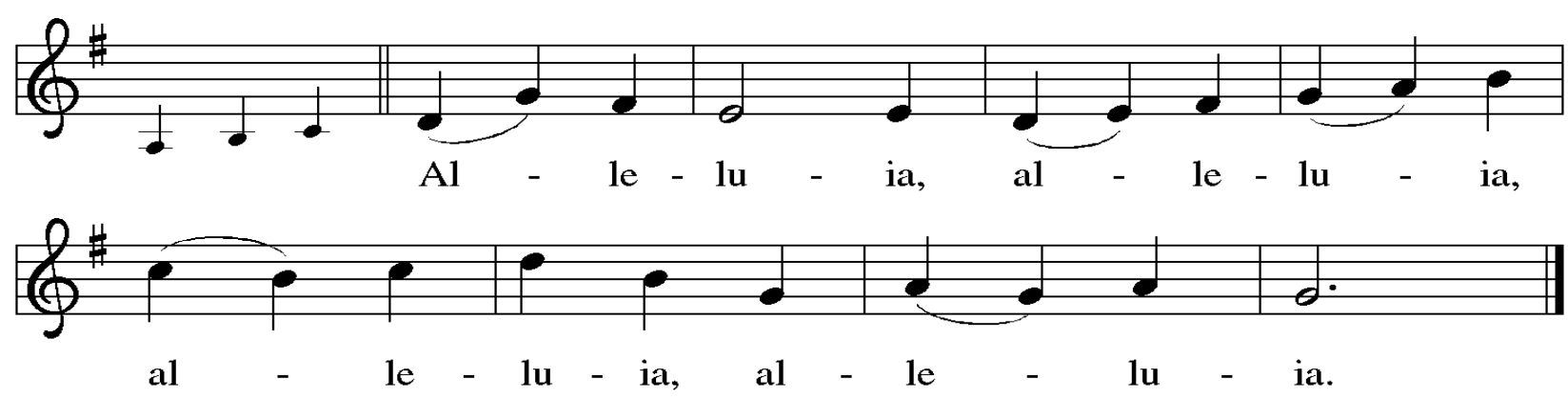
⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

(be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Amy Gillespie

(please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rise, Shine, You People!

(ELW 665)

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

*Prayers **Each week throughout the year we will pray for several St. James households by name.
After each portion of the prayers:
A God of grace, C 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:
Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

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

(please share signs of peace with one another)

(be seated)

OFFERTORY *There Is a Balm in Gilead* arr. by Jason W. Krug

(please stand as you are able)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
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,
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.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: . . .
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

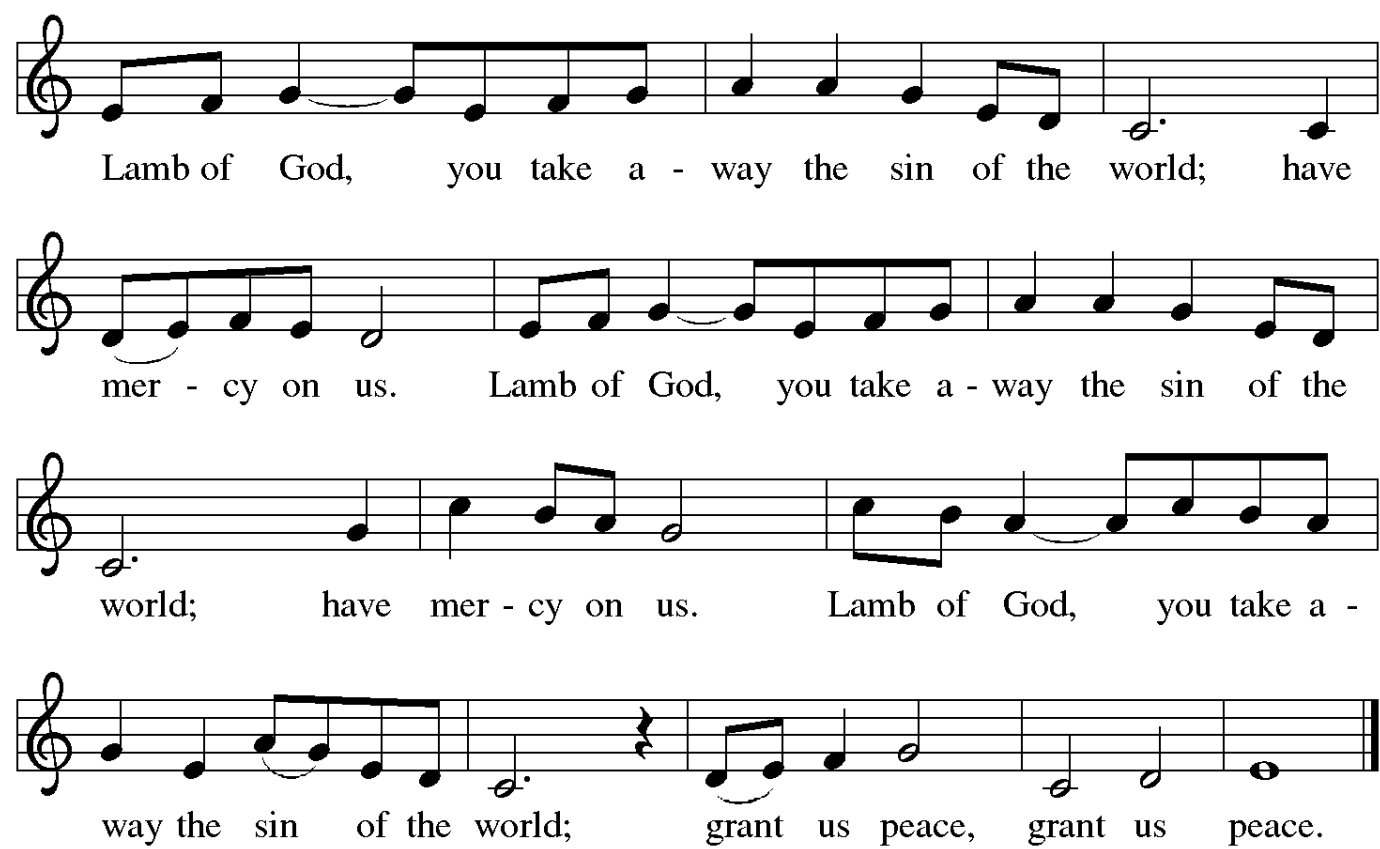
At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

(be seated)

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

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 and/or communion. We commune on all four sides of the altar. Come forward in two lines up the main aisle, take a glass from the usher and kneel around the altar. The wafer will be placed in your hand, then the server will fill your glass. Return to your seat by the side aisles.

COMMUNION SONG



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.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 112)

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, given for you.
Amen.

(please stand as you are able)

WORDS AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giver of every gift,
Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good (ELW 871)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Andante by GF Handel



READINGS to prepare for Sunday, February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

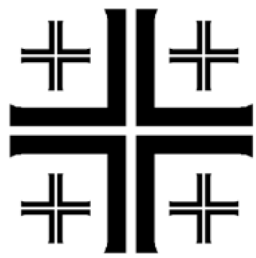
First Reading	Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalms	Psalms 147:1-11, 20c
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Gospel	Mark 1:29-39

Prayer List
We remember in our prayers:

Sandy Abby	Sue Milligan (friend – Melissa/Detlef Koska)
Eleanor Arneson (aunt - Nancy Clemens)	Molly Morris (friend - the Davoux family)
Nancy Bensinger (friend - Marge Triplett)	The Mario Natta, Sr. Family (father – Mario Natta, Jr. & Lisa Kollmorgen)
Warren Bjork (great uncle - Tom Bohac)	Liz Neary (friend - Mark & Alane Wanda)
Anna Braun (friend - Richard/Brigitte Kaeske)	Anita & Roger Norem (friends - the Triplett family)
Emily Collins (friend - the Wanda family)	Ryan Olliges (relative - Gina Husemoller)
Phyllis Dettmann (aunt - Nancy Clemens)	Carolyn Omietec (friend - the MacAyeal family)
The Family of Pat Ebert (Mother – Tom Ebert)	Peter O’Rourke (friend - Sue Thomas/Bob Hughes)
Margie Elkins (friend - MaryBeth Buschmann)	Deb Russell (aunt - Emily Bohac)
Family of Sondra Feldman (friend - Sue Thomas)	Jean Schmidt (grandmother - Kelly Duncombe)
Kristi Gerken (niece - MaryBeth Buschmann)	Jennifer Schlueter (cousin - Nancy Clemens)
Kathryn Gilbertson	Susan Shipman (sister-in-law - Alane Wanda)
Alexis Gladstone (friend - Sue Thomas/Bob Hughes)	Mary Ann Sopko (aunt - Mark Wanda)
Jeremy Gugel (nephew - Liz Behring)	Margie Steinmetz (friend – Paula & David VanSingel)
John Gugel (brother-in-law - Liz Behring)	Debbie Stonich (friend - MaryBeth Buschmann)
Daniel Heiman	The Family of E. Arthur Stunard
Mike Jarvi	Patsy Taskila (sister-in-law of Donna & Mike Jarvi)
Sandy Jaeger (sister - Chary Voss)	Zelmira Tomaska (mother - Paula Doyle)
Peter Jorgensen (son - Madeleine Jorgensen)	Chary & Sieg Voss
Barbara Kollacks (relative – Linda Kollacks)	Nancy Wanda (mother - Mark Wanda)
Craig Larsen (friend - the Moore family)	Joan & John Webster
Michael Lorensen (father – Choosri Goebel)	Matt Wetherbee (brother - Tiffany Alexander)
The Family of Mable Machalinski (mother – Sue Bergsrud)	
Rohit Marwah (friend - Carole & John Tanner)	
Roy Meyer (friend - the Bohacs)	

Announcements

1st Thursdays	Sewing Group meets in Fellowship Hall, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Please bring a lunch. Quilts made for Lutheran World Relief. Teddy Bears made for local organizations. Join us as a Seamstress, Cutter, Coordinator for quilt blocks and someone to ‘stuff’ the teddy bears.
Saturdays	Weekly music rehearsals for Voices of St. James & Handbells of St. James starting at 9:00 am
Tuesdays	Confirmation Class 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm February 6, 2023 & February 20, 2024
Fridays	Adult Bible Study 10:30 am – 12:00 noon in the Common Room



St. James Lutheran Church
Lake Forest, Illinois

Worship Leaders for Sunday, January 28, 2023

Pastor	Rev. Amy Gillespie
Assisting Minister	Mark Wanda
Reader	Tom Meyer
Organist	Wendy Unrath
Communion Assistants	Linda Berner & Kathy Lowell
Usher	Sue & Don Bergsrud
Greeters	Debbie & Randy Daniel
Adult Nursery Attendant	Marilyn Koepke
Altar Guild	Debbie Daniel
Coffee Host	Ron Koepke
Counter	Joe Voelcker & Mark Wanda
Open/Close Council Member	Ron Koepke

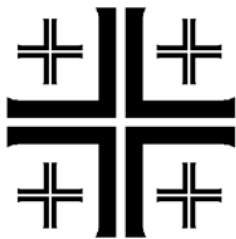
Musicians	Handbells of St. James
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Executive Church Council

President	Ron Koepke
Vice President	Shelly Holmstrom
Treasurer	Mark Wanda
Secretary	Laurie Whisler

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Amy Gillespie
Office Coordinator	Joan Krikau
Facilities Manager	Pete Clemens
Director of Music	Rae-Myra Hilliard
Brass Ensemble Director	Ryan Ringnalda
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Doug Dusthimer
Organist	Wendy Unrath
Children's Choir Director	Wendy Wiegers
Damascus Road Directors	Melinda Voelcker & Greg MacAyeal



St. James Lutheran Church
Lake Forest, Illinois

WORSHIP CALENDAR
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024

<p>Sunday, January 28, 2024 Worship 10:00 am</p> <p>ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING After Worship 11:15 am</p>	<p>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Education 9:25 Children’s Choir</p>
<p>Sunday, February 4, 2024 Worship 10:00 am</p>	<p>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Education 9:25 Children’s Choir</p>
<p>Sunday, February 11, 2024 Worship 10:00 am</p>	<p>Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Education 9:25 Children’s Choir</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 14, 2024 Worship 7:00 pm</p>	<p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p>
<p>Sunday, February 18, 2024 Worhip 10:00 am</p>	<p>First Sunday in Lent 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Education 9:25 Children’s Choir</p>
<p>Sunday, February 25, 2024 Worhip 10:00 am</p>	<p>Second Sunday in Lent 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Education 9:25 Children’s Choir</p>

