



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 2015

Welcome to St. James/Santiago Apóstol Lutheran Church

We're glad you're here! Our mission is to help you grow in your relationship with God and with all of God's people. Our worship services are designed to gather us as God's people, to hear God's Word, receive Jesus in bread and wine, and join us with God's people of all times and places. We pray that you will be blessed and encouraged by worshiping here. No matter who you are, God knows you and God loves you. If you are a visitor or guest, we warmly invite you to join our faith community. If you want to know more, please speak to our pastors or a member of our Steering Committee. Below is some information you may find helpful during and after worship.

Children and their families are vital to our life and ministry at St. James/Santiago Apóstol. Children are always welcome in worship. In the cry of a baby, or the fussiness of a toddler, we hear a new voice that speaks to God, reminding us that children are a blessing and a joy. If children ever need a break from worship, we have a nursery in the front hallway by the front doors.

Holy Communion. All God's children are welcome at the table of the Lord. God loves you, and welcomes you to the Lord's Supper, whether you are a new Christian, a returning one, or someone who is exploring who and what God might mean in your life. Please don't hesitate to come forward and share in the meal with us: there is room for everyone, especially for YOU.

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. We serve it two ways, either by intinction or by individual cups. For Communion by intinction, you will receive a piece of bread or wafer, and dip the bread or wafer in a common cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Instead of dipping the bread, you also have the option to eat, and then drink from a common cup.

For individual cup Communion, you will receive a piece of bread to eat, and then choose a cup to drink containing wine (red) or grape juice (white). We offer the common cup as well. We also have gluten-free wafers for those with dietary restrictions. Children who do not yet commune and anyone who does not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you desire a blessing, please ask the pastor for one, or simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would like a blessing instead of bread and wine. Please feel free to use the altar rail for prayer after receiving the blessing or Holy Communion.

Offerings. We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes ministry possible. The offering at this service will support St. James/Santiago Apóstol Lutheran Church and its outreach ministries in this neighborhood of Oak Forest/Garden Oaks/North Houston. A portion also goes to our national church body for mission and ministry around the world.

Restrooms are located in the front hallway by the front doors.

Learning Hour/Fellowship Time. During the time between our worship services, you are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, juice, hospitality and fellowship. We also offer Learning Groups for adults and children, so please ask anyone how to join a class or small group at any time.

If you ever need a Pastor, both Pastor Arthur (713.725.6760) and Vicar Aura (608.469.0692) prefer that you call them directly on their cell phones. If you know of someone who is scheduled for surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know. If there is an emergency, if you would like a pastoral visit at home, or if you simply have questions about life, faith, or getting more involved, calling us directly on our cell phones is always the best way to reach us.

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 2015
10:00 A.M.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) – Setting Three
P = Presiding Minister, A = Assisting Minister, C = Congregation

GATHERING

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

The assembly stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come before God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

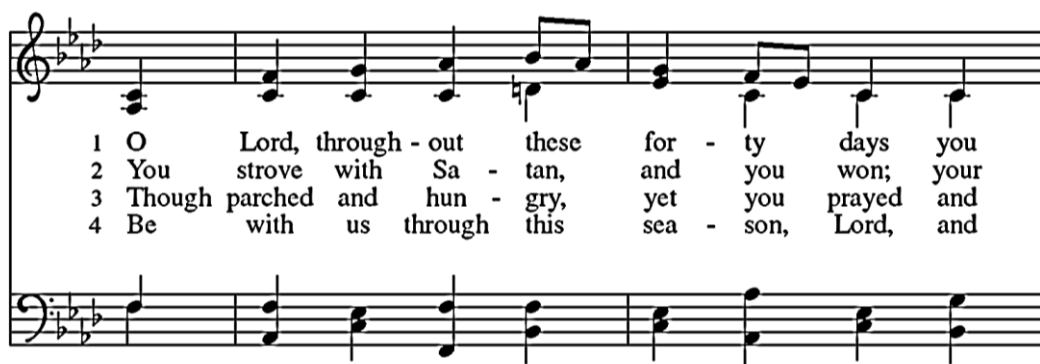
C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

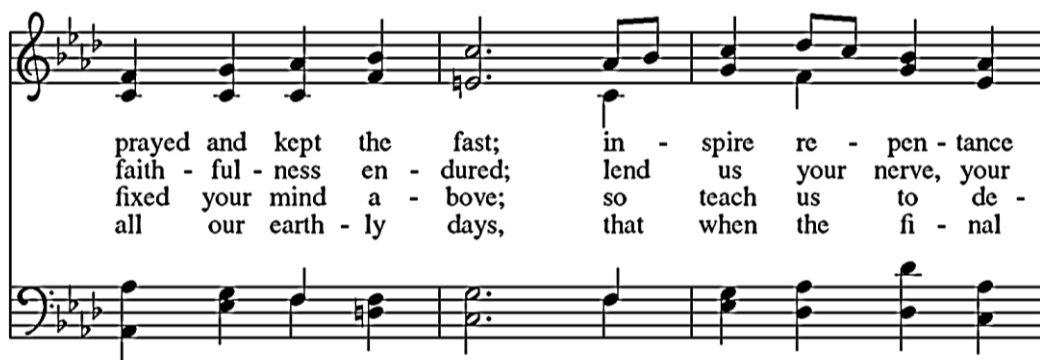
C: Amen.

C:

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

C:

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8–17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."



A: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

C:



Your paths, O LORD, are stead-fast love and faith - ful - ness.

To¹ you, O LORD,
I lift¹ up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be¹ put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph¹ over me.**

Let none who look to you be¹ put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame¹ who are treacherous.

**Show me your¹ ways, O LORD,
and teach¹ me your paths. R**

Lead me in your¹ truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all¹ the day long.

**Remember, O LORD, your compas-¹ sion and love,
for they are from¹ everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and¹ my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good-¹ ness, O LORD.

**You are gracious and up-¹ right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners¹ in your way. R**

You lead the low-¹ ly in justice
and teach the low-¹ ly your way.

**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast¹ love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your¹ testimonies. R**



SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18–22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

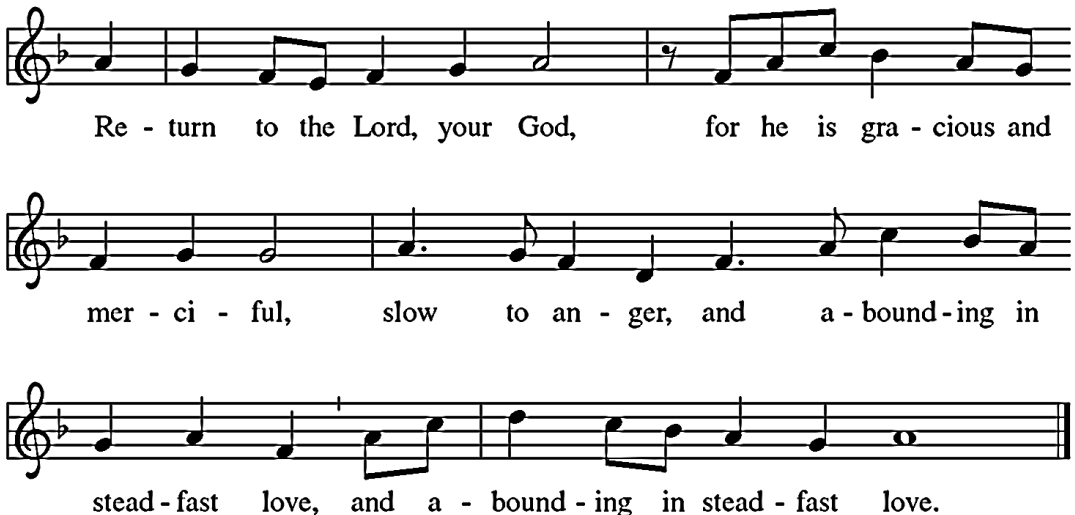
Please stand.

The congregation sings the Gospel Acclamation during the Gospel Procession.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

ELW P.142

C:



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Gospel is announced.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9–15

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

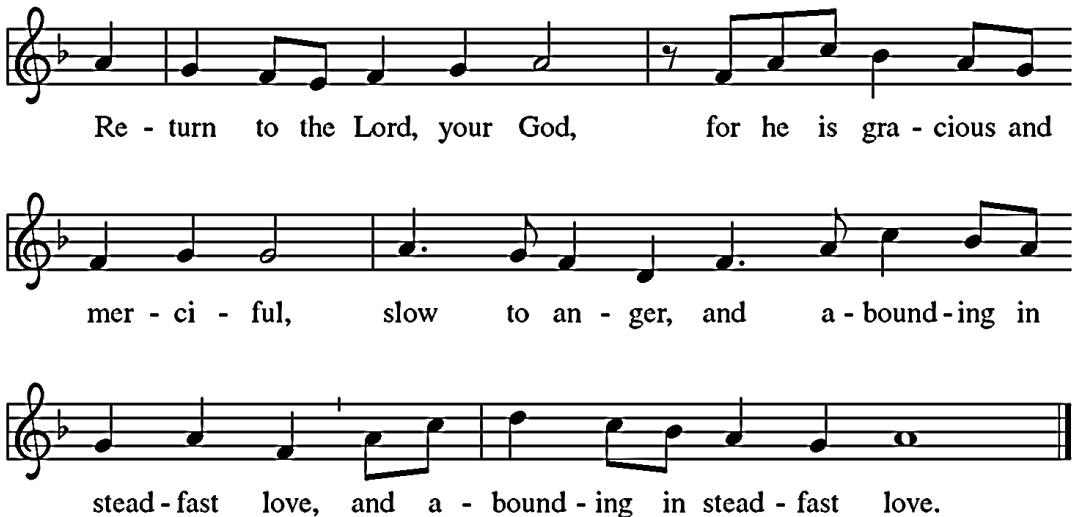
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

ELW P.142

C:



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

SERMON: *Pastor Arthur Murphy*

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW#325

C:

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
me; in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

APOSTLES CREED:

P: Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we have been baptized:

C:

**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

A: Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: Holy God, in baptism you wash us clean from sin and refresh us with your promise of belonging. Unite your church in proclaiming that in your family all are welcome, all are beloved, all are made whole. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer..

A: The earth thirsts for your life-giving water. We pray for desert places where there is no rain and for restoration of polluted rivers and oceans. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Flood our world with a desire for peace. Where people are oppressed, bring justice. Where there is terror, bring safety. Stir up compassion among leaders and citizens so that every person is treated with dignity, kindness, and love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your heart aches with those who are in pain. Tend to those who are hungry, lonely, lost, and those in any need. Hear their cries and spur us to respond as your hands and heart in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Bless ministers, musicians, teachers, visionaries, council members, committees, and all those who strive to lead this congregation faithfully into the future. Ground their work in scripture and prayer and fuel it with your great imagination. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Remember your covenant with us, and keep us faithful to you until we join with all the saints and angels around your heavenly throne. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The ministers and the congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying
“Peace be with you.” After the peace is shared, the congregation sits.*

OFFERTORY:

ELW#186

C:

Create in Me a Clean Heart
Offering Song

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Please stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.
Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

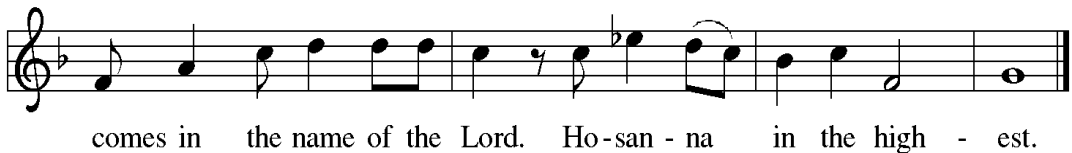
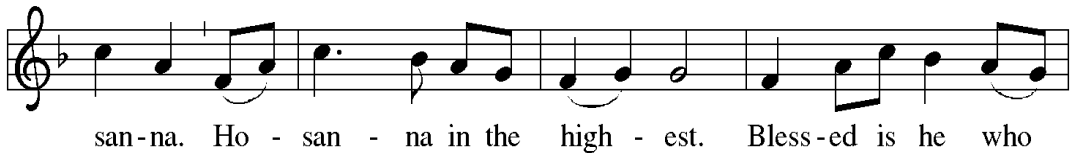
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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:

THE SANCTUS

C:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION SONG:

Now We Remain

ELW#500

C:

Refrain



We hold the death of the Lord deep in our hearts.



Liv-ing, now we re-main with Je-sus the Christ.



1 Once we were peo-ple a - fraid, lost in the night. Then by your



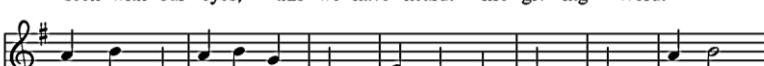
cross we were saved; dead be-came liv-ing, life from your giv-ing.



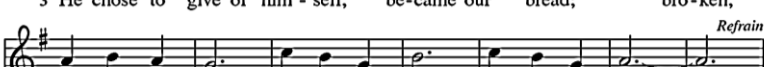
2 Some-thing that we have known, some-thing we've touched, what we have



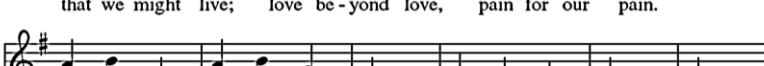
seen with our eyes, this we have heard: life-giv-ing Word.



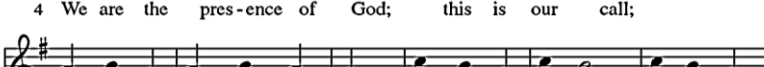
3 He chose to give of him - self, be-came our bread; bro-ken,



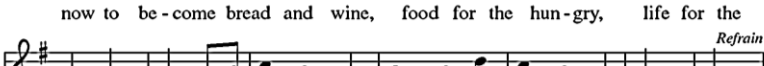
that we might live; love be-yond love, pain for our pain.



4 We are the pres-ence of God; this is our call;



now to be - come bread and wine, food for the hun - gry, life for the



wea-ry; for to live with the Lord, we must die with the Lord.

Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers for communion.

All God's children are welcome at the table of the Lord. We serve communion two ways, either by intinction or by individual cups. For Communion by intinction, you will receive a piece of bread or wafer, and dip the bread or wafer in a common cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Instead of dipping the bread, you also have the option to eat, and then drink from a common cup. For individual cup Communion, you will receive a piece of bread to eat, and then choose a cup to drink containing wine (red) or grape juice (white). We offer the common cup as well. We also have gluten-free wafers for those with dietary restrictions. Children who do not yet commune and anyone who does not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Please stand.

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION:

ELW #207

C:

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

C: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

SENDING

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

C:

392

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Words and Music by
PAUL BALOCHE
CCLI SONG # Z298355

O - pen the eyes of my heart, Lord; o - pen the eyes of my heart.

I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see You high and lift - ed up, shin - ing in the light of Your glo -

ry. Pour out Your pow'r and love as we sing ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -

ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. I want to see You.

I want to see You.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE
WELCOME, EVERYONE!

We welcome all our guests today. Please speak to the pastor if you have special concerns or wish to discuss becoming a member of this community by baptism, affirmation of baptism, or transfer of membership from another Christian congregation.

KEEP OUR FRIENDS & RELATIVES IN PRAYER

Sally Burgess	Linda Bernice Martinez
Charles Cernik	Patricia Nash
Orie Clark III	Louise Richter
Grady Green	Kelly Simmons
Pr. Fred de Oliveira	Kimberly Tessier
Charla Largent	Mic Tessier
John Largent	Ginger Wilber
Margaret "Candy" Largent	Phyllis Zendejas

STEWARDSHIP CORNER	
ATTENDANCE AVERAGE	
FIRST SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	36
Feb. 15, 2015	37
TOTAL TO DATE	36
SECOND SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	26
Feb. 15, 2015	17
TOTAL TO DATE	21
WORSHIP TOTAL:	57
PRAYER CIRCLE	
AVERAGE TOTAL TO DATE	6
Feb. 11, 2015	3
AVERAGE TO DATE:	4
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Total to Date	\$17,722.74
Feb. 15, 2015	\$1,722.14
ELCA Support	\$3,333.00
Total to Date	\$22,777.88
2015 Budget	
\$175,000.00	
Gap to Date	
\$152,222.12	

ASSISTING IN MINISTRY

Presiding Minister	Pastor Arthur Murphy	Cantor	Meghan Garvin
Outreach Minister	Vicar Aura M. Suárez,	Organist	Sergei Savitski
Assisting Minister	Steve Grimsley	Usher	Rose Rivera
Altar Care	Maria Grimsley	Teller	Elizabeth Baber
Acolyte	Eliseo Gonzalez	Crucifer	Alex Saavedra

UPCOMING EVENTS

WED., FEB. 25 – MAR. 25

6:30 P.M. – Lenten Soup Supper
7:30 P.M. – Lenten Prayer Service

FRI. & SAT., MAR. 13-14

Camp Hope Train-the-Trainer Workshop for all Camp Hope adult and youth workers at Kinsmen Lutheran Church in Houston.

SAT., March 21

8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. – Buen Camino Houston, TX. This cross generational immersion experience is for youth, adults, pastors, and all congregational leaders who want to gain better understanding about Latinos. An immersion experience is an opportunity to leave home in order to see a bigger view of God, deepen your faith, and return with a new vision for daily life. Buen Camino is a guided learning experience that will introduce participants to the street-level reality in the Houston area, while providing a good context about our diverse community through dialogue and focused conversation.

Contributions to the Souper Bowl of Caring may be put in the soup pot situated in the narthex throughout February. Checks should be made out to St. James but marked for the Souper Bowl. Proceeds will be divided between ELCA World Hunger and MANNA.



Please check out our new church website: www.stjames.ch



St James Church ELCA
Community Page about Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA

LIKE us on Facebook!