

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 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.

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 22, 2015
10:00 A.M.**

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

GATHERING

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's light and truth into our hearts. We see God's heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

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.

ENTRANCE HYMN:

ELW#

C:

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: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, 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: Jeremiah 31:31–34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

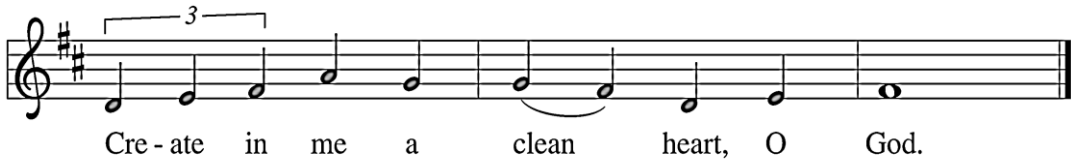
The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1–12

C:



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹ steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹ my offenses.

**Wash me through and through ¹ from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹ from my sin.**

For I know ¹ my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹ er before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹ in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak
and right ¹ in your judgment. R**

Indeed, I was born ¹ steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹ mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth ¹ deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹ deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹ shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- ¹ er than snow.

**Let me hear ¹ joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ¹ may rejoice. R**

Hide your face ¹ from my sins,
and blot out ¹ all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean ¹ heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- ¹ it within me.**

Cast me not away ¹ from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- ¹ it from me.

**Restore to me the joy of ¹ your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- ¹ tiful Spirit. R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5–10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";
as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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.

GOSPEL: John 12:20–33

P: The holy gospel according to John.

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

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

God."

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:

C:

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: Gracious God, keep your church firm in faith, so that it might trust in your goodness even when the way is difficult and the future seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: As the earth spins through another change of season, awaken trees and flowers from their winter's rest. Bring forth grain from the earth and fruit from the vine. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Bring peace to nations devastated by war and violence. Teach leaders to trust in your deep and abiding peace and make all of us instruments of that holy peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You come into a broken world that is never beyond your repair. Heal those who feel the effects of illness and injury in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Bless the ministries of teachers and mentors in the faith and be with those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil. Send newcomers into our midst, and prepare us to welcome them. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Remember your covenant with us, and write it on our hearts until we join with all the saints around your heavenly throne. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

MEAL

OFFERTORY:

ELW#

C:

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.

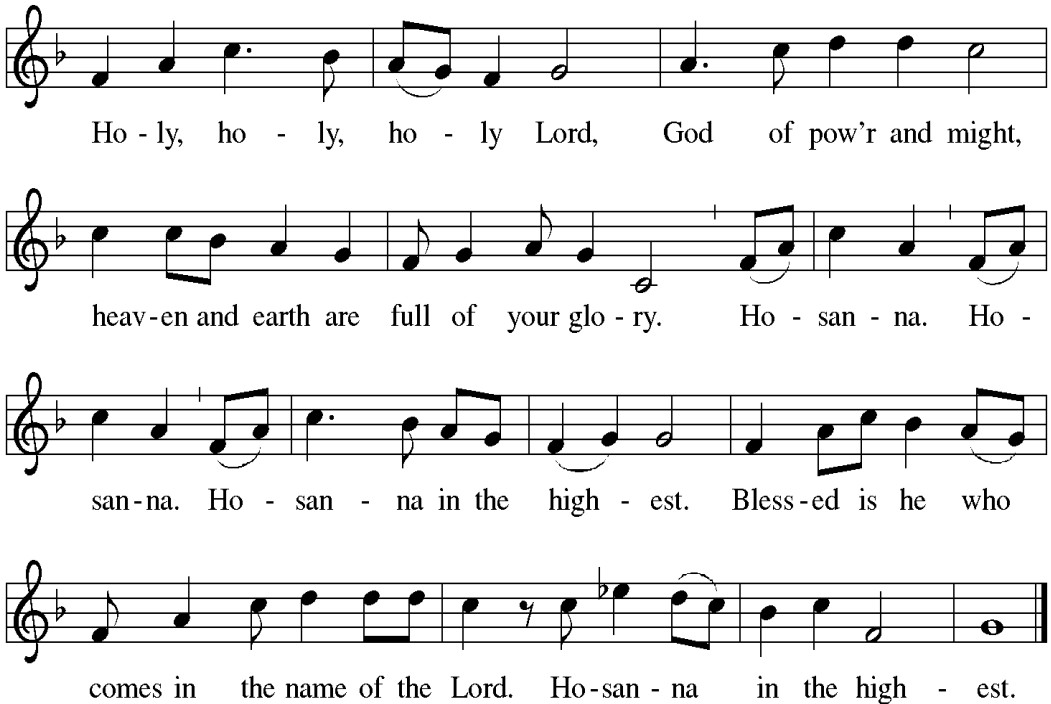
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

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: Come to Christ, broken and poured out to you.

COMMUNION SONG:

C:

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.

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 - jice 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: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, 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:

ELW#

C:

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

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
Charles Cernik
Orie Clark III
Grady Green
Pr. Fred de Oliveira
Charla Largent
John Largent
Margaret "Candy" Largent
Linda Bernice Martinez

Patricia Nash
Louise Richter
Herminia Rivera
Kelly Simmons
Kimberly Tessier
Mic Tessier
Ginger Wilber
Phyllis Zendejas

STEWARDSHIP CORNER	
ATTENDANCE AVERAGE	
FIRST SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	32
March 8, 2015	20
TOTAL TO DATE	26
SECOND SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	18
March 8, 2015	17
TOTAL TO DATE	17
WORSHIP TOTAL:	43
Lenten Soup / Service	25
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Total to Date	\$28,394.76
March 8, 2015	\$1,562.00
ELCA Support	\$2,916.00
Total to Date	\$32,873.42
2015 Budget	
	\$175,000.00
Gap to Date	\$142,126.58

ASSISTING IN MINISTRY

Presiding Minister
Outreach Minister
Assisting Minister
Altar Care
Acolyte

Pastor Arthur Murphy
Vicar Aura M. Suárez,

Elizabeth Baber
Olivia Cardenas

Cantor
Organist
Usher
Teller
Crucifer

Sergei Savitski

Elyse King

UPCOMING EVENTS

WED., MAR. 25,

6:30 P.M. – Lenten Soup Supper

7:30 P.M. – Lenten Prayer Service

Sat., March 28

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. – St. James 8th Annual Children's "Egg"-stravaganza for ages 5 to 12. We will have Games, Stories, Crafts, Music, Egg Hunt and More. Lunch will be provided. Registration deadline is March 26. Please call us at 713.686.1577 or email us at stjameshouston@aol.com for more information.

Sun., March 29

11:00 A.M. – Palm Sunday. – One All-Church Bilingual Worship Service/Misa Bilingüe and Children's "Egg"stravaganza Celebration.

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!