



**THE VISITATION OF MARY
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
MAY 31, 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 Pastora Adriana Johnson-Rivas (832.512.7652) 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.

THE VISITATION OF MARY

MAY 31, 2015

10:00 A.M.

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

INTRODUCTION

Elizabeth is the first person to recognize the great thing that is happening to Mary, and Mary responds with the song called the Magnificat. This song echoes Hannah's, thanking God for bringing down the powerful and lifting up the poor. But while Hannah sings her song in the official house of worship, Mary sings hers in what may be seen as the prototype of the Christian ekklesia (or church). Not a holy building but a gathering of the faithful: two women meeting in a home, who rejoice together in what God is doing in the coming of Jesus.

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

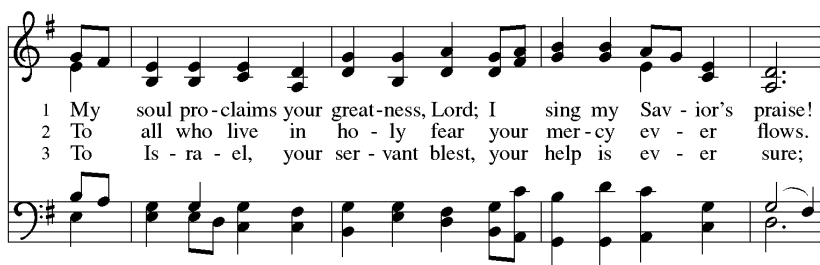
C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.

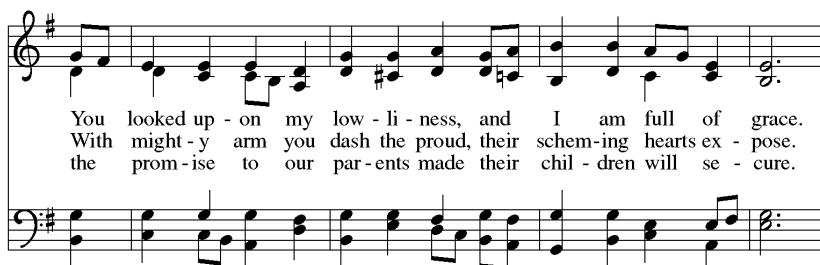
C: Amen.

C:

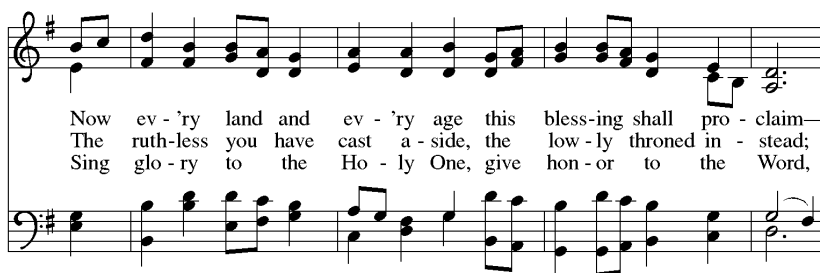
My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



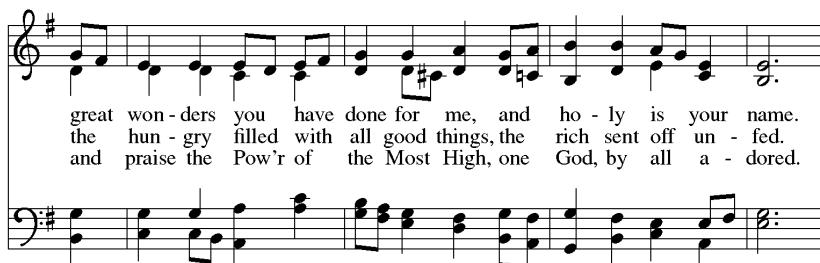
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low-ly throned in - stead;
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

C:



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



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: Mighty God, by whose grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and greeted her as the mother of the Lord: look with favor on your lowly servants that, with Mary, we may magnify your holy name and rejoice to acclaim her Son as our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:1–10

Hannah prayed and said,
"My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory."
"There is no Holy One like the LORD,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God."
Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed."
The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength."
Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn."
The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts."
He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,

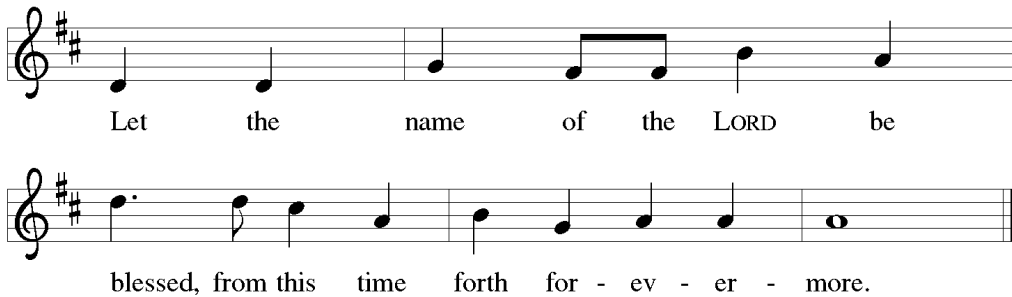
and on them he has set the world."
 "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
 but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
 for not by might does one prevail."
 The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered;
 the Most High will thunder in heaven.
 The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
 he will give strength to his king,
 and exalt the power of his anointed."

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 104:24–34, 35b

C:



Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants¹ of the LORD;
 praise the name¹ of the LORD.

**Let the name of the¹ LORD be blessed,
 from this time forth for-¹ evermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its¹ going down
 let the name of the¹ LORD be praised.

**The LORD is high a-¹bove all nations;
 God's glory a-¹bove the heavens. R**

Who is like the¹ LORD our God,
 who sits en-¹throned on high,
**but stoops¹ to behold
 the heavens¹ and the earth?**

The LORD takes up the weak out¹ of the dust
 and lifts up the poor¹ from the ashes,
**enthroning them¹ with the rulers,
 with the rulers¹ of the people.**

The LORD makes the woman of a¹ childless house
 to be a joyful mother of children.¹ Hallelujah! **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9–16b

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

The congregation sings the Gospel Acclamation during the Gospel Procession.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

C:



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



GOSPEL: Luke 1:39–57

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home. Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

C:



SERMON: *Pastor Chris Markert*

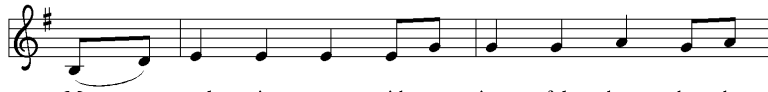
Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW#723

C:

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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: Trusting the Spirit's power, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: Holy God, you dwell in the church by your life-giving Spirit. Inspire the newly baptized, empower church leaders, and renew all of us for service in Christ's name. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, you fill the universe with your splendor. Restore right relationships among all living things, both seen and unseen. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Saving One, you so love this world. Bring justice to the oppressed, mercy to those who are angry, nourishment to the hungry, and peace to the violent and their victims. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Merciful God, you visit the hurting, giving healing and strength. We pray for your children in any need: the orphaned, the neglected, the grieving, the injured, and those we name this day especially. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Loving Spirit, in you we live and move and have our being. As Mary visited Elizabeth in her waiting, visit those awaiting birth or preparing for adoption, all who struggle to conceive or cannot have children, and those mourning pregnancy loss. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of life, we remember your saints especially Mary, the mother of our Lord, and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. With them, may we bear the life of Christ to those around us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive these prayers, gracious God, and those prayers known only to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY:

ELW#659

C: Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Please stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of ev'ry nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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: 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.

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 the banquet, for all is now ready.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer
The Lord Is My Song

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
or *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

C: O God, our life, our strength, our food,
we give you thanks for sustaining us
with the body and blood of your Son.

By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world,
that more and more we will give you praise
and serve your earth and its many peoples,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

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

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.



C:

Take My Life, That I May Be

Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad

Refrain/Estrillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun-tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas *Last time*



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guar - el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estrillo



pul - so de tu a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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	Herminia Rivera
FJ Hoffman	Kelly Simmons
Pr. Fred de Oliveira	Kimberly Tessier
Charla Largent	Mic Tessier
John Largent	Terry White
Margaret "Candy" Largent	Phyllis Zendejas

STEWARDSHIP CORNER	
ATTENDANCE AVERAGE	
FIRST SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	69
May 24, 2015	22
TOTAL TO DATE	45
SECOND SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	56
May 24, 2015	45
TOTAL TO DATE	50
WORSHIP TOTAL:	95
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Total to Date	\$57,542.85
May 24, 2015	\$2,525.00
Total to Date	\$60,067.85
2015 Budget	
	\$175,000.00
Gap to Date	\$114,932.15
\$15,000 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	
Goal	\$15,000.00
Pledges / Donations	\$12,200.00
Gap To Date	\$2,800.00
Thank you for your support!!	

ASSISTING IN MINISTRY

Presiding Minister	Chris Markert	Cantor	Nick DeMeo
Assisting Minister	Steve Grimsley	Organist	Sergei Savitski
Altar Care	Maria Grimsley	Usher	Robert Rivera
Acolyte	Eliseo Gonzalez	Teller	Elizabeth Baber
Crucifer	Alexander Saavedra		

UPCOMING EVENTS

**TUES.-WED.-THURS.
JUNE 9, 10, 11**

9 AM—5 PM. Base Camp training for Camp Hope youth leaders at Kinsmen Lutheran Church. The bus leaves the St. James parking lot at 8:15 AM each morning, and returns about 6 PM. All youth leaders must attend this training.

**MON., JUNE 15 –
FRI., JULY 3**

Three weeks of Camp Hope.

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



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

LIKE us on Facebook!