

St. James Lutheran Church  
Fishersville, VA  
February 4, 2024

**INTRODUCTION**

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

**BRIEF ORDER FOR 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.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN: "O Spirit of Life" (WOV 680)**

## 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

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. ☩ A - men

## HYMN OF PRAISE

A This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

☩ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING:

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

### Isaiah 40:21-31

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the  
foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God?”

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew  
their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

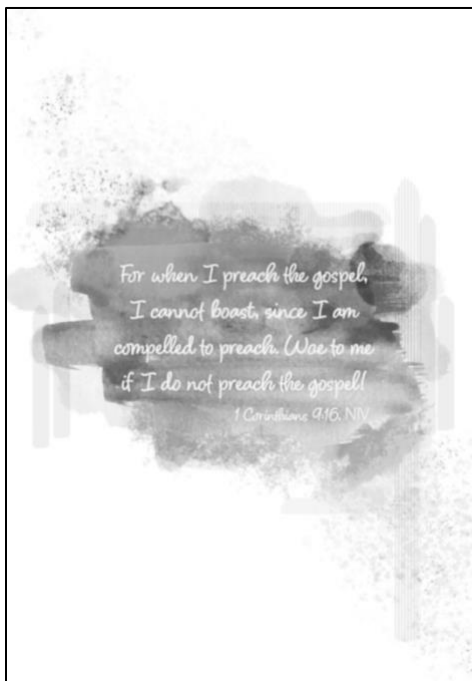
- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises <sup>1</sup> to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor <sup>1</sup> God with praise!
- <sup>2</sup>**The LORD re- <sup>1</sup> builds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the ex- <sup>1</sup> iles of Israel.**
- <sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the <sup>1</sup> brokenhearted  
and binds <sup>1</sup> up their wounds.
- <sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number <sup>1</sup> of the stars  
and calls them all <sup>1</sup> by their names.**
- <sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and might- <sup>1</sup> y in power;  
there is no limit <sup>1</sup> to God's wisdom.
- <sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts <sup>1</sup> up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked <sup>1</sup> to the ground.**
- <sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp <sup>1</sup> to our God,  
<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heav- <sup>1</sup> ens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass  
to grow up- <sup>1</sup> on the mountains.**
- <sup>9</sup>God provides food <sup>1</sup> for the cattle  
and for the young ravens <sup>1</sup> when they cry.
- <sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might <sup>1</sup> of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed <sup>1</sup> of a runner,**
- <sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>20c1</sup> Hallelujah!



## SECOND READING:

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

## 1 Corinthians 9:16-23



<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!  
<sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Here ends the reading.

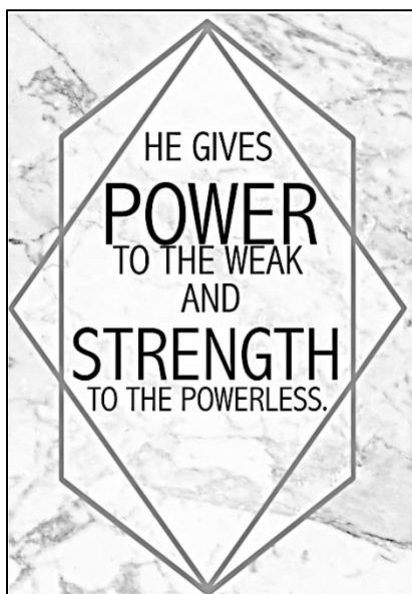
**Thanks be to God.**

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

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*



<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” <sup>38</sup>He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON: Rev. Gordon Putnam**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Holy Child within the Manger” (WOV 638)**

## APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born  
of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**



## THE PRAYERS

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need, especially we pray for Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Charlotte, Zeby, Susan, Claire, Charles, Ellen, and the family of Loretta. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

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.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord.)

**ANTHEM: “One Bread, One Body”** Text and music, John Foley

## OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### DIALOGUE

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 him thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## THANKSGIVING

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

February

4 <sup>th</sup>	Sam Diehl
11 <sup>th</sup>	Ivan Diehl
14 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Ash Wed. at 1pm</u>
18 <sup>th</sup>	Bambi Straw
25 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Putnam
28 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Lenten service at 1pm</u>



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

## COMMUNION

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

**Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "On Eagles Wings"**  
(WOV 779)

## 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.**

## Dismissal

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

### Prayer Concerns

#### Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Claire Viette, Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), Charlotte Shifflett (Danny's aunt), Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt), and Susan Zirges (friend of Sherie & Paul).

#### Prayer Request for

Charles, Ellen, and the family of Loretta Whiting (Sherie's mother).

### Community Conversations

- February flowers are given by Anne Putnam
- February 6<sup>th</sup> Open Circle meeting at 1pm. Debbie is our hostess.
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon at noon.
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting following the Pancake Luncheon (approximately 2pm.)
- February 18<sup>th</sup> Congregational meeting for acceptance of the Annual Report.
- February 20<sup>th</sup> Quilt Group meets at 1pm.
- Last Sunday's Soup & Sandwich Luncheon raised \$224 for WARM. Many thanks to all!
- Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater. Sign up sheet to indicate any/all of the performance you're interested in seeing.
- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley's home.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
  - February—Ivan Diehl

Thrivent Insurance has always had a program to donate money to churches. Recently they have offered a program called Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you have an account with Thrivent you can go online and designate money to St. James. Call 800-847-4836 or [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice)

# FEBRUARY



# BIRTHDAYS

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Pastor William Stewart |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Mark Grove             |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Jean Geiser            |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Bambi Straw            |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Alex Diehl             |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Pam Diehl              |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | John Wright            |

Pastor Gordon Putnam  
434-760-0263  
[Grputnam1949@gmail.com](mailto:Grputnam1949@gmail.com)  
Pastor Carl Trost  
Hannah Pingel, Pianist  
Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers



# Back Pack Needs

We need your help the Backpack program now has 19 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex. There is also an offering basket for financial support of the program.

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mac and cheese       | Kroger meals            |
| Chef Boyardee meals  | Fruit cups              |
| Boxes of cereal      | Poptarts                |
| Oatmeal              | Ramen Noodles, any kind |
| Boxed juices         | Yahoo chocolate milk    |
| Apple sauce          | Raisins                 |
| "Hugs" Drink Barrels | All single servings     |

From sundaysandseasons.com.  
Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch at Noon**  
Feb 14<sup>th</sup> **Ash Wednesday Service, 1 pm**

## Lenten Services

Our Lenten journey this year is titled “Sing With All The Saints in Glory.” Each week we will lift up the lives of saints from the past. You will find a list of the many saints that we commemorate in the front of our hymnal. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for our own Christian journey.



Feb 21<sup>st</sup> Grace Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship  
*Inheritance of Faith*

**George Herbert** was an English Anglican country priest and renowned poet.

**John and Charles Wesley** were Anglican priests, missionaries to America, and eventual founders of the Methodist movement.

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> St. James Lutheran, Noon Soup, 1 pm Worship  
*Perseverance with Endurance*

**Perpetua and Felicity** were early Christian martyrs who chose to die rather than forsake their faith in Jesus and their commitment to each other.

**Harriet Tubman** was Moses to her people, leading many enslaved people to freedom during the horror of American slavery.

**Sojourner Truth** was an enslaved woman in New York, sued for her freedom, then spent the rest of her life working for abolition and women’s suffrage.

March 6<sup>th</sup> Zion Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship  
*Faithful in Prayer*

**Gregory the Great** was a sixth-century pope who is often remembered as one of the “fathers of Christian worship” because of his work revising the liturgy and making developments in church music.

**Patrick** was a missionary to Ireland. Called by God to carry the good news of Jesus to the Irish, he became one of the founders of the great Celtic tradition of Christianity.

March 13<sup>th</sup> Grace Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm worship  
*Striving for Justice*

**Archbishop Oscar Romero** was an outspoken critic of the government corruption, military abuse, and oppression of the people of his native El Salvador and was martyred while celebrating mass in 1980.

**Joseph** took Mary and Jesus to Egypt becoming refugees at the hands of a tyrant ruler.

March 20<sup>th</sup> Bethlehem Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship  
*Dying and Rising with Christ*

**Hans Nielsen Hauge**, a nineteenth-century Norwegian lay preacher who initiated a religious revival in his home country, Norway.

**John Donne** was a seventeenth-century English poet and dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London.