

*St. James Lutheran Church  
Fishersville, VA  
January 21, 2024*

**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: "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" (LBW 389)**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

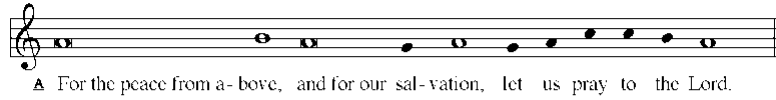
## GREETING

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



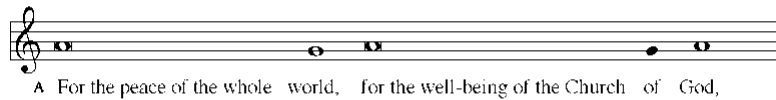
☩ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



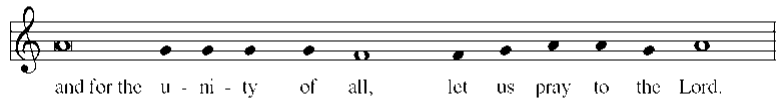
☩ For the peace from a- bove, and for our sal- vation, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



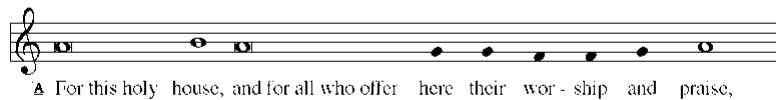
☩ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



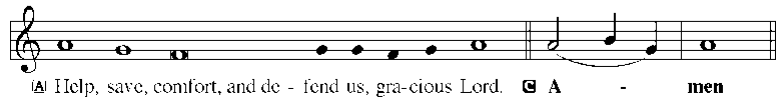
☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



☩ 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.



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

## HYMN OF PRAISE



1A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



1B 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.**

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING:

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"*

## Jonah 3:1-5, 10

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 62:5-12

<sup>5</sup>For God alone I | wait in silence;  
truly, my hope | is in God.

<sup>6</sup>**God alone is my rock and | my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance | and my honor;  
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>**Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge.**

<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- | not be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.**

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,  
that power be- | longs to God.

<sup>12</sup>**Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according | to their deeds.**

## SECOND READING:

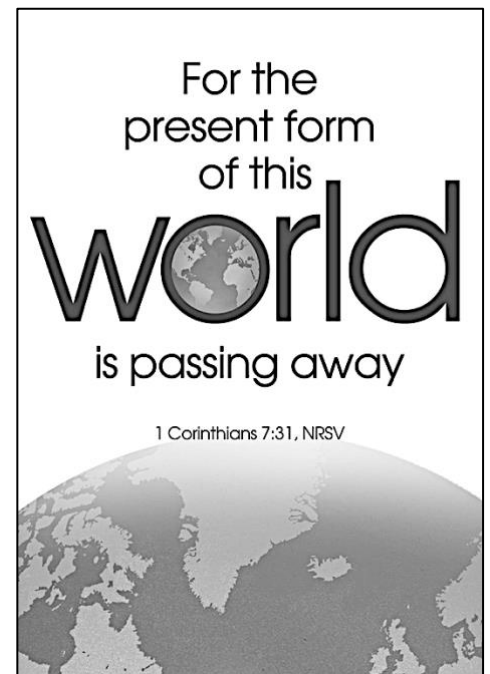
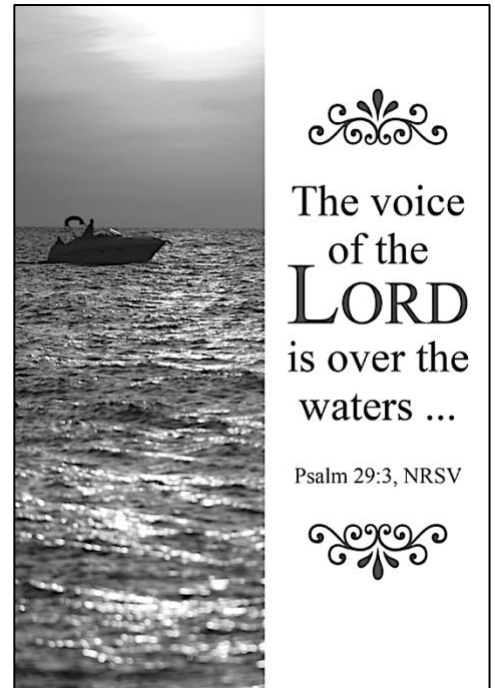
*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God’s future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

## 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

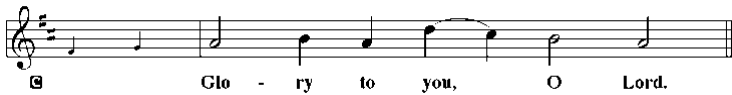
Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**





**Gospel: Mark 1:14-20**

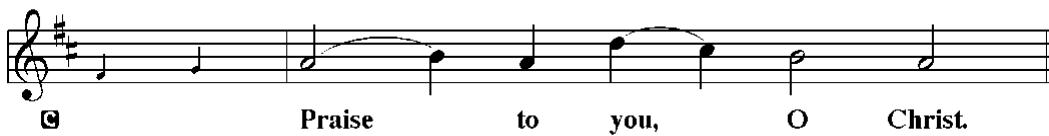


*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



**SERMON: Rev. Gordon Putnam**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “They Cast Their Nets”  
(LBW 449)**

**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.*

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain, especially we pray for Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Charlotte, Zeby, Susan, Claire, Charles, Ellen, and Loretta. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

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

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

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.**

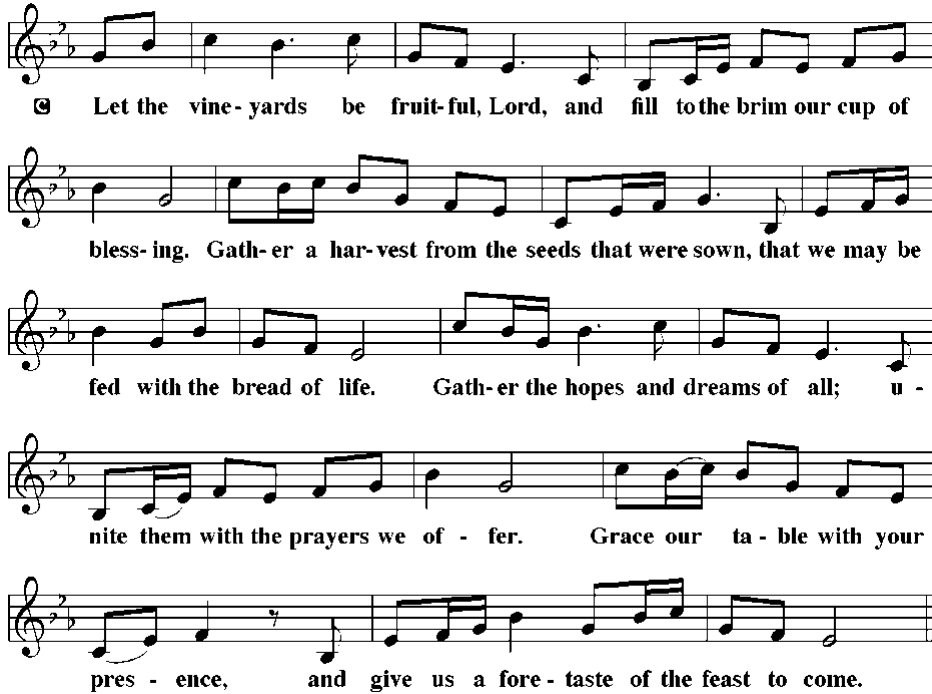
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

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

**ANTHEM: "Holy Spirit Thou Art Welcome"** Text and music by Dottie Rambo and David Huntsinger

### OFFERING



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

### OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek  
and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

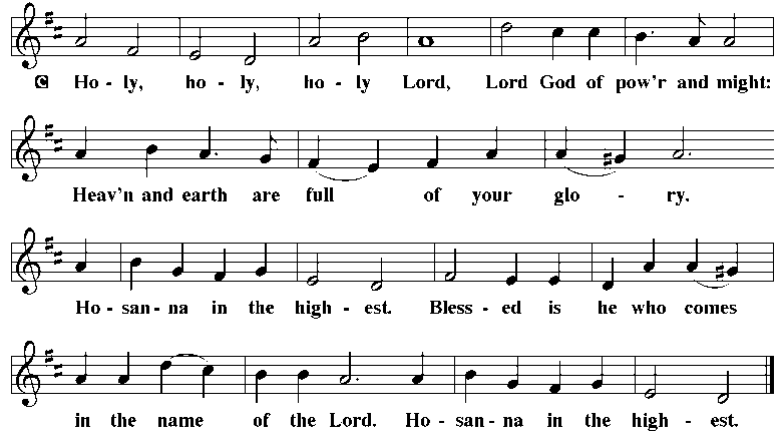
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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.**



## 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

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.**

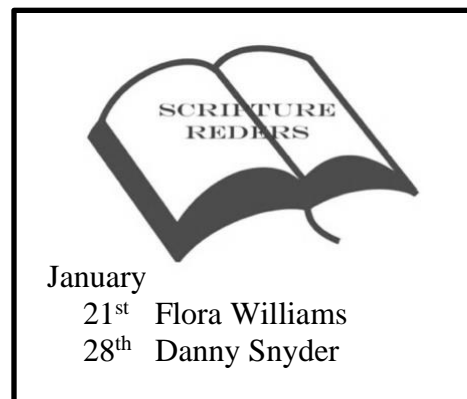
## CLOSING HYMN: "We All Are One in Mission" (WOV 755)

## 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 Loretta Whiting (Sherie's mother).

### Community Conversations

- January flowers are given by Chris & Carolyn Fuss in memory of the Davis Family & Jim Williams.
- January 23<sup>th</sup> Quilt Group at 1pm.
- January 28<sup>th</sup> Soup and sandwich luncheon after worship. The goodwill offering will go to support WARM. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
- January 28<sup>th</sup> Reports for our Annual Report are due to Anne.
- February 6<sup>th</sup> Open Circle meeting at 1pm.
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon at noon.
- 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
  - January—Joyce Dull

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)

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

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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     |