

*St. James Lutheran Church
Fishersville, VA
January 28, 2024*

INTRODUCTION
In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God’s works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus’ actions and words. We encounter that authority in God’s word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

**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: “The Church's One Foundation” (LBW 369)

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



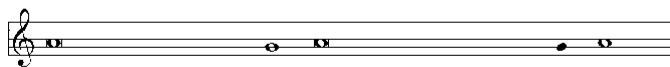
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



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



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



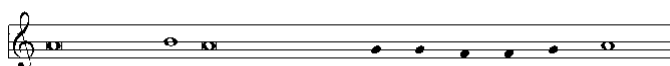
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,



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.

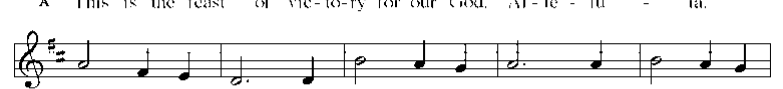


A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. ☩ A - men

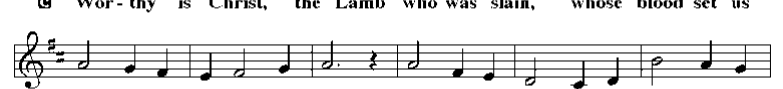
HYMN OF PRAISE



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.



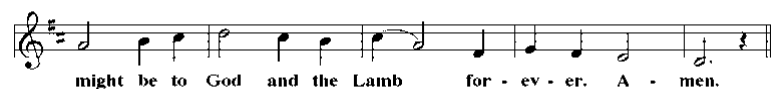
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



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.

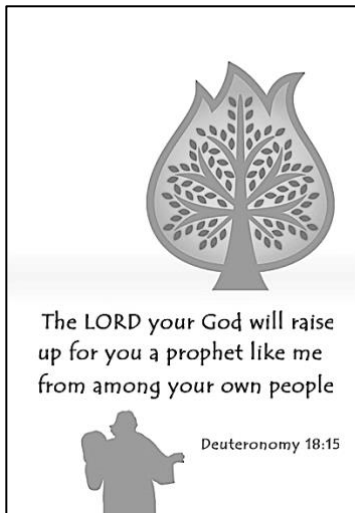
Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

Deuteronomy 18:15-20



[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with ¹ my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the ¹ congregation.

²**Great are your ¹ works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- ¹ light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor ¹ mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- ¹ dures forever.

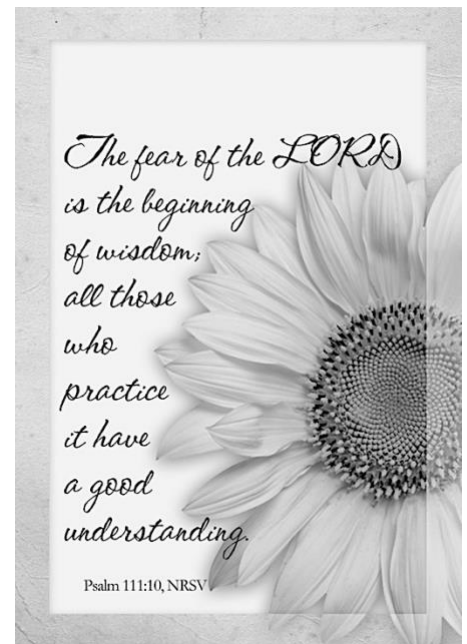
⁴**You cause your wonders to ¹ be remembered;
you are gracious and full ¹ of compassion.**

⁵You give food to ¹ those who fear you,
remembering forev- ¹ er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power ¹ of your works
in giving them the lands ¹ of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- ¹ ness and justice;
all of your pre- ¹ cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever,
because they are done in ¹ truth and equity.**



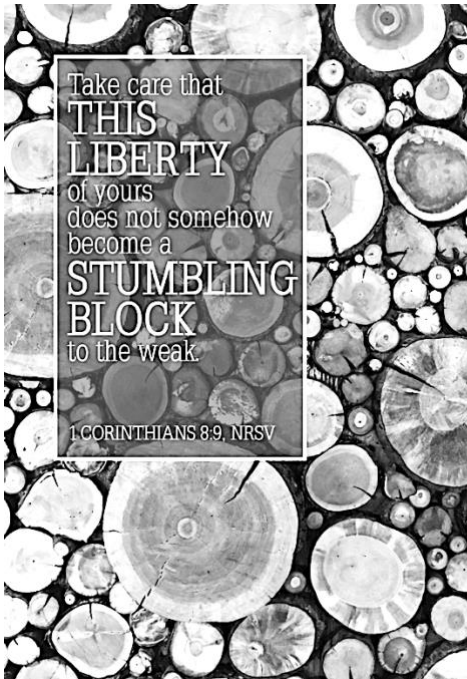
⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING:

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13



¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be

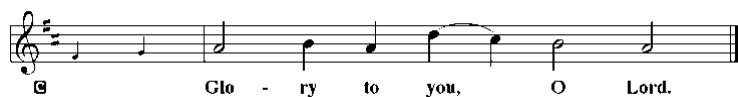
encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel: Mark 1:21-28



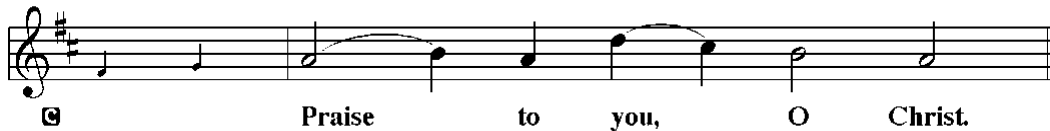
And they were
astonished
at his teaching,
for he
taught them
as one who
had authority,
and not as
the scribes.

Mark 1:22, ESV

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON: Rev. Carl Trost

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Now We Join in Celebration"
(LBW 203)

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.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer, 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: "We Will Glorify" Text and music Twila Paris

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



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.

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.



January

28th Danny Snyder

February

4th Sherie Whiting-Rohal

11th Ivan Diehl

14th Wed. at 1pm

18th Bambi Straw

25th Anne Putnam

28th Lenten service at 1pm

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

- January flowers are given by Chris & Carolyn Fuss in memory of the Davis Family & Jim Williams. February flowers will be given by Anne Putnam.
- January 30th Quilt Group meets at 1pm.
- February 6th Open Circle meeting at 1pm.
- February 13th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon at noon.
- February 13th Council meeting following the Pancake Luncheon (approximately 2pm.)
- The goodwill offering at today's Soup and sandwich luncheon will go to support WARM.
- 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
 - February—Ivan Diehl

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: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" (LBW 90)

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.

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

1 st	David Bartley
5 th	Pastor William Stewart
11 th	Mark Grove
14 th	Jean Geiser
14 th	Bambi Straw
15 th	Alex Diehl
20 th	Pam Diehl
27 th	John Wright

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

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



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 |

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Feb 13th **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch at Noon**
Feb 14th **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 21st 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 28th 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 6th 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 13th 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 20th 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.