



<sup>10</sup>Create in me a  
clean heart,  
O God and  
renew a  
right spirit  
within me.  
Psalm 51:10

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

## St. James Lutheran Church

### Fishersville, VA

### Sunday, March 17, 2024

#### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.  
**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**  
**We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**  
**We speak in ways that silence others.**  
**We are silent when we should speak up.**  
**We keep score in our hearts.**  
**We let hurts grow into hatred.**  
**For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**  
**Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN "My Song Is Love Unknown" (LBW 94)**

#### Introduction

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 love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

## 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 mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

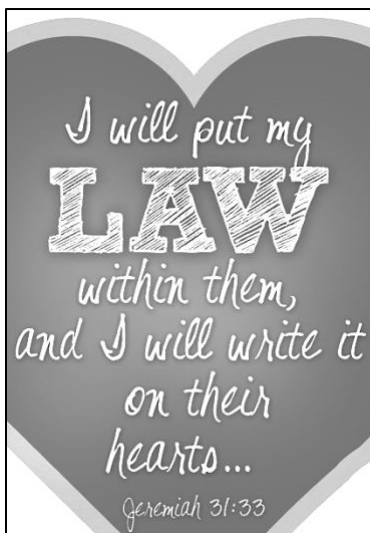
Let us pray. . . .

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.

**Amen.**

## First Reading:

*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.*



## Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>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.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 51:1-12

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

<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Appeal for God's mercy in individual forgiveness.

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

Personal confession of sinfulness

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Prayer for forgiveness and renewed joy

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- it within me.

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- it from me.

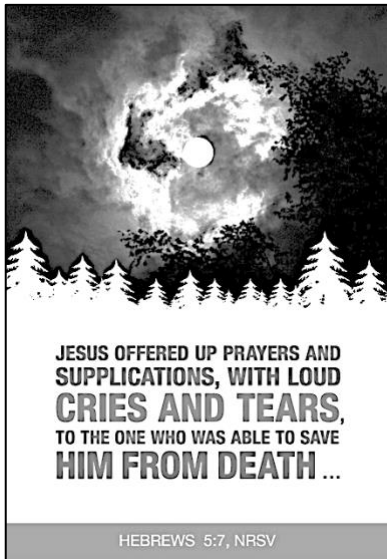
<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- tiful Spirit.

Prayer for purity and renewed joy

## Second Reading:

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.

### Hebrews 5:5-10



<sup>5</sup>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”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Here ends the reading.

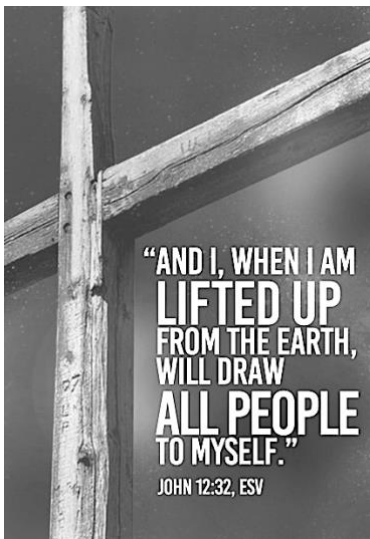
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel: John 12:20-33

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.



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

<sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very 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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now 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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I

will glorify it again.”<sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”<sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.”<sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.<sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”<sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON:** Rev. Gordon Putnam

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Glory Be to Jesus”(LBW 95)**

**Presentation of New Members**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as they affirm their desire to be part of the life and ministry of St. James.

Eddie, Ronnie, and Tammy wish to reestablish and confirm their membership here at St. James.

**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.**

**Address and Questions**

*The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.*

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.



Eddie, Ronnie, and Tammy, sister, and brothers in Christ,  
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism  
among God's people at St. James?

*Those being welcomed respond.*

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God,  
do you promise to support and pray for the Joneses in their life in Christ?  
**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**Welcome.**

*Those being welcomed face the assembly.*

Let us welcome our sister and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.  
Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

**HYMN OF WELCOME: "Bind Us Together" (WOV 748)**

### **THE PRAYERS**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give you thanks for the Joneses whom we have welcomed into our community of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread, in our prayers, and in service to one another. We give thanks for the means of grace that holds us together in God's arms.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain, and those living in institutions. We especially pray for Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Becky, Inez, Charlotte, Zeby, Bonnie, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Bill, Josh, Mike, Melvin, Ronnie, and Joyce. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

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

**Anthem, "As the Sun with Longer Journey" Text, John Earls, Music, Carl Schalk.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

**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.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

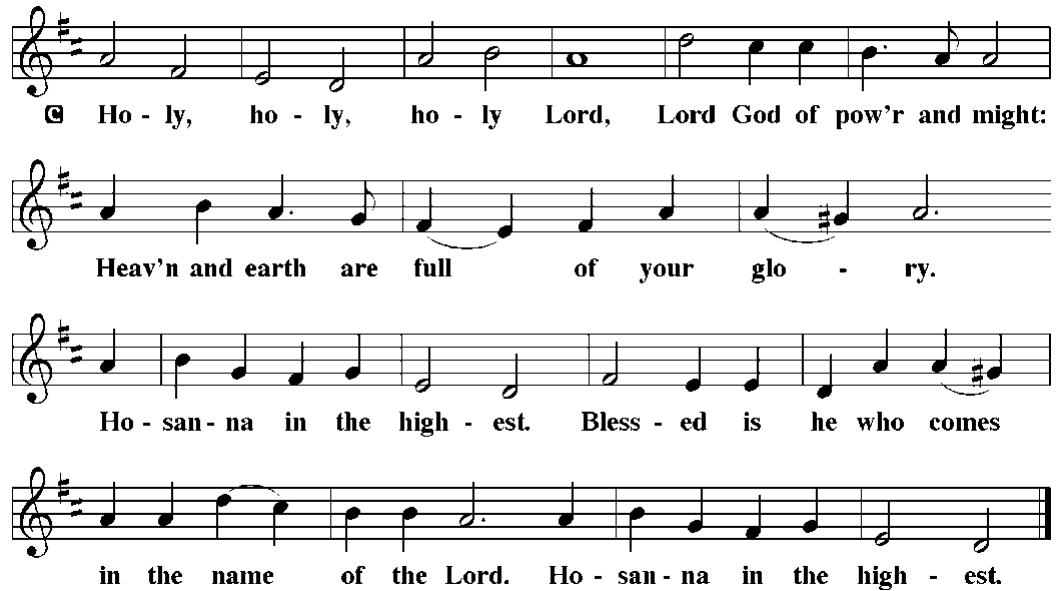
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. 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.**



March

17 <sup>th</sup>	Flora Williams
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sherie W-Rohal
28 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday Ivan Diehl
29 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday Anne Putnam
31 <sup>st</sup>	Bambi Straw



## Invitation to Communion

Bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

### 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.  
Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable  
grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen.**

### Closing Hymn “O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts” (LBW 356)

### Blessing

Beloved, we are God’s own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer Concerns

#### Ongoing Need for Prayer

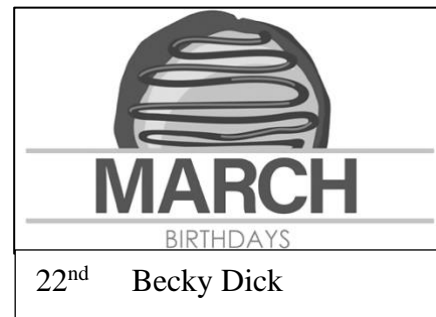
Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Zeby (Ellen & Charles’ grandson), Charlotte Shifflett (Danny’s aunt), and Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie’s aunt).

#### Prayer Concerns

Becky Dick, Jerry Hill and Bill Bayes (friends of Pastor Gordon and Anne), Bonnie Snyder (Danny’s mother), Josh Thornhill (Norma Turak’s grandson-in-law), Mike Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder), Melvin Glass (friend of Ivan), Ronnie Jones, and Joyce Dull.

### Community Conversations

- March 24<sup>th</sup> Soup & Sandwich Luncheon to benefit Verona Food Pantry. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
- March 26<sup>th</sup> Quilt Group meets at 1 pm.
- 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
  - March—Paul Rohal
  - April—Anne Putnam



Palm/Passion Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Maundy Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Good Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Easter Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>

## Lenten Services

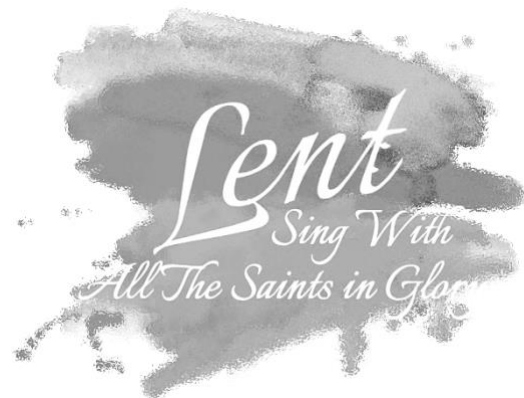
Our Lenten journey this year is titled “Sing With All The Saints in Glory.” Each week we will lift up the lives of saints from the past. You will find a list of the many saints that we commemorate in the front of our hymnal. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for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

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.



Pastor Gordon Putnam  
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Pastor Carl Trost  
Hannah Pingel, Pianist  
Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

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