

# *St. James Lutheran Church*



everything  
[in] between  
rest & growth

**Season of Lent**  
Welcome to our Service

# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Worship is a place to rest.

**We breathe deeply here.**

We still our aching bones.

**We sit in the quiet.**

We surround ourselves with music.

**Worship is a place to rest.**

Worship is a place to grow.

**We listen for God's word.**

We invite it to challenge us.

**We lean in with curiosity.**

We ask questions.

**Worship is a place to grow.**

So come into this space.

Come rest and grow here.

**For where two or more are gathered,  
God is always there.**

Let us worship our gracious God.

## CALL TO and PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God's grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again.

So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God's grace *again*.

Let us pray:

**Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest. We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest. There**

are also days when we fail to act. We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction. God, forgive our imbalance. Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to do the same. Amen.

*Time for silent reflection*

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

**God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**



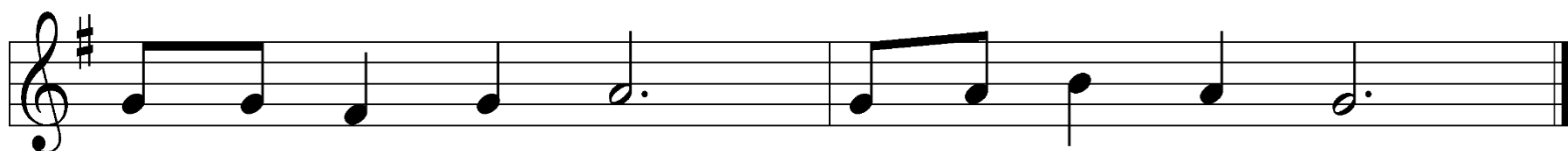
# Jesus, Still Lead On



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to our Fa - ther's land.  
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
till we safe - ly stand in our Fa - ther's land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.

Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

## GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy,  
and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE**

**THE FIRST READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 55<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER OF ISAIAH.**

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy. Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

**WE WILL READ PSALM 63 RESPONSIVELY.**

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

**So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.

**When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

**THE SECOND READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CHAPTER OF 1 CORINTHIANS.**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as able.*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE 13<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER OF LUKE.**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

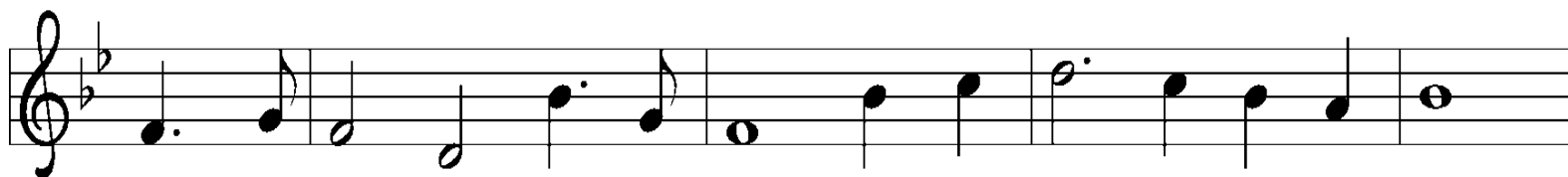
Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

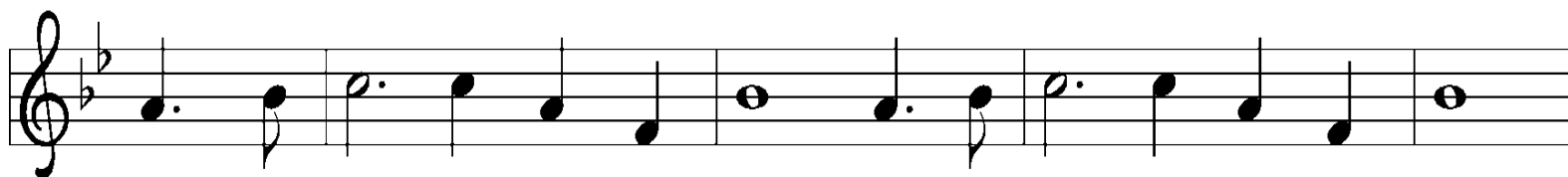
*Please be seated.*

**SERMON – PREACHER BRYAN STITES**

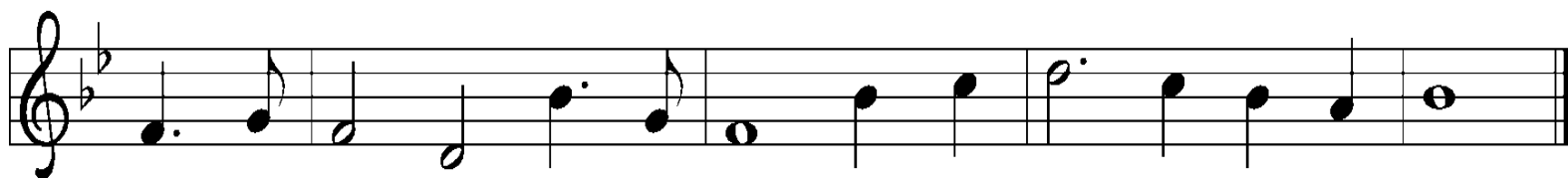
# Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778

Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

*Please stand as able*



## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith with the following words:

**We believe in a God who loves and tends to us like a gardener.**

**We believe that like the trees,  
some seasons are for growth,  
and some seasons are for rest.**

**Some days require pruning,  
and some require planting.**

**Fortunately, we believe that our green-thumbed God sees us and  
cultivates the sweetest fruit.**

**So may we plant roots,  
reach for the sky,  
grow where we can,  
and rest when we need,**

**for we believe there is holiness in the pruning and  
in the planting. And we do not grow alone.**

**Thanks be to God,  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

When the reader says: "God, in Your mercy."

Please respond: "**Receive our prayer.**"

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. Please reserve conversations for after worship.*

## **OFFERING**

*Please be seated as we gather the offering for the mission of the church. Your gifts of thankfulness enable us to spread the Good News of God's love.*

*Please stand as you are able as we sing.*

## **GIVE THANKS**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart**

**Give thanks to the Holy One**

**Give thanks because He's given**

**Jesus Christ His Son (2x)**

**And now let the weak say I am strong**

**Let the poor say I am rich**

**Because of what The Lord has done for us (2x)**

**Give thanks (3x)**

CCLI Song No. 20285 © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music(Admin. By EMI Christian Music Publishing) Henry Smith.  
For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use.All rights Reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License No. 3128639.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

# Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me with your  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on



pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es,



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

## **BLESSING**

As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle.  
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.  
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,  
and therefore, you contain multitudes.

So may you move through this world with an open heart,  
with a curious mind, and with confidence that you do not go alone.  
God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys,  
and everywhere in between.

Believe that good news and go in peace.

**Amen**

## **DISMISSAL**

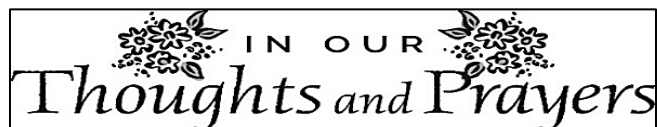
Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*PORTIONS OF SERVICE FROM MATERIALS BY by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

*Eucharistic Prayer Introduction from 2010 World Communion Day – Worship Resource – PCUSA*

*Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43873.*



**Please Pray for: Dolores Fiori, Laura Librizzi, Claire Gilmore, Marx Heller, Diane Eby, Winnie Ziegler, Hannah Bonchi, Margaret Rea, Jennifer Johnson, Linda Kisby, Rita Ricca, Gillian Lee Phillips, Betty Haines, Dorcas Schellhas, Henry Butterhof, Bette Jackson, Maggie Rider, Marlene Triggian, Ed Shine, Bob & Ellie Frietag, Christina Spahn, George Cappucio, Jessica Lewis, Dan P., Tom Dixon, Arlene Calletta, Ed Volpa, Mike Fountas, Nick Pobletti, Sophie Stites, Arlene Deptula, Thomas Rose, Linda Slater, Annette Scipione, Baby Octavia Marie Kozole, John Thame, Chip Stewart, Joe Chille, Lisa D'Ambrosia, Chenza Cerrato, Sadie Peterson, Kathy Gorbis, Bill Link, Carl Anderson, Edythe Aselta, David Butterworth, Karen Fiorilli, Lori Truitt, Charlie Patton, Jennifer Robinson, Ed & Toni Marinelli, RoseAnn Lucca, Thomas Penza, Mia Arrison, Cass Seddon, Beth Grasso, Tiffany, Carol Ann Conner, LaSarah Todd, Frank Calleta. Linda Foster, Julie Communale, Sarah Benchimol.**

**The Prayer List is available in the Narthex** – You may submit names after receiving the person’s permission for their name to be shared publicly. Please share your name so we may follow up on the progress of your loved one.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

TODAY	10:00 AM	WORSHIP WITH PREACHER BRYAN STITES
TUE., MAR. 25	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHERSAL
WED., MAR. 26	1:00 PM	GOD’S STITCHERS
	6:00 PM	LENTEN SOUP DINNER
	7:00 PM	LENTEN DEVOTIONS/STUDY
THU., MAR. 27	12:00 PM	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
SAT., MAR. 29	2:00 PM	CONFIRMATION
	6:00 PM	FAMILY AND FRIENDS FUN NIGHT <b>‘GAME NIGHT’</b>
SUN., MAR. 30	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b>
	10:00 AM	WORSHIP

**Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**8:45 am - 9:45 am**

St. James would like to invite you,  
your friends and family for a deliciously,  
sweet pancake breakfast.

Join us before worship for pancakes, sausage,  
pastries, orange juice and coffee/tea.



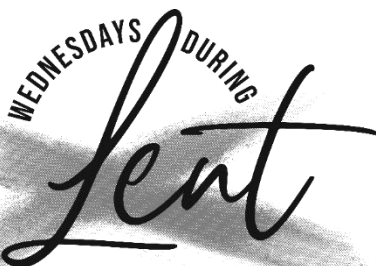
**LENTEN SOUP & STUDY**

**March 12<sup>th</sup> - April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Soup at 6:00 pm**

**Study at 7:00 pm**

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN NARTHEX  
TO ASSIST WITH SOUP**



Throughout **the season of Lent**, we will be collecting toiletry items for the Veteran's Haven Home. Some items being collected include soaps, shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, shavers, brushes, deodorant, hand sanitizers (they can be partially used bottles).

# COMMUNITY LENTEN DONATIONS

We will also be donating cookie trays – you may donate financially, or any store-bought cookies and/or tasty cakes.

It is time to work on our  
**EASTER FOOD BASKETS!**

Please take a card from board in the narthex for the item you would like to donate.

*All donations are due by April 6<sup>th</sup>!*



**Easter Outreach Donations**



## **'Pulling for Vets' Tickets Now Available**

Our 'Pulling for Vets' Fundraiser will be held April 12<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-6pm.

Tickets are now available for purchase, or if you would like to take a few to sell.

Please let us know how many you need, so we can keep track of ticket sales. Thank you!

**PROPOSED DATE: MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive, with the support of the Presbyterian Church of Hammonton.

In order to commit to the date listed above, they need enough volunteers. A simple way to make a difference in someone’s life. One donation can save more than one life! If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board located in the Narthex.



**Office Hours: Wednesday’s & Thursday’s 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**Please call to see if the secretary is available.**

**Church office 609-561-4488**

<b>Ministers .....</b>	<b>All the People of God</b>
<b>Pastor Pamela J. Werner .....</b>	<b>609-335-3083</b>
<b>Pastor’s Email .....</b>	<b>laffinggal@comcast.net</b>
<b>Amanda Dilks.....</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Church Email .....</b>	<b>stjameslutheran@folsom.comcastbiz.net</b>
<b>Web .....</b>	<b>www.stjamesfolsom.org</b>
<b>Organists.....</b>	<b>Maria Doukhnaï &amp; Matt DiDonato</b>
<b>Choir Director .....</b>	<b>Matt DiDonato</b>

**We need your help:** Please help with set up and clean-up, assist with communion. We also need readers (scriptures are sent out prior so that you can read over them). We will train you. Please help. Thank you.

<b>Worship Ministers</b>	<b>This Week: 03/23/25</b>	<b>Next Week: 03/30/25</b>
Reader	Judy May	Sally Costa
Communion Assistants	<b>NO COMMUNION</b>	Volunteers Needed
Altar Guild	<b>NO COMMUNION</b>	Rose Jones & Betty Pollock



*Our theme, “Everything In Between,” invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. You will see that each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth,” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.*

*And so, this season, we invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to engage in the weekly art and reflections at your own pace, imagining where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lent, we’re trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.*  
*Artfully yours,*

**The Sanctified Art Creative Team**

Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

Hannah Garrity

Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Rev. Anna Strickland