WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1st Ave. N. (406) 321-5100 Columbus, MT 59019

Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher

Email: toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com

Our Mission: "We worship together, grow in faith,

share our faith and serve with the love of God"

Sunday March 31st, 2024 -

Easter Sunday





Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Refrain:

> Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (To vs 2)

- Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Refrain:

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

- Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
- Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

(no refrain) (no refrain)

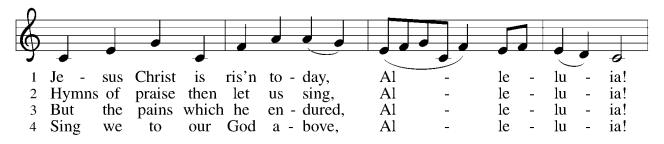
Were you there when He rose up from the grave? Were you there when He rose up from the grave? Refrain:

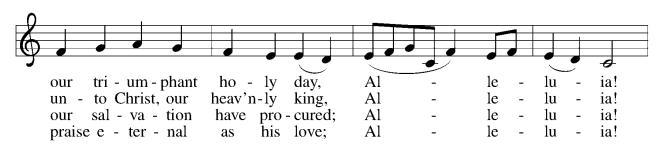
> Oh, sometimes I feel like shouting "Glory! Glory! Glory! Alleluia! Christ is Risen Today!

Welcome

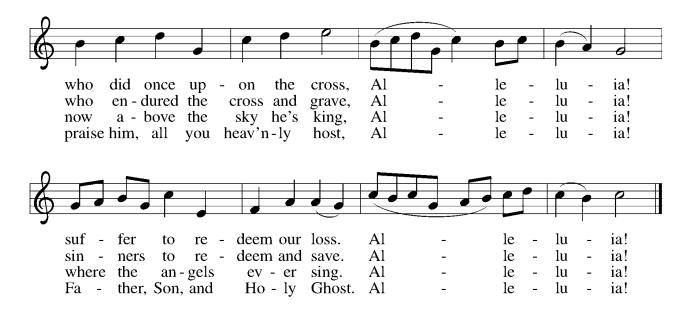
P: Alleluia, Christ is risen. All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Call to Worship Hymn: ELW #365 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"









Service of the Lenten Candles

Candle Service Devotion for this Easter Sunday

RE-LIGHTING OF ALL CANDLES and THE CHRIST CANDLE

P: Alleluia, Christ is risen. All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Lenten Choral Introit -



Let us stand, as you are able, and prepare our hearts for worship.

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING for Baptism Confession

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.** Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

As we give thanks for our baptism let us stand and confess our sins:

P: Risen Christ,

C: Wash away our sin and all which separates us from you.

Assurance of God's Love

Gathering Hymn: ELW #364 "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"



- 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save. Jesus' redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won." Refrain:
- 5 Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be.
 Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. Refrain:

Prayer of the Day

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

WORD

Hear the 1st Reading: Acts 10:34 - 43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of Wisdom, Word of God. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Read Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 responsively by verse

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.²Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever." ¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation. ¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly! ¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!" ¹⁷I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. ¹శћ LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.¹¹Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰⁴This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter." ²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hear the 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and he was buried, and he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ¹Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ³Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ³For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹0But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of Wisdom, Word of God. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the Gospel

The Gospel Acclamation for Lent: ELW #151



The Gospel according to John:



John 20:1-18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed: 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, saving he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb: 12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples. "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord:



Sermon: "Early on a Sunday"

P: Alleluia, Christ is risen. All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Reflection Hymn: "Early on a Sunday"

**to the tune "Standing on the Promises



Vs 1 Ear - ly on a Sun - day, wo - men went to weep. At the tomb of Vs 2 Death has been de - fea - ted, with it's pain and strife; God has open-ed Vs 3 Ev - ery week we ce - le - brate y our Eas - ter Day. As we come to



Je - sus, for their pain was deep. All their hopes were shattered, they had wide for us e - ter - nal life. God has gi - ven Christians that new Wor - ship You and sing and pray. We re - call the emp - ty tomb and



lost their friend, Till they heard: his death was not the end! life to share, Brin- ging love and jus - tice ev - ery where. **Christ is** know your grace. And your liv - ing pre - sence in this place.



ri - sen! Shout your al - le - lu - ias and go share the good news



Love and serve him, for God has gi - ven life and hope a - new.

Apostle's Creed ELW #105

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers of the People

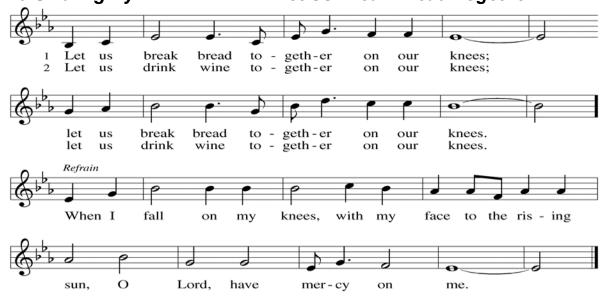
P: Risen Lord, in your mercy, ALL: hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peaceand we say: and also with you.

MEAL

....we thank you for your faithfulness to St. James in sharing your tithes and offerings and allowing us to do God's work with our hands.

Bread & Wine and Our Gifts are brought forward...... while we sing The Offering Hymn: ELW #471 "Let Us Break Bread Together"



Offering Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

Table Setting Hymn: ELW #592 "Eat This Bread"

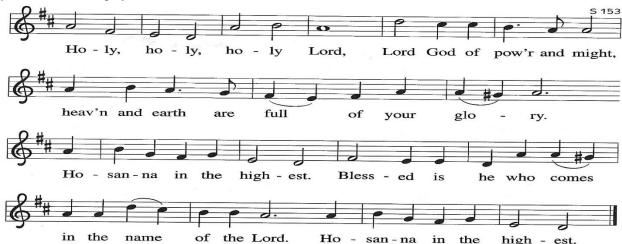


Great Thanksgiving ELW #153

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 our thanks and praise**we join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

The 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, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

Mystery of our Faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Invitation to Communion

In this meal of bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present forgiving sin, reconciling us to God and one another, and giving new life. Christ is host. Christ is the one who invites us to the table even while it is properly understood as the meal of the baptized. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

As communion is distributed, you are invited to sing the following hymns:

ELW #369 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!"



ELW #377 "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"



ELW #382 "Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al le lu ia! Ris en our vic to rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev-er death or hell shall us en thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead! through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more; now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day. We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears; death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now, See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground; All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears. an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow. Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found. hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

ELW #389 "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"



die. prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er place and here now, touch - ing time. and and ev 'ry loves the and lives, where ven hope has died. more, e life. the truth, re - vealed in Je sus, freed for all. _ cean ring with joy, with jus tice, love, and praise.

Prayer after Communion.... and we say: Amen.

SENDING

Benediction: and then we say: Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW #376 "Thine is the Glory"

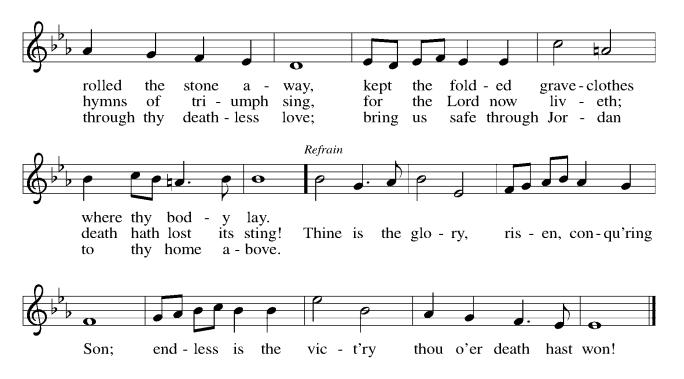


No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! greets thee, scat-ters fear and gloom; out thee; aid us in our strife;

An - gels in bright rai - ment let his church with glad - ness make us more than con - qu'rors,



Dismissal: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Music Published by Permission, CCLI #11445215

Worship Service recorded by Permission, CSPL #168651





Important Announcement:

<u>1st Official Notice</u> (according to our By-laws) of our upcoming Special Congregational Meeting for St. James – Sunday, April 14th, 2024, immediately after our worship service.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...

For those hospitalized, in nursing homes and homebound, and those battling cancer or other illnesses.

We offer new prayers for:

Vi Ekle who will get to go home from the hospital today. She is still a little weak but is feeling much better. She is excited to be at home and will be able to watch the "parade" in front of her house during the detour!!

Jim Dicky who is now on hospice. God of compassion, give Your peace to Jim during this part of his journey and give strength, comfort and peace to Sally, Shanta & Anju as they give love and care to Jim. Be with his hospice team and their many friends, as they offer comfort and support. Amen.

We offer continued prayers for:

Your healing and wisdom Lord for Pat Lashley; Pastor Tonia; Joy & Larry Goehner; Merridy Gauthier; LaNita Maurer; Steve Cowan; Ken & Pete Hegg; Gary Lofing and Bonny Rouse;

Those living with cancer: Kaci Thomason; Brian Wanner; Bob Rouane; Aracelii Enano; Ashley Foster; Jenny Hansen Cheff; Shane Fouhy and Sandy Yoder's daughter in law, Lola.

The children of the world, this is a big request, but God is big. Children who are food & home insecure. Victims of violence and of natural disasters.

Pray for all of those who serve in our military, domestically & overseas, their spouses and children.

Reminder:

A WONDERFUL PROJECT FOR LENT

Please: Turn in your Piggy Bank or your zip-lock baggie full of coins, green or a check!

Bless you for giving to the "Good Gifts" cause. St. James has always designated your gift for the purchase of farm animals for a family, sponsoring a child in school and sponsoring a woman in gardening classes. Your coin makes a difference. Jesus said, "Feed my sheep". You are feeding God's people.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday April 7th, 2024



Leanne Sekora and Sheri Luepke INVITES your family and/or your "pew neighbor" to STAY after worship to enjoy fellowship & laughter!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING

March 2024 Altar Guild: Kim Behrent

April 2024 Altar Guild: Sheri Luepke Happy Birthday Sheri on this Easter Sunday!



March 2024 Cleaner(s): Pete & Amber Lofing and Betty Ames

April 2024 Cleaner(s): Greg & Kristi Lofing and Bill & Rae Ellen Strickland

March 2024 Reader(s): Randy or KayDel Shelton

April 2024 Reader(s):

March 31st,2024 Communion Helper(s):

Thank you, Kim Behrent & Bill Strickland for serving communion last Sunday.

March 31st,2024 Usher(s):

Thank you, Rae Ellen Strickland for helping to usher last Sunday

March 31st, 2024 Gatekeeper(s): Mina Morse & Leslie Mullin April 7th,2024 Gate Keepers: Leanne Sekora & Brian Luepke

2024 Musician(s): Marge Sunvold & Betty Ames

OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE at ST. JAMES......

Would you consider helping each Sunday with Ushering,

being the **Reader**, assisting during Communion w/Pastor Tonia, being a member on the Altar Guild,

offering to Clean our church (with another family) one or two times per year?

If you are interested in helping, please let Pastor Tonia or Bill S. know!! More detailed information on our opportunities may be found on our website: www.lutheranchurchcolumbusmt.org Click on the "Serve With Us" tab. Thanks!



Rae Ellen Strickland 4/1; Patty Sundberg 4/7; Joe Morse 4/15; Don Herzog 4/16;



Happy APRIL Anniversary

Morgan and Lian Radford 4/27



**If we have your email, Check your inbox for the monthly ecard! Other members, check your mailbox!

Thank you for your prayers and generosity. May the Lord bless you and give you peace. "Your faith in God's mission for St. James is unshakeable."

FOR YOUR REVIEW AND PRAYER......

March 3rd Offering gratefully received: \$1,355.00 March 10th Offering gratefully received: \$ 585.00 March 17th Offering gratefully received: \$4,220.00 March 24th Offering gratefully received: \$1,065.00 Total received so far this month \$7,225.00

Continued reminder of how to give your monthly tithe or offering to your church.....

Mail your offering to the church; Take your offering to the parsonage; Auto pay thru your bank and Tithe.ly.

Tithe.ly (click on this "Tithe.ly" link – takes you directly to St. James' account to sign-up)

Remember that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES TO REFLECT GOD'S LOVE TO EACH OTHER AND TO OUR NEIGHBORS

MORE Community Events for St. James:

- Every Monday we are invited to join:
 - ~The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-10am.
 - ~ The Columbus Senior Center exercise class at 10:30am
- Every Tuesday we are invited to attend:
 - ~ The Women's Adult Group at the Stillwater Youth Center at 9:30am and/or 7:00pm for an inductive study on Revelation
- Every Wednesday we are invited to join:
 - ~ Social Hour at the Columbus Senior Center at 9:30am
 - ~ The Stillwater Youth Center for coffee and visiting from 8-10am
- Every Thursday we are invited to join:
 - ~ The Columbus Senior Center exercise class at 10:30am
 - ~ A Community Co-ed Yoga Class at 5:45pm @ the Little Stone Church starting March 7th.

For more Library information, see the "Table Posters" at St. James.



Join the fun each week.....

STORYTIME - EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 10AM



Crochet and Knit club Every Saturday from 10 - 11:30am



UPCOMING 2024 DATES:

April 2nd – Chorale Practice @ Congregational Church in Absarokee 6pm