

# *WELCOME to St. James Lutheran Church*

**For the “Love of One Another” at St. James, we will continue to take every reasonable precaution to protect those who worship in-church each Sunday by honoring the 3 W’s.....**

**“WATCH” our physical distancing**

**“WEAR” our masks properly and for the entire service**

**“WASH” and/or sanitize our hands**

***Please, if you do not feel comfortable to attend in person, you have the opportunity to watch FB Live or a recorded version later in the day.***

***Blessings to all of you, whether you are joining us in the house of God, joining us by watching the FB Live service or in spirit and prayer.***

*We ask you to, if you wish.....*

**PRINT THE ATTACHED BULLETIN.....**

***to follow along with Sunday’s Service.***

***As you are worshipping from home,  
you are invited to set aside a sacred space for worship.  
Light a candle and set out your bread and wine.***



***Worship Service - Streaming live @ 9:30am or watch later!***  
***[FB Search: Saint James Lutheran Church of Columbus, Montana](#)***

***Coming this week and beyond....***

- Bible Study – March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm
- Watch Pastor Tonia’s a “Word on Wednesday” live on FB March 10<sup>th</sup> or recorded on our FB Page or catch up on past letters you may have missed attached to the February / March weekly preparing for worship email.
- Watch the **recorded** Wednesday Lenten Service Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup> on our FB Page or on a link to Vimeo.

*(your bulletin and link to Vimeo will be emailed before Wednesday’s service)*

***Remember.....***

We will **NOT** be gathering for in-person **weekly** Wednesday Lenten Services at the church

# St. James Lutheran Church

205 E 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N. Columbus, MT 59019  
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher (406) 656-9557  
Email: [toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com](mailto:toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com)

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 –  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent



*Our Mission: "We worship together, grow in faith,  
share our faith and serve with the love of God"*

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Ps 122:1*

## Welcome

## Announcements & Opportunities for Serving

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

## GATHERING

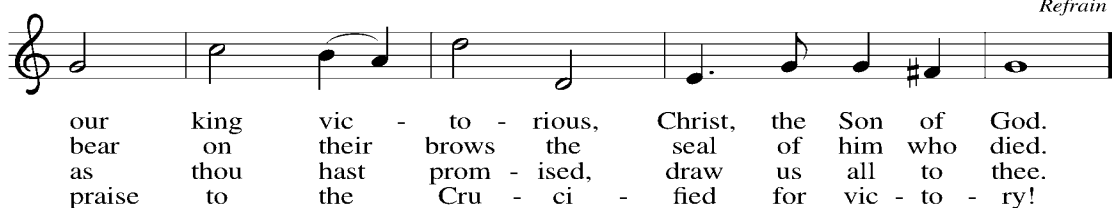
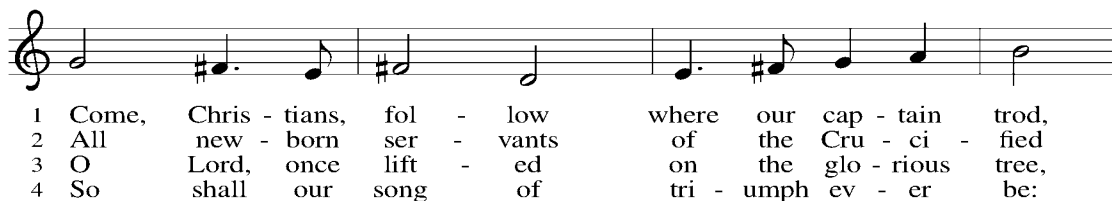
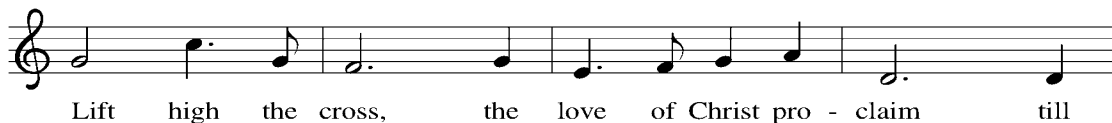
### Confession & Forgiveness

Fountain of living water, **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

**Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

### Assurance of God's Love

### Gathering Hymn: "Lift High the Cross"



### **Prayer of the Day:**

**O Holy God, You have redeemed us from slavery to sin, evil and ourselves. Now help us discern the ways in which You give us boundaries and blessings so we may learn to fear and love you with our whole hearts and love our neighbors as ourselves. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **Hear the 1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. <sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything which belongs to your neighbor.

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

### **Hear Psalm 19**

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork. <sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another. <sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard, <sup>4</sup>their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun. <sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course. <sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. <sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple. <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. <sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults. <sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense. <sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

### **Hear the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to John: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Hear the Gospel: John 2:13-22**

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their

tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

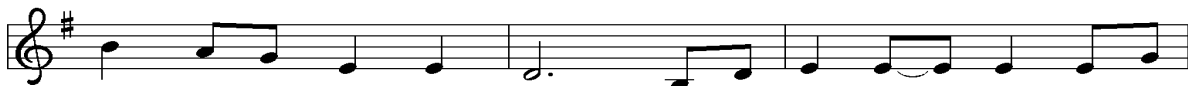
The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: "Sweeter Than Honey"**

**Hymn for Reflection: "Canticle of the Turning"**



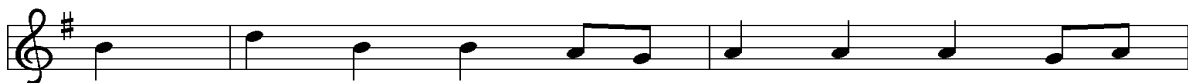
1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

### ***Apostle's Creed***

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:***

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

### ***Passing of the Peace***

## **MEAL**

*....we thank you for your faithful generosity to St. James in sharing your tithes and offerings which allows us to do God's work with our hands.*

### ***Offering Prayer***

*Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, so we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

### ***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 our thanks and praise**

*....we join their unending hymn:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### ***Words of Institution***

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

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

### ***Invitation to Communion***

*Communion will look a little different during our season of Covid-19. It will still be the Lord's supper.*

*We will partake the body of Christ with Pastor.*

*We will partake the blood of Christ with Pastor.*

***Prayer after Communion.....***

*and we say: **Amen***

## **SENDING**

***Blessing.....*** *and we say: **Amen.***

**Sending Hymn: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"**



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - dianc e stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

**Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Share the good news as you **reflect the Light of God.**

*Music Published by Permission, CCLI #11445215  
Worship Service recorded by Permission, CSPL #168651*

***Mission Offering for March 2021 benefits...  
The Columbus Senior Center***

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING**

March 2021 Altar Guild: Denise Cowan

March 2021 Cleaner(s): Steve & Denise Cowan and Betty Ames

March Gate Keepers: *Donna Zeigler, Carrie Williams, Steve & Denise Cowan and  
Larry & Joy Goehner*

Musician(s): Marge Sunvold and Betty Ames

For new prayer requests, please contact **Judy Bjorkman** at 321-2988, text or call or by email at [jdbjorkman@hotmail.com](mailto:jdbjorkman@hotmail.com)

## **PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...**

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

### ***We offer continued prayers for:***

Your continued healing God for Leslie's parents; Roger Mullin and Gary Lofing.

We lift up those living with cancer: Barb Potzman; Delbert Goehner; Dennis Gauthier; Arvid Barnam, Les Lane and Jim Wilson

*All countries affected by the Coronavirus/Cofid-19 as they struggle to contain it and treat those who have contracted it. Please guide them; heal those who are afflicted with the virus; watch over their doctors, nurses and first responders; and halt its spread.*

**Please pray for all of those who serve in our military domestically and overseas,  
As well as their spouses and children at home.**

*"Your faith in God's mission for St. James is unshakeable."*

*Thank you for your prayers and generosity.*

*May the Lord bless you and give you peace.*

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

1. Mail your offering to the church at St. James Lutheran Church, PO Box 356, Columbus, MT, 59019
2. Take your envelope offering to Pastor Tonia's parsonage and put in the designated box on her front porch.
3. Stop in at your bank and arrange a monthly auto pay transaction.
4. Give online through **Tithe.ly**, a giving app endorsed by the ELCA. Each transaction carries a small fee. Your gift is safe / secure and goes directly to our church or ministry. Plus, you'll be able to track all your gifts, setup recurring, and more!

[Tithe.ly](#) **(click on this blue "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).*

*Would you like the opportunity to serve on  
St. James' church council?*

Your council is accepting nominations for yourself or  
for the name of another member to serve.

Please let a council member or Pastor Tonia know of your interest.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Pastor Tonia Fisher [toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com](mailto:toniafisherclarkmt@gmail.com)**

**Church Council Members**

**Betty Ames, President [bytames@yahoo.com](mailto:bytames@yahoo.com)**

**Steven Cowan, Vice-President [denisecowan48@yahoo.com](mailto:denisecowan48@yahoo.com)**

**Joy Goehner; Brian Luepke; Carrie Williams; Donna Zeigler**

**Church Financial Team:**

**Amber Lofing, Financial Treasurer & interim Financial / Council Secretary**

**\*\*See your church directory or website for all council members phone #'s and emails**

*Simple  
Reminder...*

There is  
**NO STORM** that God  
won't carry you  
through.

**NO BRIDGE** that God  
won't help you cross.

**NO BATTLE** that God  
won't help you win.

*trust* **GOD**  
and Never give up.

Amen