

April 6, 2025

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent [Questioning of the Confirmands] Color-PURPLE [Sorrow, repentance, and royalty]  
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@ gmail.com  
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**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR**

The Elder-in-Charge – Jerry Falke  
The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Organist – Daniel Krause

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON**

The Elder-in-Charge – David Clifford

The Organist – Daniel Krause

The Acolyte – Tate Fritsch

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Finance Board – Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay Curtis Yurk,  
Victor Yurk

The Altar Guild – Connie Boriack, Sandra Cass

The Flowers – To the glory of God by Egor and Peggy Raines in honor of their 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary tomorrow (7).

**VISITORS** - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bid you welcome. May the Holy Spirit bless you, together with us, as we give our attention to the Word of God this morning. \*\*\* Please sign the GUEST REGISTER [please also include your address] in the NARTHEX as you leave the church.

**HOLY COMMUNION STATEMENT AND POLICY:** It is our expressed belief, confidence and joy that the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, present under the bread and wine, are distributed in the Lord's Supper. All who commune at His altar are to be in complete confessional agreement with the other communicants. This practice of Closed Communion is an evangelical expression of our love for the communicant and for Christ's Holy Supper. In accordance with the Word of God in 1 Corinthians 1:10; 11:27-29, we only permit members of this congregation, as well as members of fellow Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod congregations, to commune today. If your membership is with a different faith group, so that you have a belief which differs from our belief and confession on Holy Communion, then we kindly ask you in love to refrain from communing today and first speak with Pastor or an Elder. Members of our congregation who wish to commune are asked to sign the communion registration sheet in the Narthex.

**OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING**

**THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION - PAGE 15 IN THE FRONT OF THE HYMNAL.**

(Our visitors are asked to please read and honor our communion statement above.)

**SILENT PRAYER** upon entering the nave: Loving heavenly Father! I have come to hear Your Holy Word that makes the soul righteous. So then, put Your Holy Spirit in my heart that I may accept Your Gospel with awe and truly believe it. Amen.

\*\*\*THE QUESTIONING OF OUR CONFIRMANDS (at St. James)...Tatum Faye Fritsch, Jayden Ray Glover, and Lois-Ann Victoria Iselt!

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**SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS –  
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Jesus Is Our Redemption** In the temple Jesus said, “*If anyone keeps My Word, he will never see death.*” (*John 8:51*) For Jesus came to taste death for us – to drink the cup of suffering to the dregs in order that we might be released from its power. His Word has delivered us from death’s sting and its eternal judgment. Christ is our Great High Priest, Who entered the Most Holy Place and with His own blood obtained everlasting redemption for His people. (*Hebrews 9:11-15*) He is before Abraham and yet is his Descendant. He is the promised Son Who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice, Who is bound and laid upon the altar of the cross. He is the ram Who is offered in our place, Who is willingly caught in the thicket of our sin, and Who wears the crown of thorns upon His head. (*Genesis 22:1-14*) Though dishonored by the sons of the devil, Jesus is vindicated by the Father through the cross. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

**A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS**

*Summary: The Pharisees held themselves to be judges over the teaching of Jesus. Today many religious leaders do the same. We, according to our Lutheran Confessions in the Book of Concord, hold God’s Word as judge over such false teachers.*

The only rule and norm according to which all teachings and teachers should be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament. They are the only judge, rule, and norm. According to them, all teachings shall and must be discerned and judged to see whether they are good or evil, right or wrong.

After the time of the apostles, false teachers arose. Therefore, symbols, or concise confessions of faith, were written against heretics in the early Church. These symbols were regarded as the unanimous, universal Christian faith and confession of the orthodox and true Church. They are the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. We pledge ourselves to these symbols, rejecting all heresies and teachings that have been introduced into God’s Church against them.

Schisms in matters of faith have also happened in our time. Therefore, we regard as the unanimous consensus and declaration of our Christian faith and confession – especially against the papacy and its false worship, idolatry and against other sects – the *Unaltered Augsburg Confession and its Apology*, the *Smalcald Articles*, the *Small and Large Catechisms*, the *Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope* and the *Formula of Concord*. Whatever is contrary to these confessions is to be rejected and condemned, as opposed to the unanimous declaration of our faith. (*Epitome of the Formula of Concord, Summary*)

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† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN:** ♪ 342

**PREPATORY SERVICE OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION & SERVICE OF THE WORD  
[PAGE 15 TO 23, FRONT OF HYMNAL]**

**INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)**

**PASTOR:** Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people,

**CONGREGATION:** deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!

**P:** For You are the God in Whom I take refuge.

**C:** Send me Your light and Your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!

**P:** Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding Joy,

**C:** and I will praise You with the lyre, O God, my God.

**P:** Why are you downcast, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

**C:** **Hope in God; for I shall praise Him again, my Salvation and my God.** (*Psalm 43:1-2a; 3-5*)

♪ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P:** O Lord God, Your beloved Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, says, “Whoever keeps My Word will never see death.” We beseech You to send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that, truly knowing and believing in Your Son, we may trust His Word, keep it in all faithfulness, depend on it with our whole heart and be comforted by it in our last hour before entering into everlasting life; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** ♪ **Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – GENESIS 22:1-14**

**P:** <sup>22:1</sup> After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup> He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” <sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup> And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So both of them went together.

<sup>9</sup> When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup> But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>12</sup> He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” <sup>13</sup> And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide;” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSIVE READING OF THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE HALF-PAGE INSERT)**

#### **EPISTLE LESSON – HEBREWS 9:11-15**

**P:** <sup>9:11</sup> But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup> He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

#### **GOSPEL LESSON – JOHN 8:37-59**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:** ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!**


**P:** [Jesus said:] <sup>8:37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill Me because My Word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

<sup>39</sup>They answered Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did,<sup>40</sup> but now you seek to kill Me, a man Who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.”<sup>41</sup> You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father – even God.”<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of My own accord, but He sent me.”<sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear My Word.”<sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”<sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.”<sup>46</sup> Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?<sup>47</sup> Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

<sup>48</sup>The Jews answered Him, “Are we not right in saying that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

<sup>49</sup>Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.”<sup>50</sup> Yet I do not seek My own glory; there is One Who seeks it, and He is the judge.”<sup>51</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My Word, he will never see death.”<sup>52</sup> The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet You say, ‘If anyone keeps My Word, he will never taste death.’”<sup>53</sup> Are You greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make Yourself out to be?”<sup>54</sup> Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing. It is my Father Who glorifies me, of Whom you say, ‘He is our God.’”<sup>55</sup> But you have not known Him. I know Him. If I were to say that I do not know Him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and I keep His Word.”<sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad.”<sup>57</sup> So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”<sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”<sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:**  Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

**NICENE CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 22]**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**  140

**HOLY TRINITY: SERMON (SEE FULL-PAGE INSERT)**

**ST. JAMES: CATECHETICAL QUESTIONING OF CONFIRMANDS TATUM FRITSCH, JAYDEN GLOVER AND LOIS-ANN ISELT & EXHORTATION OF THE CONFIRMANDS (SEE FULL-PAGE INSERT)**

**OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 22-23]**

**OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the whole Church of Christ on earth, that God, Who has received His Son again into the more perfect tent of heaven, would give peace in the knowledge that our consciences are purified and our eternal inheritance is assured, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, that she may believe and love without fear; that she would be supplied with able, fearless and caring pastors; and for faithful fathers and those who teach and pray in every Christian household, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For President Trump; for Governor Abbott, and for all civil authorities, that our nation would be preserved in peace and all Christians be allowed to live quiet and peaceable lives in godliness and honesty, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all faithful souls in turmoil, that they would receive the vindication of God, trust in the light of His truth and find joy in Him despite all sorrows, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

[St. James] For our Sunday school students, week day school students and Catechism students preparing for confirmation, that they would grow in faith and love toward God. And for all who teach the Holy Scriptures to them, that they would be faithful witnesses to the love and salvation of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who commune, that God would prepare our hearts and give us faith in Christ, our High Priest and Mediator; and that we would therefore be worthy to eat His body and drink His blood, going in full confidence to the altar of God, to our exceeding joy, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the Holy Spirit and the communion of the saints, that God would raise us up from dry and weary despair to be strong in faith, bold in witness, holy in life and steadfast in hope, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, God almighty, through Your Son You have kept the promise of the ages and have rescued us from sin. You have raised up the dry bones of a people captive to death and made us alive in Christ forever. Sustain us in this hope, that we may endure the tests, trials and troubles of this life and be ready when our Savior comes again in His glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR [PAGES 24-31]**

**PROPER PREFACE (LORD’S SUPPER OPENING PRAYER) FOR LENT**

**P:** It is truly, good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again, and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** ♪ 163, 153 & 149

**POST-COMMUNION RESPONSORY FOR LENT**

**P:** As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup:

**C: Ye do show the Lord’s death till He comes.** (*1 Corinthians 11:26*)

**CLOSING HYMN:** ♪ 142:1-3, 6

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

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OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	41	--	13	\$6,073.00
St. James	42	--	4 7	\$1,164.25

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	19,868.00				
Actual	35,797.00		1,975.00		13
Last Week	3,455.00		100.00	25.00	

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	32,676.00			32,676.00	
Actual	23,225.25	165.00	60.00	23,450.25	13
Last Week	1,801.00			1,801.00	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY 10:30AM: Turkey and Dressing Dinner (Holy Trinity)  
 \*The Questioning of our Confirmands (at St. James)

TUESDAY 9:00AM: Pastor’s Circuit Meeting  
 6:30PM: Ladies Aid (Holy Trinity)

WEDNESDAY

9:00AM: LWML (St. James)

3:40PM: Week Day School

7:00PM: Joint Lenten Vespers (at St. James)

THURSDAY

10:00AM: Joint Bible Study (at St. James)

FRIDAY

+Pastor's Day Off

NEXT SUNDAY

\*Palm/Passion Sunday will be celebrated at both Holy Trinity and St. James and The Rite of Confirmation at St. James

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

+++**We remember in our prayers:...**at Holy Trinity...*Charles Winkler, Frank Newkirk, Eldor Brade, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;*...at St. James...*Charles Hartfiel, Della Biehle, Bernice Lay, Darwin Drosche, Lillie Mae Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Gloria Evans* [mother-in-law of Randall Sullivan (St. James)], *Stefanie Raines* [wife of Lucas Raines (St. James)], *Diane Sommers* [sister of Janet Frosch (St. James)], *Zachary Hartfiel* [nephew of Charles Hartfiel], *Tim Faske* [relative and friend of St. James members], *JoAnne Meyer* [mother of Pastor Meyer], *Carole Heller* [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)], and *all of our sick and shut-ins*.

\*\*\***TURKEY AND DRESSING**...Holy Trinity will be sponsoring their annual Turkey and Dressing Dinner **TODAY**, April 6<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:30am at their parish hall with drive thru serving only! Each dinner will be \$13.00. Proceeds will be used for Church and Parish Hall improvements.

+++**Thank you:** Thanks to everyone who contributed to the St. James sock and underwear drive! We collected a good number of items and dropped them off at Serbin for Orphan Grain Train to pick up. Thank you for making this possible!!!

\*\*\*Holy Trinity...would like to once again express their **THANKS** to Clay Carter Plumbing for their recent donated work to our church!

+++**Easter Lilies**...we would appreciate your donation of an Easter lily (or more) for our upcoming Easter services! **At Holy Trinity**...please bring yours anytime following the Good Friday service. **At St. James**...orders will be taken with each Easter lily being \$15.75. Please find the order form included in the bulletin, fill it out, and return it with payment to either Peggy Raines or Sandra Lay by April 18. Make checks payable to Lexington Country Greenhouse.

\*\*\***HOLY TRINITY**...the Building Restoration Committee will **NOT** meet today due to the Turkey Dinner!

+++**Easter Breakfast:** St. James LWML will be hosting Easter breakfast following the sunrise service. We are in need of donations for pastries and baked goods to help make the breakfast a success. Please drop off your donations by Easter morning. Thank you for your help!

\*\*\***Noodle Making and Fundraiser:** St. James LWML expresses their **THANKS** to everyone who donated flour/eggs, helped, and purchased noodles!!! Thank you for your support!

+++**St. James**...we have Confirmation and Easter cards on display on the table in the hallway, as well as a variety of cards available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!

\*\*\***SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS AND THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**...Our Sunday morning Bible study prior to the Divine Service – for the season of Lent – will take a look at how our Lord Jesus' hands served us in His earthly ministry all the way to the cross. It is entitled "The Hand of the Lord." For our Thursday morning Bible study, we will be journeying through the Book of Acts.

+++Devotional book available: Copies are available in the office of Ruth Meyer's "**Truth Notes.**"

This devotional is based on her past blog post and point to God's timeless truths in a changing world. Books are \$15 each. See either Sandra Lay or Ruth Meyer to purchase yours!

\*\*\***QUILTING**...St. James LWML will be quilting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9-12!!!

+++**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Frank Newkirk, 8; Stacey Stampert, 9; Betty Cain, 10;...St. James-Tatum Fritsch, today; Kadrinia Iselt, today; Tanner Meuth, 7; Rachel Wuensche, 7; Jordon Exner, 8; Holt Brockenbush, 10; Michael Norment, 11.

\*\*\***ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Dale & Kimmie Schneider, today; Andrew & Brittany Schubert, today; Tracy & Crystal Iselt, 10;...St. James-Egor & Peggy Raines, 7; B. J. & Erin Kirkpatrick, 10; Adam & Laurie Spralding, 11.