

**St. James-St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**

119-15 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue

South Ozone Park, NY 11420

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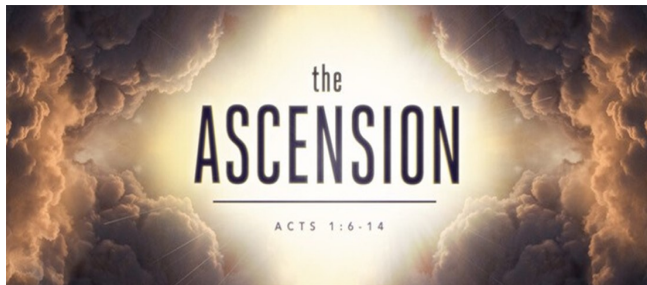


**We Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am**

**Visit us at [SouthOzoneParkChurch.org](http://SouthOzoneParkChurch.org)**

**The Messenger**

*May 2023 Edition*



*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith (Galatians 6: 9-10).*

Thomas Dorsey (1899-1993) once wrote: "Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn." Does this describe your state of being?

I am tired: tired of wars and rumors of war; tired of threats of an economic recession and terrorism; tired of illness and trials; tired of death. I know I am not alone. Our city, nation and world has experienced much too much suffering these last few months. Just watching the news is emotionally draining, and many still feel alone and isolated. Others grieve or remain afraid.

Yet if we focus too much on this very real suffering and evil, is it any wonder we grow tired? It seems too much for us, because it is! We are not God, able to work healing, life-giving miracles at will. As frail, mortal beings, we are not able to stand alone. So what can we do?

At such difficult times, we cannot give up. We ought to find comfort, strength and motivation in a promise — something not yet a reality, but definitely coming. We are told there will be a day with no more death, mourning, crying or pain. All will be made new. (Rev. 21:4-5)

Oh, that day is not here yet, but Christ's ascension into heaven foreshadows his certain return. Although Jesus isn't with us in body, it is

Jesus himself who promises us, "I am with you always." Granted much stands against us, yet our God is for us and standing with us. We are already conquerors sharing in Christ's victory over sin, death and the devil no matter how we might feel about it.

This promise is our inheritance and claims us as Christ's people — a people of living faith, hope and love. It turns our eyes to look beyond our own suffering and fears toward how we are called to help answer such pain and injustice in the world. Indeed, in Jesus' physical absence, we serve as his body. Our feet are those that bring his good news to dark places. Our hands are those that bring his healing. Our shared ministries are used to create miracles and give life in Jesus name.

Agreed that we are not God, but we are God's people. At home or away, at work, school or vacation, even in places of emergency, we remain the church — together with Jesus and never alone. When people look to the hills for help, it might just be us whom Jesus has sent to be his living answer to their cries for help.

So, let us rest when needed, mourn if we must, support one another, pray and wait with patience, but never give up. There will be a day when there will be no more broken hearts. Until then, Jesus asks us as his body to surrender our hearts to his own — trusting in his promises; fulfilling his Father's will; freed to love God and our neighbor as his Spirit leads us with all that we are, wherever we might be, whatever might happen. In the face of death, it is time to live.

Just as Jesus came when the time was right, he sends us now to a world in need of his love — a world where we will meet the Risen Christ on our way already waiting to sustain us with his joy and peace. Amen





Part of our mission as a called-out community of believers known as the church is to bring the gospel (the good news of Jesus) to the world. St. James-St. Matthew's has identified a need in our community for food, and a Food Ministry was launched.

In collaboration with Stacey's Pantry, Key Food, and Stop and Shop Supermarkets, we launched this new ministry providing a monthly service —the next program is set for Thursday, **May 25th from 5PM to 6PM**...and Thursday, June 22nd from 5-6PM.



Yes, volunteers are always welcome! What this means is that there is a wonderful opportunity to enrich your lives of service to God and your neighbors. Please contact the Church office either by phone, 718-845-8770, or email [stjstm@aol.com](mailto:stjstm@aol.com) and let us know if you have any resources, be it time, talents, and treasures, to grow this new ministry.



*We need to restock our Food Pantry shelves and are seeking donations of non-perishable cans and packages of food items.*

*Our 2023 Lenten/Easter Project as a church was to restock our shelves so we can continue this vital ministry to the community.*

*We continue this project into summertime!*

*Easter Sunday 2023*



**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**

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**Contact us by Mail:**

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**Church Office Telephone: 718-845-8770**

**Office Email: [stjstm@aol.com](mailto:stjstm@aol.com)**

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