

8 Caden Guilfoyle  
Lauren Yoos  
9 Bruce Rockenfield  
10 Jason Urso  
11 C.J. Harward, III  
13 Debbie Davis  
15 Kelley Carpenter  
16 Don Fowler  
Will Irvin  
Justin Urso  
18 Judy McAnulty  
19 Jakob Craver  
Heather Hughes  
20 Rory Kartheiser  
23 Lauren Irvin  
25 Bub Craver  
Ryan Hardister  
26 Todd Walker  
28 Beth Downs  
Megan Ostrom-Sanders  
29 Bobby Clary  
Barbara Merrell  
Joshua Monk  
30 Renae Rockenfield  
31 Catherine Nivens

**SAINT JAMES STAFF**

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**ADVENT  
DECEMBER 2023**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION  
TEN O'CLOCK**



**ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
104 UNION STREET SOUTH  
PO BOX 684  
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026  
704-786-0166**

## Welcome!

*St. James is a house of prayer where all people can come to know the compassionate heart of Jesus. We are a community of Christians where you can belong before you believe. At St. James the beauty of ancient worship and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us as together we discover the sacred in the heart of our city. Our worship includes ancient and contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home or just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.*

**Newcomers and visitors**, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

**Although there are customary postures** (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

**Children are most welcome in worship** at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building (ages 0-up to and including ages 5)

**First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)** are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

**If you are interested in membership** to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

**Restrooms are available** on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

**Pew Pads** are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

### **St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups**

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at [joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com) @stjamesnc

### The Nativity of our Lord; Sunday, December 24, 2023

8:30pm Choral Music  
9:00pm Holy Communion

### The First Sunday after Christmas, December 31, 2023

10:00am: A Liturgy of Lessons and Carols with the Rite of Holy Baptism

### Recurring December Calendar Events

Sundays 9am	Parish Choir
Sundays 9:30am	Children's Sunday School
Mondays 10:30am	Quilting
Mondays 6:30pm	Bible Study
Mondays 6:30pm	Scouts
Wednesdays, 5:30 pm	(December 6 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> ) Wednesday Night Together
Wednesdays 6pm	Bella Voce
Wednesdays 7pm	Parish Choir
Thursdays 6pm	Handbells

### One Time December Events

Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am	Mary Magdalene Circle
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> @ 5pm	Executive Committee
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> from 8-Noon	Amazing Grace Advocacy Event
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> @ Noon	Lively Leisure's
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> @ 6pm	Council Dinner / Meeting
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> from 8am-8pm	BBBS Gift Shop
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am	Leah's Hope Trailer
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> @ 5:30	Mission Fund Committee
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> 4-8pm	Flex Room Reserved

### December Birthdays

2	<b>Betsy Ballard</b>
	<b>Al Brown, Jr.</b>
3	<b>Christine Ruff</b>
4	<b>Lauren Hoadley</b>
	<b>Margaret Pruette</b>
6	<b>Marshall Cromer</b>
	<b>Joyce Osborne</b>

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER IS SAID.

- A Let us pray,  
A O God, in this meal we have been given a foretaste of the feast that is to come.  
Help us always to be alert to your gifts in our midst; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
C **Amen**

*Silence for reflection.*



## THE BENEDICTION IS RECEIVED.

- P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
C **Amen**

THE SENDING HYMN IS SUNG. (*Sung from the hymnal; see insert or pew board*)

## THE DISMISSAL IS PRONOUNCED.

- P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

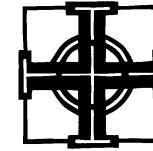
## Closing Voluntary



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## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### Gathering



### Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome

### Opening Voluntary

*Please stand.*

## THE INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
C **Amen**

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,  
C **we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P Our indifference toward your coming,  
C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our desire to control time and seasons,  
C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our failure to be alert to signs of your presence in our midst,  
C **we confess to you, Lord.**

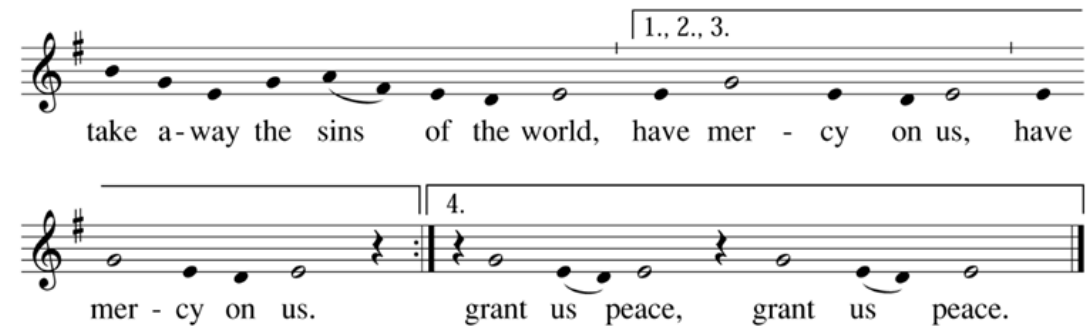
P Our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our injustices toward people you came to save,  
C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

**THE ENTRANCE HYMN IS SUNG.** *(Sung from the hymnal; see insert or pew board)*



### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

*-Luther's Small Catechism Part V*

*Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.*

*Please stand.*

### **THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING IS OFFERED.**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

might- y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

**THE LORD'S PRAYER IS SAID.**

P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

*Please sit.*

**THE AGNUS DEI IS SUNG.**

*On December 10<sup>th</sup>, please sing verse two.  
On December 17<sup>th</sup>, please sing verse three.  
On December 24<sup>th</sup>, please sing verse four.*

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:  
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you  
3. Key of Da - vid and Day-spring from on high:  
4. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

**THE APOSTOLIC GREETING IS SHARED**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
C **And also with you.**

**THE KYRIE**

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.  
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
C Lord, have mer - cy.  
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
C Lord, have mer - cy.  
A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men

**THE ADVENT WREATH IS LIT**

P Let us pray . . . whose day draws near.

C Amen.

*As the Advent Wreath is lit the congregation sings, "Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel." On the First Sunday in Advent one candle is lit and one verse is sung. For the following weeks of Advent one more candle is lit and one more verse is sung.*

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em-man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive  
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on  
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa-tan's  
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save  
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re - joice!  
 and death's dark shad-ows put to flight.

Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo -  
 ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est,  
 ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name  
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est, ho - san - na in the  
 high - est.

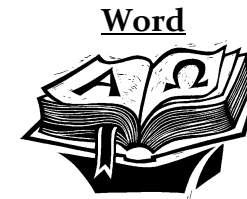
P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY IS SAID

P Let us pray . . . (A brief silence is kept before the prayer.)  
 C Amen.

*Please sit.*



### THE FIRST and SECOND LESSONS ARE READ

*See insert for texts.  
 Each lesson is concluded:*

A The Word of the Lord.  
 C Thanks be to God.

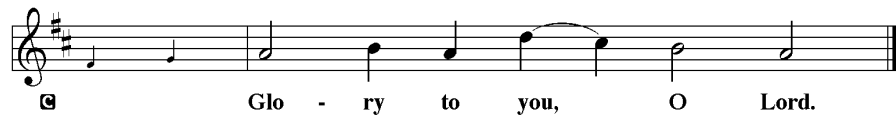
*Please stand.*

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION IS SUNG

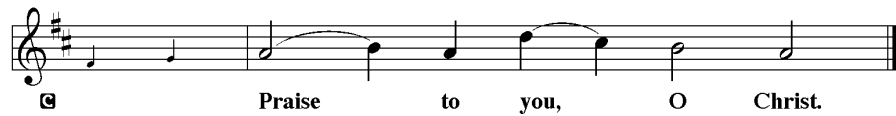
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### THE HOLY GOSPEL IS READ

P The Holy Gospel according to St. \_\_\_\_, the \_\_ chapter.



*After the Gospel is read:*



*Please sit.*

## THE SERMON

*Please stand.*

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY IS SUNG.** *(Sung from the hymnal; see insert or pew board)*

## THE NICENE CREED IS CONFESSED.

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation



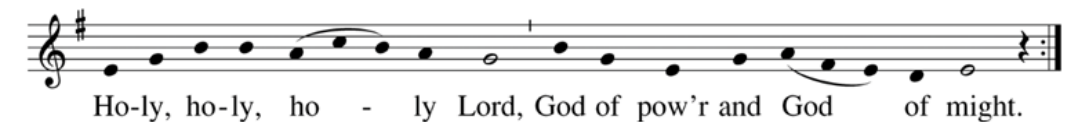
## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER IS SAID.

A Let us pray.  
A Merciful Father,  
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**  
P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS IS SUNG.





C Amen

**THE PEACE IS SHARED**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

*Please sit.*

**THE ANTHEM**

**THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED**

Table



*Please stand.*

**THE OFFERTORY CANTICLE IS SUNG.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
   
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
   
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the

he came down from heaven,  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
 from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
 He has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ARE SAID**

*Please kneel or sit as able.*

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

From all sin, from all error, from all evil;  
 from the cunning assaults of the devil;  
 from an unprepared and evil death:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From war, bloodshed, and violence;  
 from corrupt and unjust government;

from sedition and treason:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From epidemic, drought, and famine,  
from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning and storm;  
and from everlasting death:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your incarnation; by your holy birth:  
**Help us, good Lord.**

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;  
by your agony and bloody sweat;  
by your cross and suffering;  
by your precious death and burial:  
**Help us, good Lord.**

By your glorious resurrection and ascension;  
by the gift of the Holy Spirit:  
**Help us, good Lord.**

In all time of our tribulation;  
in all time of our prosperity;  
in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:  
**Save us, good Lord.**

Though unworthy, we implore you  
**to hear us, Lord our God.**

To rule and govern your holy catholic Church;  
to guide Pastor Bill and all servants of your Church in the true  
knowledge and understanding of your Word and in holiness of life;  
to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense to those who  
would believe; and to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and gone  
astray:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To beat down Satan under our feet;  
to send faithful workers into your harvest;  
to accompany your Word with your Spirit and power;  
to raise up those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and  
to comfort and help the fainthearted and the distressed:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To give to all nations justice and peace;  
to preserve our country from discord and strife;  
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;  
and to bless and guide all our people:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;  
to protect and guide all who travel;  
to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;  
to watch over children and to guide the young;  
to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;  
to bring reconciliation to families in discord;  
to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;  
to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;  
to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows;  
to watch over our loved ones in need; and to have mercy on all your people:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,  
and to reconcile us to them; to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures  
of the earth, the sea, and the air; and graciously to hear our prayers:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your  
mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.