

Saint James Lutheran Church

X

A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

X

"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service"

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 Saint James the beauty of worship ancient and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. together Join us as discover the sacred in the heart of the 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 iust exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 16, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

Welcome!

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.

The First Aid Kit and the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary. 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 ioseph.f.beaslev@gmail.com @stiamesnc

St. James YouTube Channel Go to www.youtube.com search for stiameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

WELCOME: Today we welcome Rev. Sara Ilderton, Assistant to the Bishop | Candidacy and Boundaries, while Pastor Craig is on vacation. Welcome to St. James.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE:

The Call Committee is pleased to announce that we have met with 3 Pastoral Candidates to date. These meetings have been positive, and we are having 2nd interviews with 2 of them. We will update you with any new details as they occur. Thanks your continued $_{
m for}$ support prayers. God's Peace, Frank Irvin

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Howells THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD Contributors:

Benedetto Marcello

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WELCOME

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Sarabande for the Morning of Easter

Herbert Howells

Congregational Responses in **Bold**

(Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

Silence is held for reflection and self-examination

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God.

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(Stand)

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Ye Faithful Raise the Strain

GAUDEAMUS PARITER



- raise the strain Come, you faith - ful. of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
- pris on, the spring of souls to - day: Christ burst his 'Tis has Now the queen of with the splen - dor. sea - sons, bright dav of
- Nei ther could the gates the tomb's dark of death. nor por - tal,
- A1 le lu ia! cry Lord im - mor - tal. now we to our



God has brought forth Is - ra - el from sad - ness, in to joy and from three days' sleep in death has ris - en. as sun a with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy ren - der; to the watch - ers. nor the seal. hold mor - tal: vou as a who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



Pha-raoh's bit - ter loosed from voke A11 win - ter sins. the of our glad Jer - u - sa - lem. comes to but to - day, a - mong your own, A1 le - lu - ia! with the

long and dark. is fly - ing who with true af - fec - tion be - stow - ing you ap - pear. God Fa - ther prais - ing: the



led them with Red Sea wa - ters. un-moist-ened foot through the praise un - dy - ing. from the Light to whom we give laud and wel-comes in un - wea - ried strain Je sus' res - ur - rec - tion! your deep peace, which ev - er - more hu - man know - ing. pass es Al - le - lu - ia! yet to the Spir - it

GREETING

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

And also with you.

rais - ing.





Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

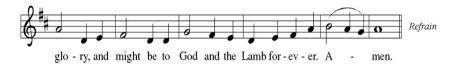








Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,







PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Sit)

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING ACTS 2:14A, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

A reading from Acts, the second chapter.

Deter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], 22"You that 📕 are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—23this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' ²⁹"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' 32This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16 (Read Responsively, Congregation **Bold**)

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- ² I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.'

A feather believes as in the lead the

- ³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.
- ⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.
- ⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
- ⁸I keep the LORD always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.
- ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- ¹¹ You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

SECOND READING 1 PETER 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

A reading from 1st Peter, the first chapter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

TX7 hen it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house Where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said. "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side. I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." 30Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Sara Ilderton



NICENE CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

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 he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to a weary world. Following the women at the tomb, empower us to boldly share your radical love through our words and our work. Today, we pray for Rev. Steve Troisi and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Grace Lutheran Church in Boone, NC. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon all creation. Nourish the earth with sufficient rains. Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Equip our communities' leaders. Give them a spirit of peace and hearts that burn for justice, that their leadership reflects your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Be a healing presence for any isolated by addiction, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or grief especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As you met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, show us your presence along our journeys. Bless our doubts and questions. Provide trusting and safe relationships for all ages, to nurture our connection to you and one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Resurrecting God, you bring us to new life every day. Thank you for blessing us with companions on our faith journey, especially those who now rest in your love. Strengthen us with the eternal peace of your promises. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen

(Stand)

SHARING OF THE PEACE (This can be done verbally with no physical contact, if desired) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church,



LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us; we are bold to pray,

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.

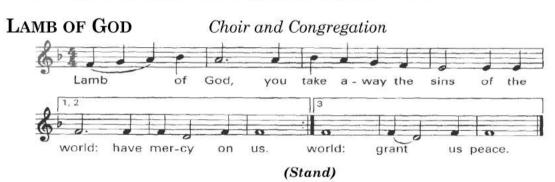
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God! (Sit)

All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion at Saint James. If you desire to receive Communion, please proceed to the altar by way of the center aisle. The ushers will direct you. You will receive a wafer and a cup of wine. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. After communing, please use the outside aisle to return to your seat. Communion will be brought to persons in the pews who are unable to come forward to the altar. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so.



POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen**.

SENDING HYMN

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

(Next Page)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

Benedetto Marcello



SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH PO Box 684 CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026 CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166 WEBSITE www.sinc.net DIRECTORY Members of Saint James......Ministers The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith......Bishop

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tfh1990@vahoo.com Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator krad3700@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Debbie Davis, President Jon Miller, Vice Pres., Mutual Ministry Chris Miller, Secretary, Social Ministry

Kenny Propst, Treasurer Chip Blackwelder, Property

Kim Haberman, Evangelism Samantha Hillegass, Parish Fellowship

Elizabeth Hurley, Worship & Music

Beth Huss, Stewardship Frank Irvin, Finance/Christian Ed Pat McDonough, Youth

Wendell Overby, Property

Dee Pieschel, Social Ministry

OFFICE HOURS M-Th 8:30-4:00 F 8:30-1:00

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email all information to the church office by Wednesday 10:00 am to keith@sinc.net

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK 16-Apr Winstyn Downs

17-Apr Bill Fisher 17-Apr Laura Patterson 17-Apr Kirsten Ziegler

18-Apr Missy Hartman 19-Apr Mallory Horton

19-Apr Jackson Hughes 20-Apr Sondra Bryn

20-Apr George Hartsell 21-Apr Stephen DeGrace 21-Apr Sydney Haberman

21-Apr Ryan Kuly

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 16

9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship

Monday, April 17

6:30 pm Scouts Tuesday, April 18

10:20 am Quilting Group

5:30 pm Mission Fund Wednesday, April 19

7:00 pm Parish Choir

9:30 pm College Online

Thursday, April 20 6:00 pm Handbells

Sunday, April 23

9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship-New

11:15 am Evangelism 2:30 pm Confirmation at St. James

Members

4:30 pm Youth Gathering

OUR STEWARDSHIP Contributions and Receipts for April 9, 2023

\$7,991.41 (\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

PRAYER LIST Grace Lutheran Church.

Boone, NC Martha Summers Patsy Black

Tom Grady Jim Weisel

Tom Ridenhour

Marga Beville Betty Miller

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright Communion Assistant:

Elizabeth Hurley Acolyte/Crucifer: Noah Pittard

Greeter: Gretchen Walker

Ushers: Wendell Overby. Frank Irvin, Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard **Building Supervisor:**

> Samantha Hillegass Videographer:

Keith Sutton