

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. John 14:16

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 we 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 oriust exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

Saint James Lutheran Church

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

X

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 14, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

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 joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com @stjamesnc

St. James YouTube Channel Go to <u>www.youtube.com</u> search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION: We will be celebrating the Rite of Confirmation for four of our youth today during the 10:00 worship service.

GRADUATION SUNDAY: We will be recognizing our high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 4. If you have someone in your family graduating, please let the church office know.

We will be for four of our service.

Department would like your help in letting us know what hymns you like to sing! In an effort to schedule more familiar Lutheran hymns, while keeping liturgically sound and honoring the seasons and themes of the church year, please send an email telling us what hymns you like and feel are most familiar and beloved to you. If you also have a favorite organ piece, appropriate to the liturgy, please let us know that as well. Thank you all for assisting us at making St. James even stronger as we sing praise to God!

-Scott <u>scottfop@gmail.com</u>



WELCOME

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Barbara Kinyon

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)

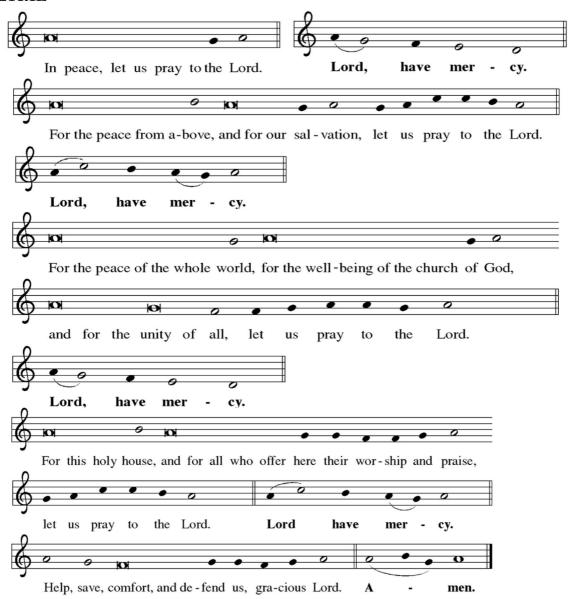


GREETING

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.

KYRIE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

A reading from Acts, the seventeenth chapter.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely lacktriangle religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship. I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said. 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:8-20 (Chanted by Choir)

- ⁸O bless our God, ye people; and make the voice of His praise to be heard,
- ⁹ who holdeth our soul in life and alloweth not our feet to be moved.
- ¹⁰ For Thou, O God, hast tried us; Thou hast tried us as silver is tried.
- ¹¹ Thou broughtest us into the net; Thou laidst affliction upon our loins.
- ¹² Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water, but Thou broughtest us out into a fruitful place.
- ¹³ I will go into Thy house with burnt offerings; I will pay Thee my vows,
- ¹⁴ which my lips have uttered and my mouth hath spoken when I was in trouble.
- ¹⁵ I will offer unto Thee burnt sacrifices of fatlings with the incense of rams;

I will offer bullocks and goats. Selah

- ¹⁶ Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what He hath done for my soul.
- ¹⁷ I cried unto Him with my mouth, and He was extolled with my tongue.

- ¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.
- ¹⁹ But verily God hath heard me; He hath attended to the voice of my prayer.
- ²⁰ Blessed be God, who hath not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me!

SECOND READING 1 PETER 3:13-22

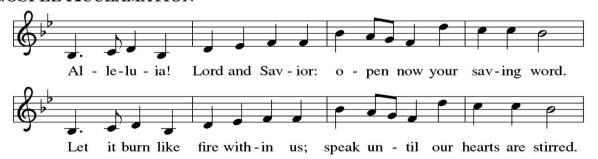
The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

A reading from 1st Peter, the third chapter.

\lambda ho will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated. 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. (Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON Pastor Craig HYMN OF THE DAY Holy Spirit, Truth Divine SONG 13 1 Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul mine: of 2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine: 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, for - ti - fy this will of mine: 4 Ho - ly still this rest-less Spir - it, peace di - vine, heart of mine: 5 Ho - ly con-science reign; Spir - it, right di - vine, king with - in my breath of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight. high de - sire; with your ho - ly fire. kin - dle ev - 'ry purge me strong-ly your will live, brave - ly bear, and no - bly strive. speak to calm this toss - ing sea, staved in your tran - quil - i - ty. bound, for - ev - er free. my guide, and I shall be firm - ly

(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 our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Today, we especially pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Mark's Lutheran in Lumberton, NC and Synod Authorized Minister Robert Arndt. Hear us. O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints. Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. 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.

(Sit)

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love

Hal H.. Hopson

(Stand)

OFFERING

(Offering plates presented at the altar)

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

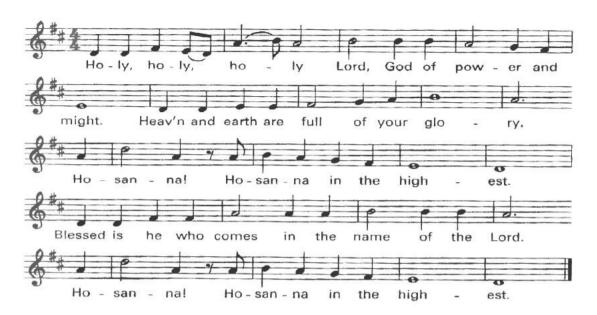
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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, now and forever.



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.

LAMB OF GOD

Choir and Congregation



COMMUNION MEDITATION

Eventide

Monk/Tallis, arr. Nelson

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.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen from "The Easter Song of Praise" R. Shepherd

SENDING HYMN

(Next Page)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fugue in B-flat Major

Johann Seb. Bach

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SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH PO Box 684 CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026 CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166 BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK WEBSITE www.sinc.net 14-May Lisa Folino 17-May Liz Klein DIRECTORY 18-May Dare Godfrey Members of Saint James......Ministers 18-May Harrison Propst The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop 18-May Amy Whisnant The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith......Bishop 19-May Nick Lovelace 20-May Greg Hartman SAINT JAMES STAFF 20-May Rich Rezza Rev. Craig Saltzer, Interim Pastor 20-May Louise Walker csaltzer@triad.rr.com 336-225-7889 ASSISTING IN WORSHIP Keith Sutton, Parish Administrator Lector/Intercessor: keith@sinc.net Kim Haberman Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator Communion Assistant: iill@sinc.net Christine Ruff Scott F. Foppiano, Organist / Acolyte/Crucifer: Jodi Director of Music Ramirez, Logan Whisnant scottfop@gmail.com Greeter: Barbara Albright Mike Holt, Youth and Family Ushers: Mike Downs, Al mvholt1957@vahoo.com Brown, Sid Hughes, Bill Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian Hardister, Hunter Huss tfh1990@vahoo.com **Building Supervisor:** Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator Robert and Debbie Davis krad3700@gmail.com Videographer: Chris Miller CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL Debbie Davis, President OUR STEWARDSHIP Jon Miller, Vice Pres., Mutual Ministry

Contributions and Receipts for May 7, 2023 \$4,749.02 (\$7,371.00 needed weekly) FLOWERS

given by Michael and Jill

Strahl to the Glory of God

and in memory of all the

mothers that have gone to

be with our Lord, and to

honor all the mothers with us today. "She is clothed

with strength and dignity;

she can laugh at the days to

come" Proverbs 31:25

The altar flowers today are

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

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

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRAYER LIST · St. Mark's Lutheran.

Lumberton, NC · Patsy Black

· Tom Grady

♦ Connie King • Tom Ridenhour ◆ Jim Weisel

♦ Marga Beville

♦ Betty Miller · Family of Martha Summers

CALENDAR THIS WEEK Sunday, May 14

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

Confirmation

Monday, May 15 10:20 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, May 17 5:00 pm Christian Ed 7:00 pm Parish Choir 9:30 pm College Online Thursday, May 18

6:00 pm Handbells Saturday, May 20 2:00 pm Martha Summers Funeral

Sunday, May 21

9:00 am Sunday School

9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship

2:30 pm Confirmation Cluster @ St. James

5:00 pm Youth Cookout and Form Signing