

Saint James Lutheran Church

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

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"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 ancient worship and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us as together discover the sacred in the heart of the city. Our worship includes ancient and contemporary symbols 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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 21, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

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 www.youtube.com search for stiames luther an concord and subscribe.

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.

COOK SCHOLARSHIPS: The deadline for applications to be returned is June 1st. Applications for First Time as well as Renewing are available in the church office. If you are attending post-high school education, this is a great opportunity!

FAVORITE HYMNS: We 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 complete the survey below telling us what hymns you like and feel are most familiar and beloved to you.

https://forms.gle/myvP5JY56EA2oKiG6



WELCOME

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Rigaudon

André Campra

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)



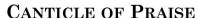
GREETING

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





This is the Feast



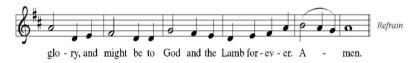


Pot Pot

Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



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

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

A reading from Acts, the first chapter.

\[\lambda \] hen the apostles had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." 12Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35 (Chanted by Choir)

- ¹Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let them also that hate Him flee before Him.
- ² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- ³ But let the righteous be glad, let them rejoice before God; yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.
- ⁴ Sing unto God, sing praises to His name! Extol Him that rideth upon the heavens by His name Jehovah; and rejoice before Him.
- ⁵ A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in His holy habitation.
- ⁶ God setteth the solitary in families, He bringeth out those who are bound with chains; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.
- ⁷O God, when Thou wentest forth before Thy people, when Thou didst march through the wilderness, Selah

- ⁸ the earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God; even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- ⁹ Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby Thou didst confirm Thine inheritance when it was weary.
- ¹⁰ Thy congregation hath dwelt therein; Thou, O God, hast prepared of Thy goodness for the poor.
- ³² Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth! O sing praises unto the Lord, Selah
- ³³ to Him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, He doth send out His voice, and that a mighty voice.
- ³⁴ Ascribe ye strength unto God; His excellency is over Israel, and His strength is in the clouds.
- ³⁵ O God, Thou art fearsome out of Thy holy places; the God of Israel is He that giveth strength and power unto His people. Blessed be God!

SECOND READING 1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

A reading from 1st Peter, the fourth and fifth chapters.

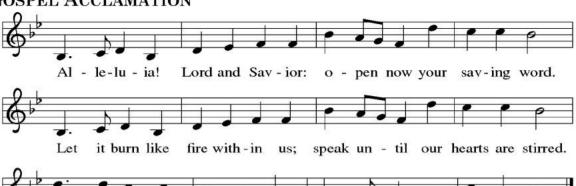
Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. ^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

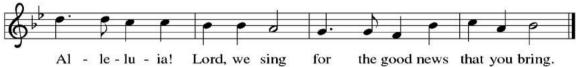
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

fter Jesus had spoken these words to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and said, Tather, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 6"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

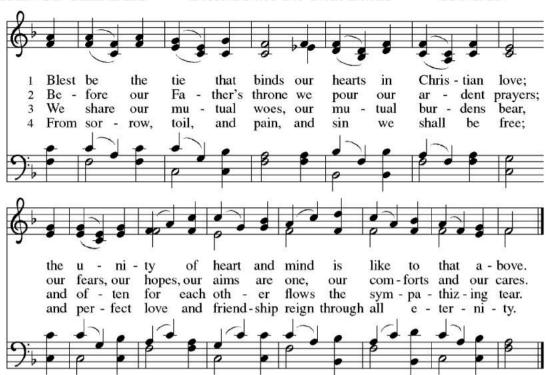
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Craig



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 harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Today, we especially pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Welcome, NC. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. 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.

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

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

T. Fredrick Candlyn

(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.

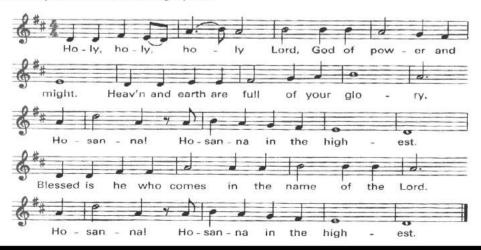
Lift up your hearts.

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.

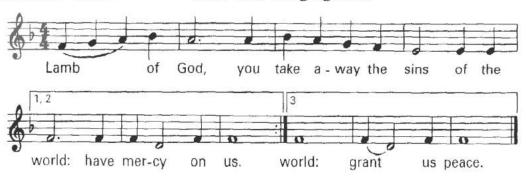
Thanks be to God!

(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



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.

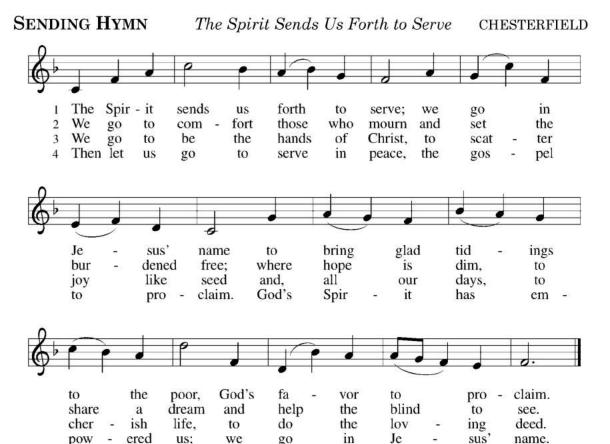
Amen.

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



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Hymn of Joy

Al Travis

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

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Chip Blackwelder, Property Kim Haberman, Evangelism

Chris Miller, Secretary, Social Ministry

Kenny Propst, Treasurer

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

M-Th 8:30-4:00

OFFICE HOURS 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 21-May Beverly Heilig 21-May Emma Parks

21-May Ethan Patterson 22-May Wayne King

23-May Grayson Downs 23-May Mason Overby

26-May Mary Faircloth 27-May Brad Baker

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP Lector/Intercessor:

Barbara Albright Communion Assistant:

Christine Ruff Acolyte/Crucifer: **Hudson Davis**

Greeter: Sylvia Corl Ushers: Mike Downs, Al

Brown, Sid Hughes, Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss **Building Supervisor:**

Videographer: Chris Miller OUR STEWARDSHIP

Samantha Hillegass

Contributions and Receipts for May 14, 2023 \$7,242.02

FLOWERS The altar flowers today are

(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

given by Pat McDonough to the Glory of God and in celebration of our Lord's resurrection. 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!

1 Peter 1:3

PRAYER LIST · Our Saviour's Lutheran,

Welcome, NC · Patsy Black

· Tom Grady ♦ Connie King • Tom Ridenhour

◆ Jim Weisel ♦ Marga Beville

 Amanda Elliott. granddaughter of Anne Fridlund

· Family of Martha Summers

CALENDAR THIS WEEK Sunday, May 21

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

2:30 pm Confirmation Cluster

Monday, May 22 10:20 am Quilting Group Wednesday, May 24

5:00 pm Youth Cookout

2:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Parish Choir 9:30 pm College Online Thursday, May 25

6:00 pm Handbells Friday, May 26

6:30 pm Kid's Night Out Sunday, May 28 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Parish Choir

10:00 am Worship