

## Saint James Lutheran Church

H

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. Join us as together discover the sacred in the heart of the city. Our worship ancient includes 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.

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 12, 2023 10:00 A.M.

#### Introduction to Today's Worship

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the lifegiving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

## We Welcome Everyone on this Lord's Day to the Liturgy of Holy Communion.

**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.

#### Join Saint 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

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Go to } \underline{\textbf{voutube.com/}} \\ \textbf{@stjameslutheranconcord} \text{ and subscribe}. \end{array}$ 





#### WELCOME

#### VOLUNTARY

#### Adagio

John Bennett

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.



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 EXODUS 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the LORD among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

A reading from Exodus, the seventeenth chapter.

Prom the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, Give us water to drink. Moses said to them, Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord? But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst? As Moses cried out to the Lord, What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me. The Lord said to Moses, Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink. Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, Is the Lord among us or not?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 95 (Read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

60 come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

<sup>8</sup>Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

9when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof,

though they had seen my work.

<sup>10</sup>For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."

<sup>11</sup>Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

#### SECOND READING ROMANS 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

A reading from Romans, the fifth chapter.

C ince we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

#### (Stand)







#### HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Tesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had Ugiven to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. 7A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." 15The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." 17The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" 19The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." <sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" 28Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" 30They left the city and were on their way to him. 31Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." 32But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" 34Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. 35Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'

<sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." <sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Craig

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

(Next Page)

#### APOSTLES' CREED

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

- I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders; especially today we pray for Rev. Peter Brown and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Raleigh, NC. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.



- 5 "Come to me, distressed and needy; I would be your trusted friend. Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend." Refrain
- 6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam. Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home." Refrain

We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Give them your living water always. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation. Nurture our faith and pour your love into our hearts. Inspire our community by their testimony to God's grace in our lives. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the lives of all your saints. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

(Offering plates presented at the altar)

#### OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

Amen.

#### HOLY COMMUNION

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

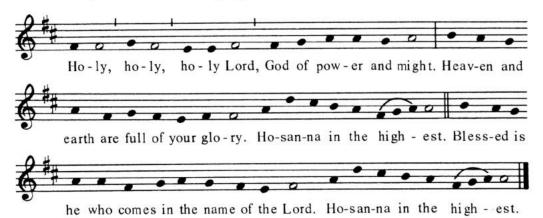
Lift up your hearts.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

#### Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. Come. Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever. Amen.

#### 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.

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaver 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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant \_\_ us peace.

#### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

#### BLESSING

God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

#### SENDING HYMN

(Next Page)

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Voluntary in B-flat

Jonathan Battishill

#### COPYRIGHT

COME TO ME ALL PILGRIMS THIRSTY Contributors: Lutheran Book of Worship, Ronald A. Nelson Tune © 1978 Augsburg Fortress Used with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002 All rights reserved.



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

The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith......Bishop SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. Craig Saltzer, Interim Pastor csaltzer@triad.rr.com

336-225-7889 Keith Sutton, Parish Administrator

keith@sinc.net

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator

jill@sinc.net

Director of Music scottfop@gmail.com Mike Holt. Youth and Family

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist /

mvholt1957@yahoo.com Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian 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 at

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

13-Mar Wendell Overby

13-Mar Anne Swavnev 14-Mar Sara Faircloth 16-Mar Tony Eury

16-Mar Dee Pieschel CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 12

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

10:00 am Worship 11:20 am Acolyte Training

4:00 pm Youth Gathering Monday, March 13 10:30 am Quilter's Group

6:30 pm Scouts Tuesday, March 14 12:00 pm Lively Leisures

5:30 pm Call Committee 6:00 pm Church Council Wednesday, March 15

2:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Christian Ed 5:30 pm Lenten Meal

6:00 pm Lenten Study/ Worship

9:30 pm College Online Thursday, March 16

6:00 pm Handbells Saturday, March 18

7:00 pm Parish Choir

10:00 am Leah's Hope Trailer

Sunday, March 19 9:00 am Sunday School

9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:20 am Evangelism

2:30 pm Confirmation @ Mt. Hermon 4:30 pm Youth Gathering

keith@sinc.net OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts for March 5, 2023

\$5,716.22 (\$7.371.00 needed weekly)

PRAYER LIST

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Raleigh, NC

Martha Summers Patsy Black Tom Grady

Jim Weisel

Tom Ridenhour Bishop Tim Smith

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Elizabeth Hurley Communion Assistant:

Kristin Rinker Acolyte/Crucifer: Joshua Rinker Greeter:

Barbara Albright Council Person of Month: Elizabeth Hurley

Videographer: Chris Miller

Ushers: Chip Blackwelder. Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline, Jeff Koenig