



# Saint James Lutheran Church



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



*"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 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 or just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

## SUNDAY OF THE PASSION PALM SUNDAY

**APRIL 2, 2023**

**10:00 A.M.**

*Introduction to Today's Worship*

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

# 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](mailto:joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com) @stjamesnc

**St. James YouTube Channel** Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Offering envelopes for 2023 have finally arrived. You may pick up yours in the area at the end of the office hallway. If you need them mailed to you, please contact Jill Irvin.

**FOOTWASHING:** We are looking for a few individuals who would like to participate in footwashing during the Maundy Thursday worship service. Contact the church office, if you would like to participate.

**EASTER SUNRISE BREAKFAST:** Sunday, April 9 from 8:00 - 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign-up if you plan to attend. Deadline for signups is 10:00 am tomorrow.

**EASTER LILIES:** The deadline for ordering Easter Lilies is April 3. Fill out form in bulletin.

**EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:**

6:30 am Sunrise Service

8:00 am Breakfast

10:00 am Festival Worship Service

## THE PROCESSION WITH PALMS *(We gather outside the front doors)*

*Congregational Responses in Bold  
Stand*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna to the Son of David.**

### PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-first chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**



**W**hen they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup>“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” <sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” <sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

### BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path.

We ask that you bless these palm crosses that they may be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**

Let us go forth in peace,

**In the name of the Lord.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*(Next Page)*

## GREETING

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, 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 *ISAIAH 50:4-9A*

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

A reading from Isaiah, the fiftieth chapter.


**T**he Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.


**Thanks be to God.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *All Glory, Laud and Honor* *Valet Will Ich Dir Geben*


*Refrain*




All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;  
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;  
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.



**PSALM 31:9-16** (Read responsively)

- <sup>9</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.
- <sup>10</sup> **For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.**
- <sup>11</sup> I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbours,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.
- <sup>12</sup> **I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.**
- <sup>13</sup> For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—  
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.
- <sup>14</sup> **But I trust in you, O LORD;  
I say, ‘You are my God.’**
- <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
- <sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.**

**SECOND READING PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

*Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.*

A reading from Philippians, the second chapter.

**L**et the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 26:14—27:66*

*(See Booklet)*

*In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**



## *Readers*

Narrator .....	Margaret Garrison
Jesus .....	Pr. Craig Saltzer
Peter .....	Frank Irvin
Pilate .....	Barbara Albright
Pilate's Wife .....	Nancy Faggart
Judas .....	Gretchen Walker
Servant Girl .....	Ann Blackwelder
High Priest .....	Elizabeth Hurley
Centurion .....	Marian Saltzer

*Please place Passion Reading Booklets in the basket in the narthex as you leave worship.*

*(Sit)*

**SERMON**

*Pastor Craig*



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,  
 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;  
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;  
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.  
 but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
 re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.  
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail  
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his  
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they  
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!  
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away;  
 a murderer they save,  
 the prince of life they slay.  
 Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,  
 that he his foes from thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home  
 my Lord on earth might have;  
 in death, no friendly tomb  
 but what a stranger gave.  
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home;  
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing—  
 no story so divine!  
 Never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend!



*(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.*

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Today, we especially pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Catawba, NC.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful especially those we name in out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to 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.**

## **ANTHEM**

*Sanctus*

*Charles Gounod*

## **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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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:



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

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.**  
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 St. 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.**

**SENDING****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.**

**SILENT PROCESSION OF THE CHOIR****DISMISSAL**

*We Depart in Silence*

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**I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE** Contributors: Suzanne Toolan Tune: © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc, Text: Based on John 6 and 11; © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002 All rights reserved.



# King of Kings

Starring H.B. Warner  
Produced by Cecil B. DeMille, 1927



**Sunday, April 2, 2023 6:00 pm**  
**St. James Lutheran Church, 104 Union Street S., Concord, NC**

Please join us for the Cecil B. DeMille's 1927 black and white silent film masterpiece "King of Kings" starring H.B. Warner. This stunning, dramatic period representation of Christ's earthly adult ministry will be accompanied live by Scott Foppiano, ATOS Organist of the Year, on St. James Church's magnificent and historic Hook & Hastings Pipe Organ.

Being on Palm Sunday, this presentation will reinforce the beauty and significance of Holy Week as we look toward Christ's passion, death and triumphant resurrection on Easter Day.

There is no admission charge and this presentation is appropriate for all ages. A free-will offering will be taken that will go to the St. James' Music/Organ fund.

*Please plan to attend and bring your families and friends.*

# SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026  
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166  
WEBSITE [www.sjnc.net](http://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  
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**Keith Sutton**, Parish Administrator  
[keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)

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**Kathryn Radcliffe**, Nursery Coordinator  
[krad3700@gmail.com](mailto: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  
[keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**01-Apr** Jeff Gilbert  
**04-Apr** Kathryn Craver  
**04-Apr** Austin Hoadley  
**06-Apr** David Clary  
**06-Apr** Mark Murphy

## CALENDAR THIS WEEK

**Sunday, April 2**  
9:00 am Sunday School  
9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship  
6:00 pm King of Kings

**Monday, April 3**  
10:30 am Quilter's Group  
6:30 pm Scouts

**Wednesday, April 5**  
7:00 pm Parish Choir  
9:30 pm College Online

**Thursday, April 6**  
6:00 pm Handbells  
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday  
Worship

**Friday, April 7**  
3:30 pm Stations of the  
Cross—Grace Lutheran  
7:00 pm Good Friday  
Worship

**Saturday, April 8**  
2:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt

**Sunday, April 9**  
6:30 am Easter Sunrise  
Worship  
8:00 am Easter Breakfast  
9:00 am Adult Sunday Sch  
9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts  
for March 26, 2023  
**\$10,572.06**  
(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

## PRAYER LIST

- ◆ Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Catawba, NC
- ◆ Martha Summers
- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Jim Weisel
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Marga Beville
- ◆ Betty Miller
- ◆ Kenneth Fink, *brother of Keith Fink*
- ◆ Bishop Tim Smith

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:**  
Gretchen Walker

**Communion Assistant:**  
Jodi Ramirez

**Acolyte/Crucifer:**  
Jacob / Josh Rinker

**Greeter:**  
Laura Overby

**Council Person of Month:**  
Samantha Hillegass

**Videographer:**  
LeeAnn Miller

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