

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 worship ancient and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. together Join us as discover the sacred in the heart of the city. Our worship includes ancient and contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home or just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 27, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

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.

First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. 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.

UPCOMING DATES:

Aug. 27: Pastor Craig's Last Sunday Reception for Pr. Craig Saltzer

Sept. 10: Pastor Bill's first Sunday at St. James God's Work, Our Hands

Sept. 11-13: My Father's House

Sept. 12: Lively Leisures at 12:00 pm

BLESSING BOX: For the month of September, St James has the opportunity to stock the blessing box at Rotary Square. Items can be put directly into the box or placed in the red Blessing Box bin that is just inside the Portico area. See Ring-Out for more information and needed items.

GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Liturgical Prelude No. 1

George Oldroyd

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

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Sit)

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING ISAIAH 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-first chapter.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138 (Read Responsively, congregation in bold)

 $^1\!\mathrm{I}$ give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;

before the gods I sing your praise;

²I bow down towards your holy temple

and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

- ³On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.
- ⁴All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.
- ⁵They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.
- ⁶For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.
- 7Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
- ⁸The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING ROMANS 12:1-8

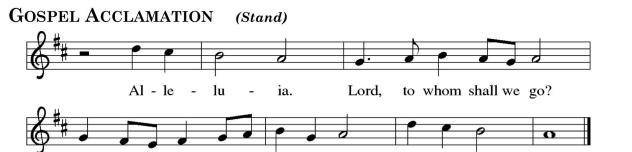
In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

A reading from Romans, the twelfth chapter.

appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

Al - le - lu

ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Craig

HYMN OF THE DAY My Hope is Built on Nothing Less MELITA



APOSTLE'S 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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue righteousness in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith. Today, we especially pray for Rev. Chris Eichorn and our brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Ocean Isle Beach, NC. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony. Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Stir the leaders of nations and towns, militaries and courts, to respond to your teachings. Let your call for justice reach all people and bring deliverance where there is oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Show your steadfast love and faithfulness to those in despair. Increase their strength, care for all who feel low, keep safe any in the midst of trouble, and protect vulnerable people from harm especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage those who offer their gifts and talents in service to your church. Energize this congregation's rostered and lay leaders, musicians, teachers, greeters, and administrators so they may be transformed in sharing your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all the saints, death is overcome in Christ's resurrection. We rejoice with the faithful departed. Sustain us in hope until we come at last to our heavenly home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

Father, Most Holy

Percy Dearmer, Paris Antiphoner

Father most holy, merciful, and tender; Jesus, our Savior, with the Father reigning; Spirit of comfort, advocate, defender, Light never waning.

Trinity blessed, unity unshaken; Goodness unbounded, very God of heaven, Light of the angels, joy of those forsaken, Hope of all living.

Maker of all things, all thy creatures praise thee; All for thy worship were and are created; Now, as we also worship thee devoutly, Hear thou our voices.

Lord God Almighty, unto thee be glory, One in three persons, over all exalted! Glory we offer, praise thee and adore thee, Now and forever.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

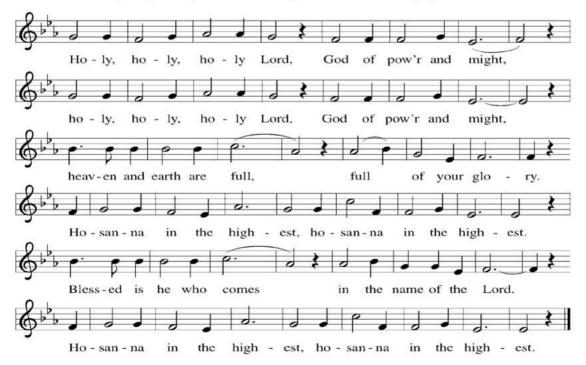
Lift up your hearts.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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:



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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 Saint James. If you desire to receive Communion, please proceed to the altar by way of the center aisle. The ushers will direct you. You will receive a wafer and a cup of wine. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. After communing, please use the outside aisle to return to your seat. Communion will be brought to persons in the pews who are unable to come forward to the altar. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so.



POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

ORDER FOR GODSPEED AND FAREWELL FOR A PASTOR

Debbie Davis, Council President: On October 2nd of 2022 you began your ministry with us as interim pastor.

Chip Blackwelder: (Walk to the pulpit) You were invited into this pulpit. In this spot you have proclaimed the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout this past year. This pulpit has not belonged to you; the saving message of Christ is not something one can possess, but only bear witness to. You have been a faithful occupant of this church's pulpit and messenger of the good news of God's love in Christ. As you leave this pulpit we thank God for your preaching ministry.

Thanks be to God!

Kim Haberman: (Walk to the font) At this font you have presided at the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Through the cleansing waters of baptism, we welcome new members into the family of Christ. The gift of new life in Christ belongs to God. The church is the custodian of this rite of welcome, and you have introduced this congregation to many new sisters and brothers in faith. You have presided as confirmands affirmed their baptismal promises during your year with us. As you leave this font, we thank you for your ministry surrounding baptismal promises.

Thanks be to God!

Chris Miller: (Walk to the altar) At this altar you have presided at the Sacrament of Holy Communion. You have reminded us of the story of Jesus' beginning of this meal. The meal is the Lord's, and this congregation has been provider of this meal to the baptized who seek to be fed with the living presence of Christ. You have presided over this meal so that it could be served in an orderly fashion. As you leave this table, we thank you for presiding at the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Thanks be to God!

Beth Huss: (Walk to the top of the chancel steps) Standing in front of this congregation you had led services where we thanked God for people who had died. You led us in the midst of grief while we expressed gratitude for God's gift of life. You proclaimed the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and encouraged the community with the comfort of the gospel. As you leave this sanctuary, we thank you for being with us in our times of loss and in our times of joy and celebration.

Thanks be to God!

Jon Miller: (Hold up keys) When you came here you received keys to this building. You had a study here to do your work of reading and preparing, to meet people for small talk and big conversations. Your study has been a place of prayer and preparation. As you return your key, we thank you for your prayers, your diligent preparation, and your careful listening.

Thanks be to God!

Debbie Davis, Council President: Pastor Craig and Marian, you have been part of this church family, sharing your gifts for the sake of Christ's mission in our community. As you now leave this place, we send you forth with our blessings. Please kneel to receive our prayers:

Gracious God, we thank you for Pastor Craig and Marian and for our life together in this congregation and community. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

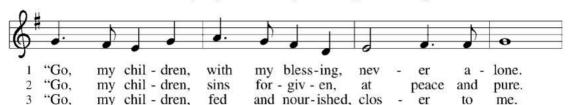
BLESSING

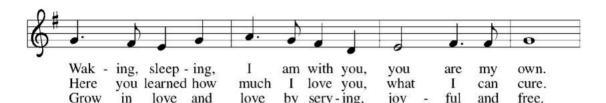
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.







In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er. Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry. Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Chorale

Gordon Young

The Liturgy Has Ended: The Service Begins!

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FATHER, MOST HOLY Contributors: Percy Dearmer Text: (c)1978, Ocford University Press

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Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator krad3700@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL Debbie Davis, President

Jon Miller, Vice Pres., Mutual Ministry

Chris Miller, Secretary, Social Ministry Kenny Propst, Treasurer

Chip Blackwelder, Property Kim Haberman, Evangelism Samantha Hillegass, Parish Fellowship

Elizabeth Hurley, Worship & Music Beth Huss, Stewardship

Frank Irvin, Finance/Christian Ed Pat McDonough, Youth Wendell Overby, Property

Dee Pieschel, Social Ministry

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

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK 27-Aug Abigail Bestler

27-Aug Lilv Kartheiser

29-Aug Eva Horton

29-Aug Marcia Klauss 30-Aug Carson Crainshaw 30-Aug James Hughes

30-Aug Hunter Huss 30-Aug Donna Sloop

31-Aug Conner Gale 01-Sep Claire Ford

01-Sep Kathleen Francus 02-Sep Kathryn Radcliffe

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP Lector/Intercessor:

Kim Haberman Communion Assistant:

Ann Blackwelder Acolyte/Crucifer:

Finley Stephens Ushers: Mark Murphy. Jimmy Harris, Jeff Jones.

Jeff Gilbert, Chip Popovici, Phil Tesh

Building Supervisor:

Videographer:

Jon Miller

LeeAnn Miller OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts for Aug. 20, 2023 \$5,000.10

(\$7,371.00 needed weekly) In-Person Attendance 93 Online Worship 82

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Pastor Craig and Marian

Saltzer for their

service at St. James.

PRAYER LIST

faithful

• St. Luke Lutheran Church Statesville, NC

· Tom Grady • Tom Ridenhour

· Patsy Black

· Bill Fisher · Family of Doris Francis. daughter-in-law of Martha Summers

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 27 9:15 am Parish Choir

11:30 am Reception for Pr.

Craig Saltzer Monday, August 28 10:30 am Quilting Group

10:00 am Worship

Wednesday, August 30

7:00 pm Parish Choir Sunday, September 3

9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship