



# 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.

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**JUNE 11, 2023**

**10:00 A.M.**

*Introduction to Today's Worship*

**T**hough Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

# Welcome!

**Newcomers and visitors**, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

**Although there are customary postures** (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

**Children are most welcome in worship** at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building.

**The First Aid Kit and the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

**If you are interested in membership** to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

**Restrooms are available** on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

**Pew Pads** are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

## **St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups**

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at [joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com](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.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** A Congregational Meeting will be held at the beginning of worship on Sunday, June 18th. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on our Primary Candidate to become the next Senior Pastor of St. James and to vote on a compensation package.

**SUMMER OF SERVICE:** Mark your calendars now for Sunday, June 25 after worship. This is a multi-generational event so everyone is invited. We will meet in the fellowship hall for a lite lunch and then we have several service activities planned. See Ring-Out to make your reservation or you can call the church office.

# GATHERING

## WELCOME

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Chorale Prelude on Rhosymedre*

*R. Vaughan Williams*

*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)*

## Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

## Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## 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, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### FIRST READING *HOSEA 5:15—6:6*

*Because the people have trusted in military powers and not God, God decides to withdraw from the scene until Israel acknowledges its guilt and seeks God's face. The response of the people does not acknowledge this guilt and is as fickle as fog or dew burned away quickly by the sun. God desires loyalty rather than words or meaningless deeds.*

A reading from Hosea, the fifth and sixth chapters.

**I** will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor: <sup>6:1</sup>“Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. <sup>2</sup>After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. <sup>3</sup>Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.” <sup>4</sup>What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. <sup>5</sup>Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. <sup>6</sup>For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 50:7-15** (Read Responsively, congregation in bold)

- <sup>7</sup> Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel,  
I will testify against you. I am God, your God.
- <sup>8</sup> **Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;**  
**your burnt-offerings are continually before me.**
- <sup>9</sup> I will not accept a bull from your house,  
or goats from your folds.
- <sup>10</sup> **For every wild animal of the forest is mine,**  
**the cattle on a thousand hills.**
- <sup>11</sup> I know all the birds of the air,  
and all that moves in the field is mine.
- <sup>12</sup> **‘If I were hungry, I would not tell you,**  
**for the world and all that is in it is mine.**
- <sup>13</sup> Do I eat the flesh of bulls,  
or drink the blood of goats?
- <sup>14</sup> **Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,**  
**and pay your vows to the Most High.**
- <sup>15</sup> Call on me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.’

**SECOND READING ROMANS 4:13-25**

*Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God’s promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.*

A reading from Romans, the fourth chapter.

**T**he promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

<sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**    *(Stand)*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**    *MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26*

*Jesus demonstrates God’s mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the ninth chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup>And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup>But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” <sup>18</sup>While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” <sup>19</sup>And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup>Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, <sup>21</sup>for she said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” <sup>22</sup>Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. <sup>23</sup>When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup>he said, “Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him.

<sup>25</sup>But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup>And the report of this spread throughout that district.

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

*(Sit)*

**SERMON**

*Pastor Craig*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*(Next Page)*

**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**

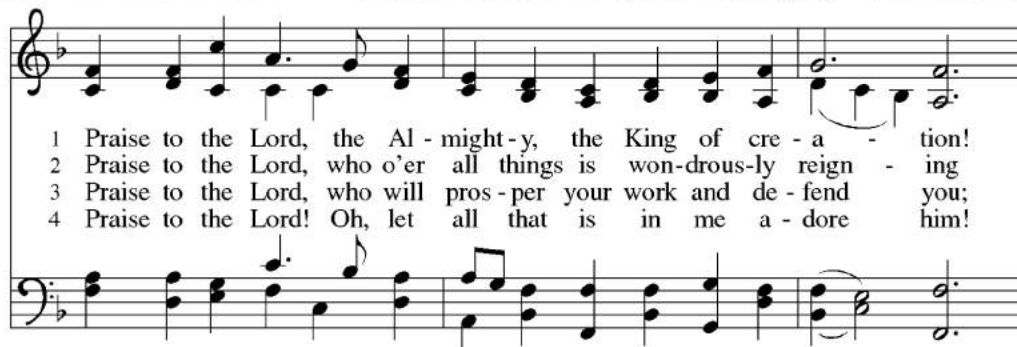
Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

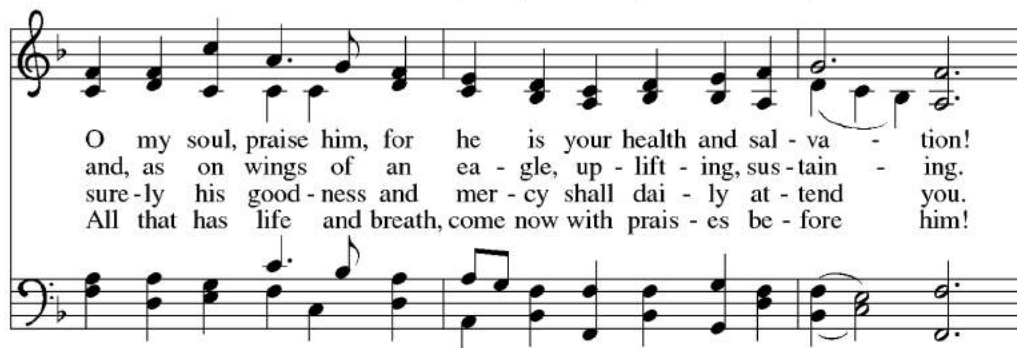
We pray, O God, for the church, that the whole world recognizes that your mercy is greater than our human capacity to restrict it. Today, we especially pray for Rev. Ryan Ray and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, in Hickory, NC. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for creation. Tend forests and fields and safeguard all cattle, birds, and wild animals. Preserve lakes, rivers, and oceans and send rains to water the earth. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

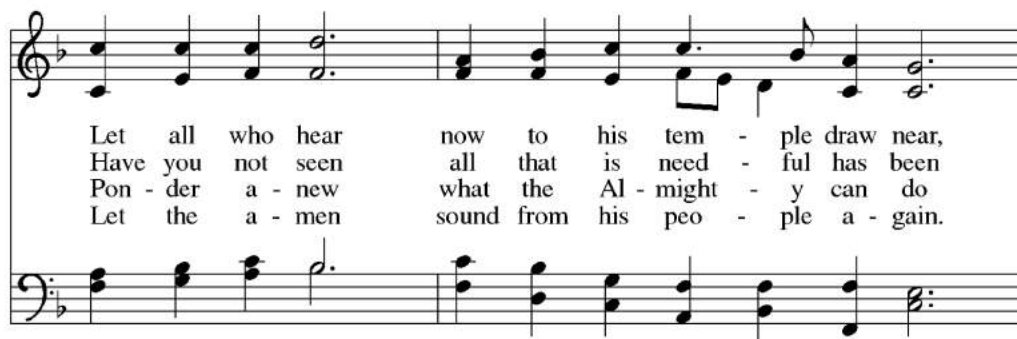




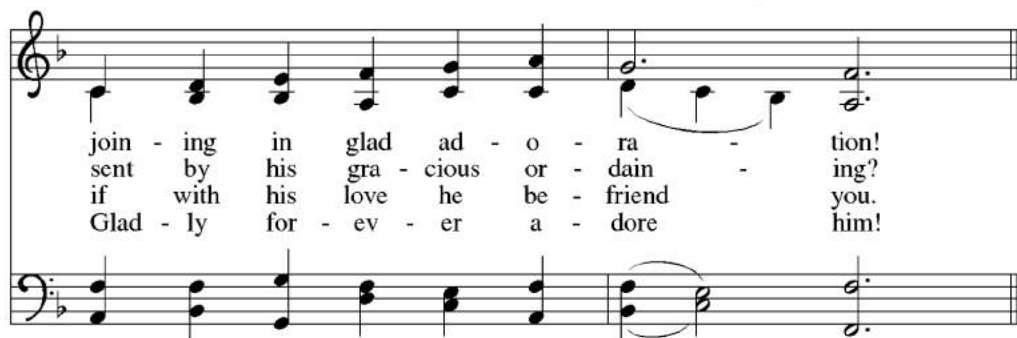
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;  
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
 sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 if with his love he be - friend you.  
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

We pray, O God, for the nations. Awaken in our leaders compassion for people who have too often felt forgotten or neglected, and inspire policy solutions that promote equity and inclusion. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for all who are in need. Accompany anyone enduring chronic illness, any who suffer in secret, and those grieving a loved one's death. Send healing for all who plead for relief from sickness or pain especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for the eradication of racial hatred. On this week when we commemorate the Emanuel Nine, we implore you to cast out the demons of white supremacy that make us believe lies about ourselves and our neighbors. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks, O God, for Barnabas and all the saints. Renew our faith that you can do what you have promised and raise us, with all our beloved dead, to new life. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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. Frederick H. Candlyn*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return

Till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit, then, this soul of mine;  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiance Divine;  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day. Amen!

**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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

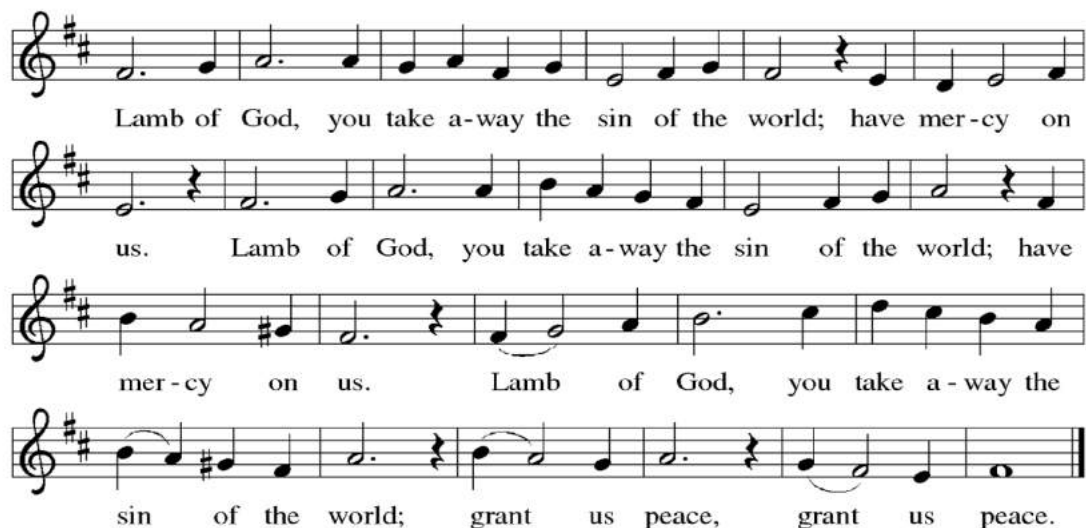
**Thanks be to God!**

*(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.*

## LAMB OF GOD

*Choir and Congregation*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION MEDITATION

*Eventide*

*Monk/Talllis, arr. Nelson*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

## BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed  
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age.

**Amen.**



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*

*Benedetto Marcello*

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*



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# SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

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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 by  
Wednesday 10:00 am to [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

11-Jun Rachel Larkin  
13-Jun Terry Splawn  
14-Jun Jeff Koenig  
15-Jun Ann Blackwelder  
15-Jun Anne Eury  
15-Jun Nita Jones

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

#### Lector/Intercessor:

Kenny Propst

#### Communion Assistant:

Kenny Propst

#### Acolyte/Crucifer:

James and Kyleigh Hughes

#### Greeter: Gretchen Walker

Ushers: Brad Baker, Chip  
Harward, Taylor Pruette, Al  
Pieschel, Jon Miller

#### Building Supervisor:

Jon Miller

#### Videographer: Chris Miller

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

#### Contributions and

Receipts for June 4, 2023

**\$3,404.00**

*(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)*

### FLOWERS

The altar flowers today are  
given by Juanita Fitts to  
the Glory of God and in  
memory of my father, James  
Wilson and my sister,  
Nancy Wilson

### PRAYER LIST

- ◆ Mt. Olive Lutheran,  
Hickory, NC
- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Margaret Garrison
- ◆ Marga Beville

### CALENDAR THIS WEEK

#### Sunday, June 11

9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship  
11:20 am Meet & Greet  
Luncheon

#### Monday, June 12

10:30 am Quilting Group

#### Tuesday, June 13

6:00 pm Congregation Council

#### Wednesday, June 14

7:00 pm Parish Choir

#### Saturday, June 17

8:30 pm Leah's Hope Trailer

#### Sunday, June 18

9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship /  
Congregational Meeting

**June 17-24 Youth Beach Trip**