



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 2, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

Welcome!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

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

St. James YouTube Channel Go to www.youtube.com search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

SUMMER OF SERVICE: On July 16 after worship, we will meet in the fellowship hall for a lite lunch and then we have several service activities planned. Our main project will be collecting food for the Blessing Box. This is a mult-generational event so everyone is invited. Please sign up to help with planning.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS TOGETHER SURVEY: Be sure to complete the survey insert today.

SUMMER ORGAN RECITAL SERIES: Today at 7:00 pm we will be hosting the AGO Summer Recital Series featuring Chase Douthit, a 2023 Baylor University Graduate. The recital series is sponsored by the Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Free admission. A free-will offering will be accepted to support the Stigall Scholarship Fund, which helps provide organ instruction for students in grades 6-12.

GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Aria

Flor Peeters

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)

1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
 There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,

teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
 may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

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 direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Sit)

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING *JEREMIAH 28:5-9*

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon. Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death.

A reading from Jeremiah, the twenty-eighth chapter.

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 89:1-4, 15-18 (Read Responsively, congregation in bold)

¹I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

²**I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

³You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴**"I will establish your descendants for ever,
and build your throne for all generations."**

¹⁵Happy are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance;

¹⁶**they exult in your name all day long,
and extol your righteousness.**

¹⁷For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favour our horn is exalted.

¹⁸**For our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

SECOND READING ROMANS 6:12-23

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

A reading from Romans, the sixth chapter.

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. ²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 10:40-42*

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the twelve: ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Craig



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.



Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.



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 for the church. Today, we especially pray for Rev. Anna Carter and our brothers and sisters at Holly Grove Lutheran Church in Lexington, NC. For wisdom to heed the voices of prophets in our midst who cast a vision of God's promised future. For courage to welcome people whom society rejects. For resolve to serve all in need. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for creation. For all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams. For lands experiencing scorching heat, drought, or wildfires. For conservation organizations and environmental activists. For scientists working on clean energy solutions. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this nation and all nations. For presidents, governors, and legislators. For judges, juries, district attorneys, and public defenders. For military personnel. For those who are incarcerated. Guide us in ways of freedom that promote the common good. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For exiles, immigrants, refugees, and those seeking asylum. For victims of harassment, torture, or abuse. For those who are ill especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts.. For any near death and for all who grieve. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for children. For their safety at home and in childcare settings. For their flourishing at summer programs and camps. For the many people who care for them including parents and grandparents; childcare workers and teachers; coaches, counselors, and mentors; pediatricians and psychologists. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the saints and prophets who have received the free gift of God, which is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. May their lives of humble service inspire us in faith. 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

Just As I Am, Lord

Nancy Price/Don Besig

Through all the trials which life sends my way,
through all the troubles I face each day;
shadows and clouds may bring doubt and fear,
but Lord, I know you are near.

Sometimes the darkness seems empty and cold,
sometimes I search for a hand to hold.
Lost and uncertain of what to do,
I find my courage in You.

Just as I am, without one plea,
for You, O Lord, will comfort me.
Your love alone will set me free!
O Lamb of God; I come. I come.

I am not worthy but still You forgive,
teaching me patiently how to live.
Humble and thankful, I come to You,
with love so faithful and true.

Just as I am, without one plea,
for You, O Lord, will comfort me.
Your love alone will set me free!
O Lamb of God; I come. I come.

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.

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 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain:
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
 thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,

and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Imperial March—Paraphrase

Sir Edward Elgar

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!



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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@sjnc.net

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator
jill@sjnc.net

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist /
Director of Music
scottfop@gmail.com

Mike Holt, Youth and Family
mvholt1957@yahoo.com

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian
tfh1990@yahoo.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 by
Wednesday 10:00 am to keith@sjnc.net

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

03-Jul Dale Merrell
03-Jul Alisa Wilkinson
05-Jul Chase Crainshaw
08-Jul Judy King

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:

Christine Ruff

Communion Assistant:

Anne Hodges

Acolyte/Crucifer:

Josh Rinker

Greeter: Laura Overby

Ushers: Dale Merrell,
Gretchen Walker, Robert
Davis, Lex Patterson,
Samantha Hillegass

Building Supervisor:

Chip and Ann Blackwelder

Videographer:

Ann Blackwelder

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and
Receipts for June 18, 2023
\$5,238.98
(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

PRAYER LIST

- ◆ Holly Grove Lutheran,
Lexington, NC
- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Barbara Merrell

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 2

9:15 am Parish Choir
10:00 am Worship
7:00 pm Summer Organ
Recital Series

Monday, July 3

10:30 am Quilting Group

Tuesday, July 4

Church Office Closed

Sunday, July 9

9:15 am Parish Choir
10:00 am Worship

July 2—8 Youth Mission Trip
to Altoona, PA