

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Kim Haberman

Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass

Ushers: Chip Popovici, Jimmy Harris,
Jeff Jones, Jeff Gilbert, Phil Tesh

Videographer: Jason Pittard

Greeter: Barbara Albright

Building Supervisor: Jeff Gilbert

PRAYER LIST

Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; Patrick Bryn (son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Jay Clemmer; Noah Clifton; Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Phyllis Freeman (Mother of Fonda Shumate); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Margaret Garrison; Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Jeff Gilbert; Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); Maureen Hollmeyer; The Hopkins Family; Hunter Huss; Mary Frances Johnson (cousin of Francie Davis); Karen Johnston (friend of Judy Benz); Mary Anne Lanahan (Aunt of Francie Davis); Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); John Ledford (brother of Deb Black); Leonard "Buddy" McEachern; Jason Matthews; Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Mason Overby; Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Becky Phillips; Al Pieschel; Corinne Robbins; Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend).

ST. JAMES GATHERING

Join us for the World Cup Final **today** at Southern Strain Brewing (165 Brumley Ave)
starting at 3pm!

Bring the family and friends for fellowship and fun!

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



Open Camera – Scan QR Code
Thank you for supporting St. James

**The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026**

**The Holy Communion
10:00am**



**St. James Lutheran Church
104 Union Street South
PO Box 684
Concord, North Carolina 28026
704-786-0166
www.sjnc.net
Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Pastor**

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next to you or to an usher.

Restrooms are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A **nursery** is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

Let us know you visited!



Scan to connect!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

July 21 - Ashley Cline
July 22 - Avery Ziegler
July 23 - Holden Downs, Jill Trott
July 25 - Laurie Miller, Justin Monk

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 19	9:00am	Choir
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	VBS Info & Decorating Meeting
	3:00pm	St. James Gathering for the World Cup Final at Southern Strain
Monday, July 20	10:30am	Quilting
Thursday, July 23	Noon	Final Youth Volunteer Day at Salvation Army
Sunday, July 26	9:00am	Choir
	10:00am	Worship
	5:30pm	Vacation Bible School!

REGISTER FOR VBS (JULY 26-28; 5:30PM)

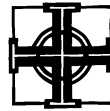
Register your child for Vacation Bible School and join us for *Snowball Mountain Challenge!* Volunteers should ensure their *Safe Gatherings* background check is current. First-time volunteers should email holly@sjnc.net to begin the process.

Register:



VBS – PROPS NEEDED

Props needed: Sleds, skis, ski poles, inflatable snow tubes, snow discs/saucers, and artificial Christmas trees. Please label items and place them in the Flex Room. Items may be picked up after VBS on July 28.



St James Lutheran Church:
Growing in Christ through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service.

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Please silence your phones. Thank you.

When not printed, hymn harmonies may be found in the green LBW hymnal.

Welcome

Prelude

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENES

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

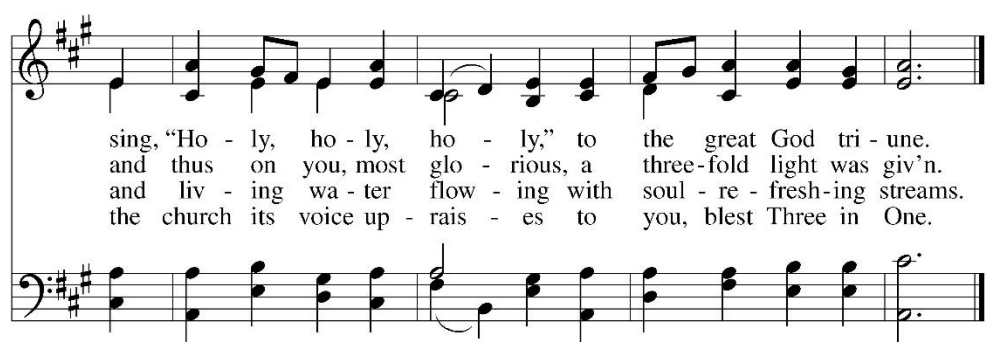
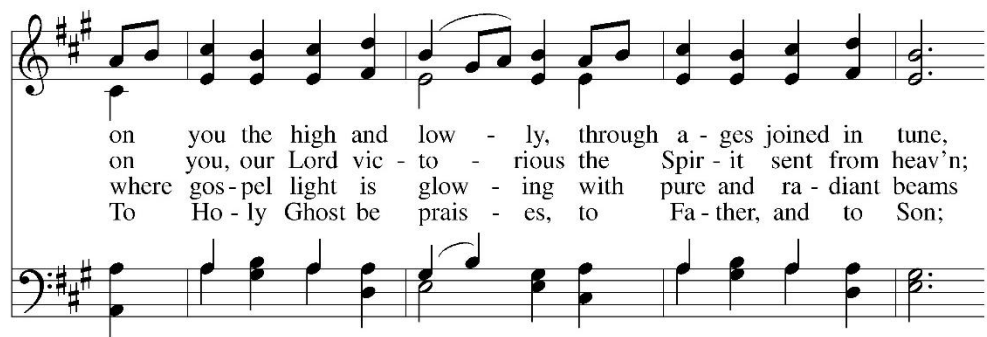
P Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P 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.

C **Amen**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #251 O Day of Rest and Gladness

1 O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
2 On you, at earth's creation, the light first had its birth;
3 To-day on weary nations the heav'nly manna falls;
4 New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,



THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P O Lord, pour out upon us the spirit to think and do what is right, that we, who cannot even exist without you, may have the strength to live according to your will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen.**



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

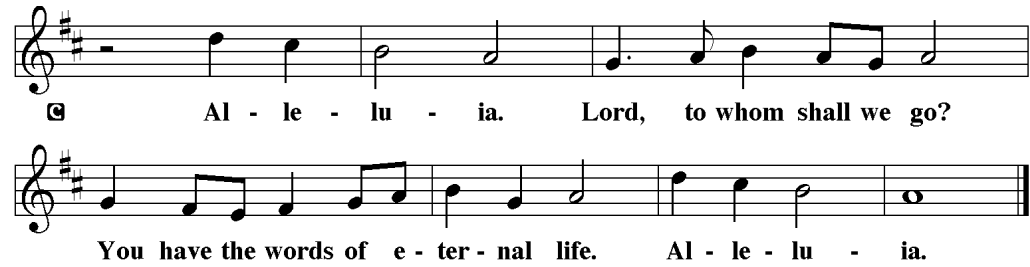
THE SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

Please stand.
THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord**

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” ²⁸ He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” ²⁹ But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat

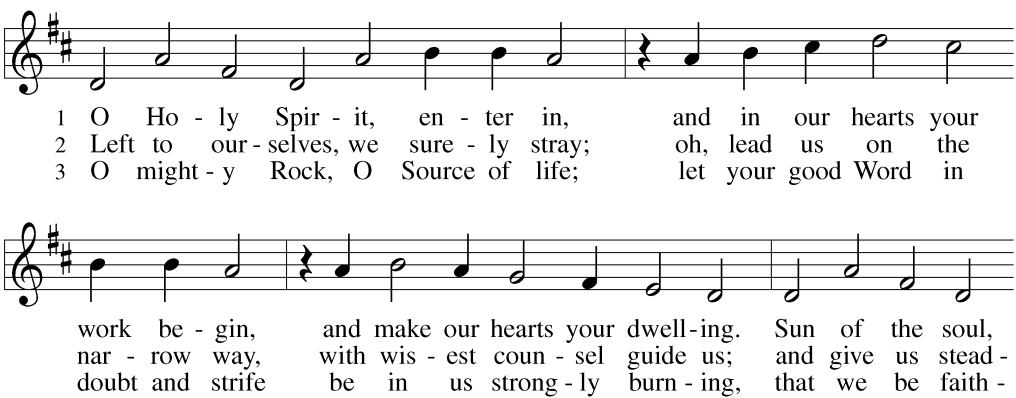
along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ ³⁷ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

Please sit.
THE SERMON **Pastor Bill Ridenhour**

Please stand.
THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #459 O Holy Spirit, Enter In



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your
2 Left to our - selves, we sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on the
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life; let your good Word in
work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,
nar - row way, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead -
doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -



O Light di-vine, a-round and in us bright-ly shine, your strength
fast-ness, that we may fol-low you for-ev-er free, no mat-
ful un-to death and live in love and ho-ly faith, from you



in us up-well-ing. In your ra-diance life from heav-en now is
ter who de-rides us. Gent-ly heal those hearts now bro-ken; give some
true wis-dom learn-ing. Lord, your mer-cy on us show-er; by your



giv-en o-ver-flow-ing, gift of gifts be-yond all know-ing.
to-ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.
pow-er Christ con-fess-ing, we will cher-ish all your bless-ing.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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**

THE PRAYERS

A Let us pray for the Church, the world, and one another.

A Holy Father, thank you for stating what we ignore or deny: we're all a weedy field! Thank you for giving us Jesus' patient tending that brings healing and ends divisions. Thank you for your promise to gather us, from every race, tribe, and nation, as your treasured, holy, precious, and redeemed people. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

You are the first and the last; beside you there is no god. Make your Church faithful and persistent in telling the world that in Jesus, crucified and raised from the dead for the forgiveness of sins unto eternal life, you have revealed to us your very heart. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

We confess that our congregation is sown with weeds as well as wheat. Forgive us. Deal mercifully with us. By the grace of your Spirit, help us to bear one another's faults with patience and gentleness. Remind us that you alone will make us pure, holy, and good, by conforming us to your dear Son. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

We pray for our enemies – especially those who hate us because of our faith in Jesus. We pray for all who deny and despise him. We pray for all who do not know him, or who only know a shriveled, distorted image of him. Soften their hearts; enlighten their minds; and fill them with your Spirit, so they may repent and believe in the Good News. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Your Son's parable counseled letting weeds and wheat grow together. Yet too often, we must stop the spread of deadly weeds like violence, injustice, and hatred. Therefore, we plead on behalf of Mason and those in the military, police, security, intelligence, and first response. Give them wisdom, integrity, and honor, so that by their labors, those they serve may have a measure of justice and safety. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Sickness, sorrow, and adversity take root in every life. We cannot uproot them all, yet we know you desire abundant life for your servants. And so, we are bold to pray for everyone who suffers. Heal and encourage them. In your good time, complete in them and in us all, the full and perfect healing that you have promised in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

We thank you, heavenly Father, for those who have gone before us and are at rest in you. May their witness guide our discipleship. Gather us to yourself as your rich and fruitful harvest in Jesus, so that with all your forgiven sinners, we may abide with you forever. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Please sit.
THE ANTHEM

THE OFFERING

Please stand.
THE OFFERTORY #564 “The Doxology”



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all



crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.
A Blessed are you,
C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

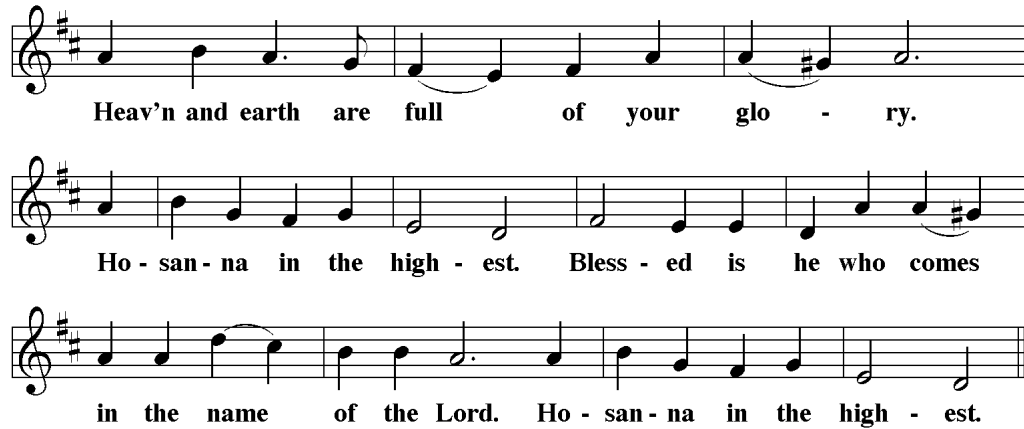


THE COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 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, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n 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.

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;
 you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
 You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
 that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
 Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will
 and accomplished our salvation.

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 salutary command,
 his life-giving Passion and death,
 his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,
 we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
 not as we ought, but as we are able;

and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving,
 and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants,
 and these your own gifts of bread and wine;
 that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son
 may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,
 and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body,
 and have our portion with all your saints.

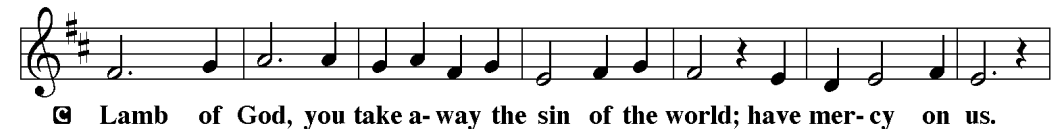
All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church, now and forever.

C Amen

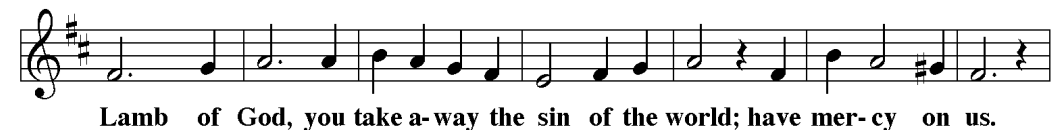
THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.



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.



Please sit.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

-Luther’s Small Catechism Part V

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you wish for the pastor to bring communion to you. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray,

A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord

C Amen

Silence for reflection.

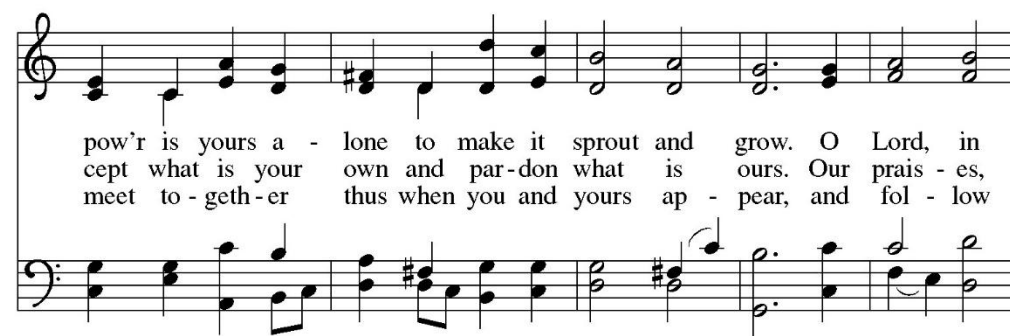
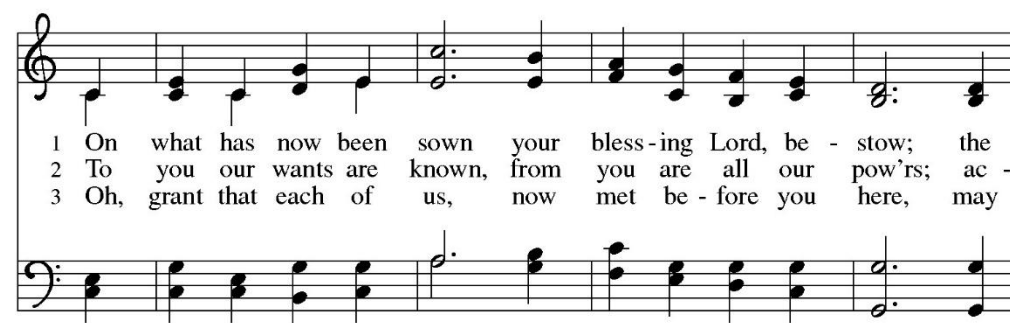


THE BENEDICTION

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: #261 On What Has Now Been Sown

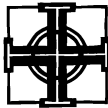


grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING & DECORATING KICKOFF

VBS volunteers, a friendly reminder that our VBS informational meeting and decorating kickoff will be held today, Sunday, July 19, immediately following worship. Lunch will be provided for those able to stay and help decorate.

The VBS Committee will also be at the church each morning beginning July 20 until decorating is complete. If you're available to lend a hand, we'd love to have your help then as well!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Join us during worship on **Sunday, August 9** for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks as we pray for students, teachers, and school staff as they begin a new school year.
After worship, stay for a congregational lunch. All are welcome!

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON

Save the date and join us for a special Stewardship Luncheon after worship on Sunday, **August 23**. Enjoy a catered lunch and fellowship as we discuss the mission of St. James.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Rising 6th–8th graders are invited to serve with The Salvation Army on Thursdays in July (12:00–2:30 p.m.) while earning service hours. RSVP through *SignupGenius* and return volunteer forms to Cheryl Webb. Questions? Call or text Cheryl: 832-275-8872.

Last day to volunteer is Thursday, July 23rd.

RSVP:



STAY CONNECTED!

Sign up to receive our weekly *Ring Out* e-newsletter for news, events, and ministry updates.



Follow us on social media:
Facebook & Instagram: @stjamesnc
YouTube: @stjameslutheranconcord