

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Margaret Garrison
Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass

Acolyte: Noah Pittard

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

Greeter: Judy Benz

Building Supervisor: Wendell Overby

PRAYER LIST

Paul Auten (friend of Robert & Debbie Davis), Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (Daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Stan Parnell (friend of Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Geoff & Pam Seige (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's alter flowers are given by Robert and Debbie Davis to the glory of God and in loving memory of her mother Anne Fridlund.

GRADUATES! -

Are you about to celebrate your commencement? Let us know by **June 8** so we can recognize you! info@sjnc.net; 704-786-0166.

MENNONITE CHILDREN'S CHOIR – JUNE 13th

Join us for a special concert as St. James hosts the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster on **Friday, June 13 at 7:00pm**. The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster is a faith-based choral program in Central Pennsylvania that trains children and youth to glorify Christ through excellent and inspiring music.

TO ASSIST IN YOUR OFFERING



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025

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 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.

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Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds Text © Augsburg Fortress. Used by Permission Augsburg Fortress License SB177826. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002.
Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing Text © Hope Publishing House (ASCAP). Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- May 18 – Harrison Propst, Amy Whisnant
- May 19 – Nick Lovelace
- May 20 – Karen Benson, Greg Hartman, Rich Rezza, Louise Walker
- May 21 – Beverly Heilig, Emma Parks, Ethan Patterson
- May 22 – Wayne King
- May 23 – Grayson Downs, Mason Overby

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 18	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Ice Cream Party
	11:00am	Bubble Blast Activity
Monday, May 19	10:30am	Quilting
Thursday, May 22	5:30pm	Handbells
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 25	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

REGISTER NOW FOR VBS 2025!

Join us for Vacation Bible School **July 20 – 22, 2025**. Register at sjnc.net now through July 6. All volunteers will be required to have a current *Safe Gatherings* background check. Please contact holly@sjnc.net for instructions.

WE'RE HIRING!

St. James is seeking a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries to lead and grow our youth program. Learn more on our website and help spread the word!

MEAL TRAIN OPPORTUNITY

The Meal Train for Jay Clemmer has been adjusted to one meal weekly on Mondays. If you can assist with these efforts, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/JCMealTrain>



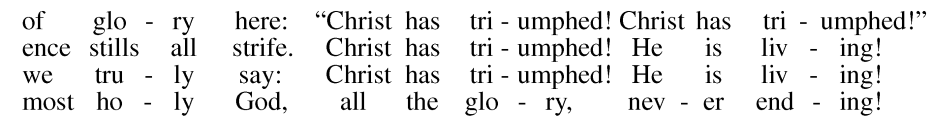
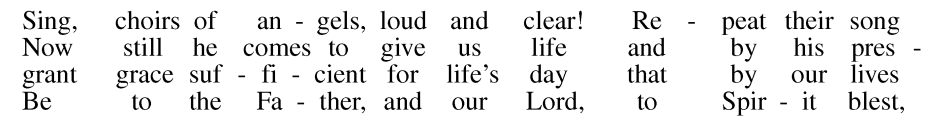
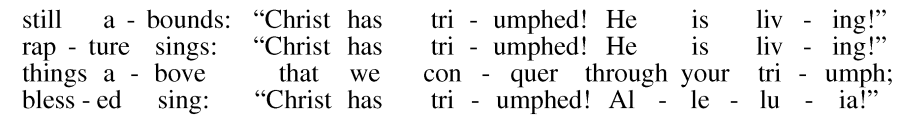
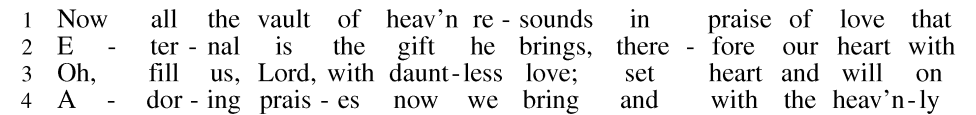
-Brice Burton, vibraphone

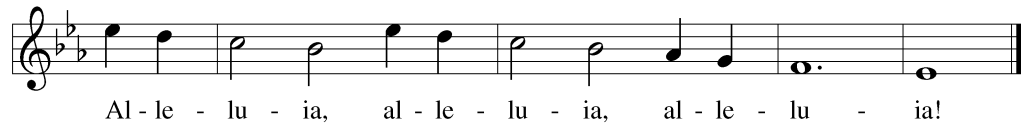
C Amen.

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you created the world by your Word, calling forth life in which you

C Amen

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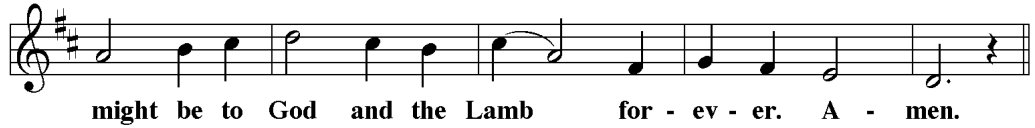
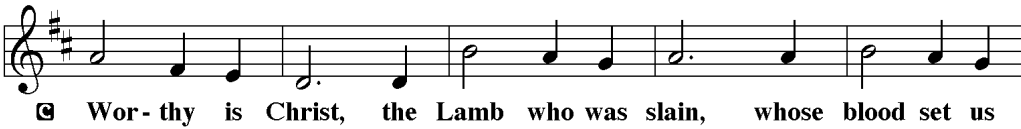




THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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 HYMN OF PRAISE



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you
C And also with you.
P O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.



Please sit.
THE FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18
1 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 “I

was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ 8 But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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

THE SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”
⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

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

Please stand.
THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION




G Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



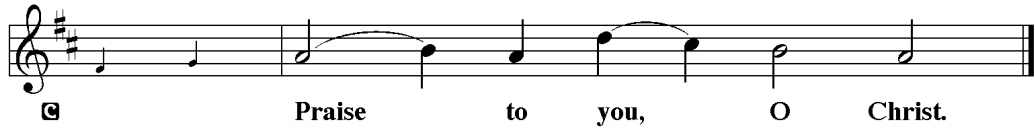
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.



G Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
The Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #363 Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

No harmony graphic is available. Please see green LBW hymnal.



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
5 Christ is a - live! As - cend - ed Lord— he rules the



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
scorn, or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
world his Fa - ther made, till, in the end, his



prais - es ring. In death his love shall nev - er die.
here and now and con - quer ev - 'ry place and time.
midst of life, our Sav - ior with the Fa - ther reigns.
loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
love a - dored shall be to all on earth dis - played.

THE NICENE CREED

**C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was
made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

Please kneel or sit as able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

A Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy.

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

C **Hear our prayer.**

A We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

C **Hear our prayer.**

P O God, you gladden our hearts by the annual celebration of the resurrection of our Lord: In your mercy grant that we, who celebrate these joyous days on earth, may at length attain to the eternal Easter in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

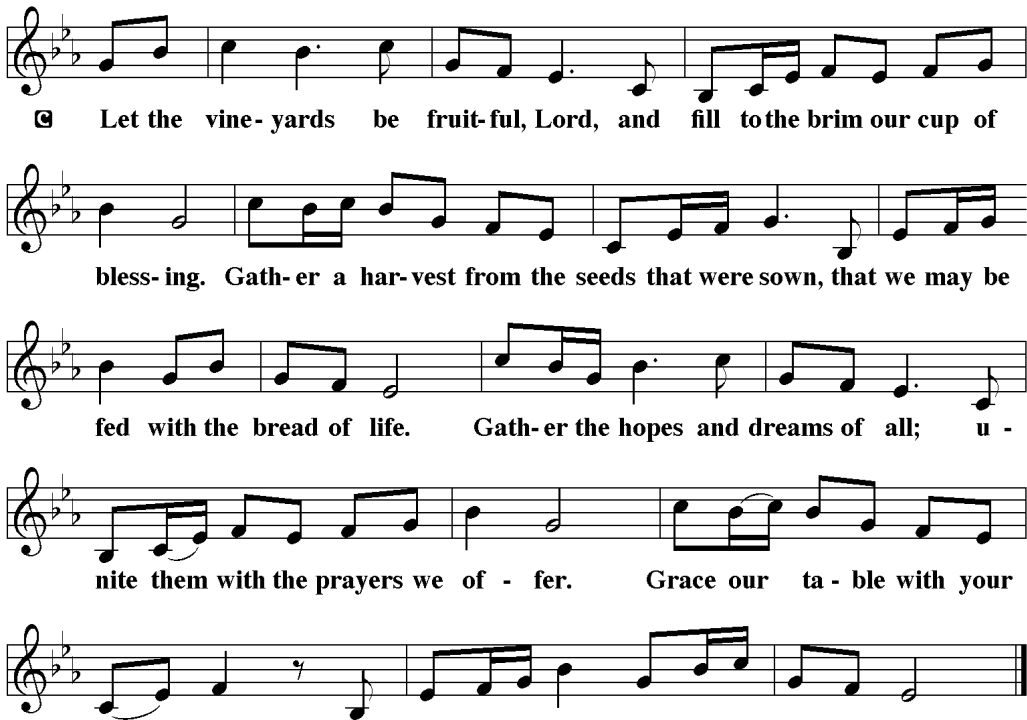
THE PEACE
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Please sit.
THE ANTHEM Kyrie (from A Caribbean Mass) McClure

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Most high, glorious God, illuminate the darkness of my heart, and give me right faith, certain hope, perfect love, profound humility, wisdom and understanding,
O Lord, that I may carry out your holy and true commandment.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.
THE OFFERTORY



Let the vine- yards be fruit- ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless- ing. Gath- er a har- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

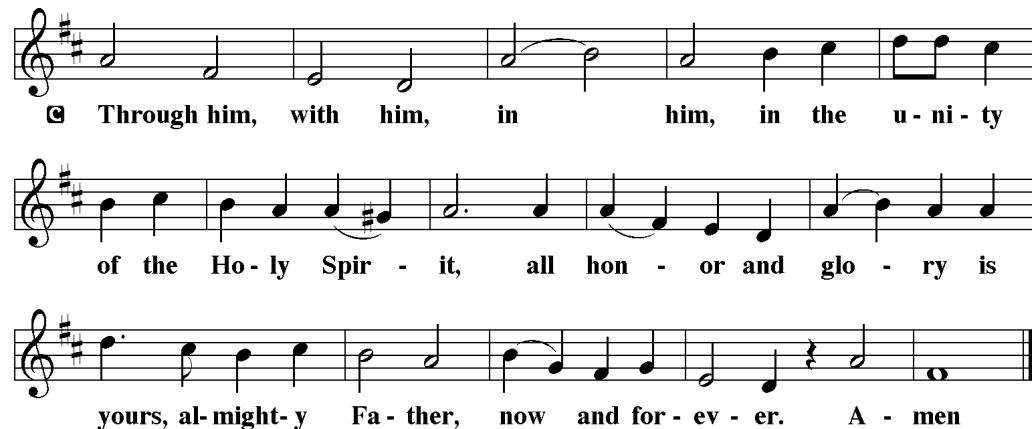
P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving

Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



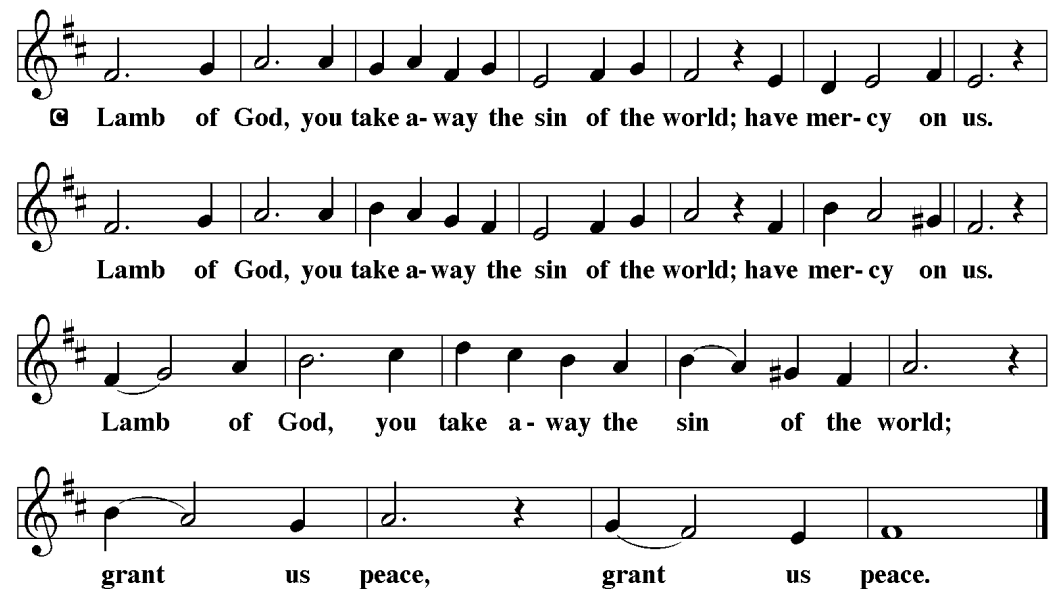
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**



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. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those

unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

Communion Music

Sarabande in b minor

J. S. Bach

-Brice Burton, vibraphone

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,

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of 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: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (*see next page.*)

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Tanz

Nealson

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. Both staves are in the key of D major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#) on the key signature. The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: "Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove. stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise. well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!" The music is written in a simple, clear style, suitable for a hymn book.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flashing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!