

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector:** Barbara Albright

**Communion Assistant:** Samantha Hillegass

**Acolytes:** Noah Pittard

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

**Greeter:** Martha Matthews

**Building Supervisor:** Wendell Overby

**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); 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); Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Jeff Gilbert; Tom Grady; Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); Maureen Hollmeyer; Hunter Huss; Family of Dale Johnson (Friend of Dale Merrell); 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; 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; Lori Pittard; Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend).

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God in honor of the Baptism of Grady Hoffman Fincher, grandson of Nita & Jeff Jones.

To assist in your offering  
Secure Online Giving



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

**The Seventh Sunday after Easter**  
**May 17, 2026**

**The Holy Communion**  
**Holy Baptism**  
**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

May 17 – Liz Klein  
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

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday, May 17</b>   | <b><i>Cook Scholarship Applications Due</i></b>         |
|                         | 9:00am Adult Sunday School                              |
|                         | 9:00am Choir  |
|                         | 9:30am Children's Sunday School                         |
|                         | 10:00am Worship   |
|                         | <b>11:00am Honoring Our Graduates (Fellowship Hall)</b> |
| <b>Monday, May 18</b>   | 10:30am Quilting  |
| <b>Thursday, May 21</b> | 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal                                  |
| <b>Sunday, May 24</b>   | 9:00am Adult Sunday School                              |
|                         | 9:00am Choir  |
|                         | 9:30am Children's Sunday School                         |
|                         | 10:00am Worship   |

## HONORING OUR GRADUATES!

Join us today after worship in the fellowship hall to celebrate our graduates: Judah Estes, Michael Folino, Rory Kartheiser and Joshua Rinker.

## ALOHA SUMMER PARTY – JUNE 7

Join us after worship on **Sunday, June 7**, for our Aloha Summer Party! Enjoy lunch, playground activities, fellowship, and tropical snow cones as we celebrate the start of summer.

## SPECIAL CHOIR PERFORMANCE – JUNE 14

The St. James Lutheran Parish Choir will perform as part of a concert presented by the American Guild of Organists on **Sunday, June 14, at 4:00pm** at Providence United Methodist Church in Charlotte. Come enjoy an afternoon of music and support our choir!



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

**THE HOLY COMMUNION  
 HOLY BAPTISM**



*This morning, we celebrate with Kyle and Helen Fincher,  
 aAt the baptism of their son, Grady Hoffman Fincher.*

Please silence your phones. Thank you.

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

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

Tuba Tune in D Major

C. S. Lang

*Please stand.*

**THE INVOCATION**

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

**C** **Amen.**

**THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #157 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing**



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of  
 3 To whom . . . shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up -  
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals



world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un - to  
 And with his faith - ful fol - l'wers see their Lord as - cend  
 "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they say, "this is his glo -  
 "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing in



the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 O Lord, our homeward pathway bend,  
 that our unwearied hearts ascend.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Where, seated on your Father's throne,  
 you reign as King of kings alone.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 Give us your joy on earth, O Lord,  
 in heav'n to be our great reward.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 When throned with you forever, we  
 shall praise your name eternally.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
 all praise to you let earth accord:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 You are, while endless ages run,  
 with Father and with Spirit one.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## 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



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



**B** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



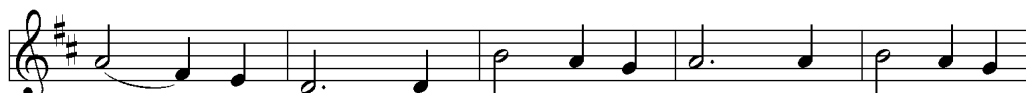
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you

**C** And also with you.

**P** God, our creator and redeemer, your Son Jesus prayed that his followers might be one. Make all Christians one with him as he is one with you, so that in peace and concord we may carry to the world the message of your love; through 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 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' <sup>7</sup>He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went

to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

**THE SECOND READING:** I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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

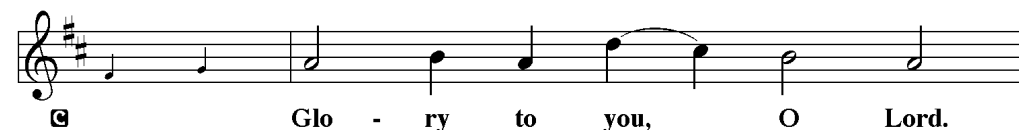
*Please stand.*

**THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

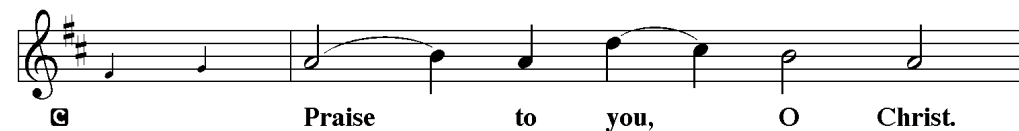
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.



After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



*Please sit.*

**THE SERMON**

**Pastor Bill Ridenhour**

Please stand.

## THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Borning Cry

The harmony score for this hymn is not available in the green LBW hymnal.



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;  
3 "In the mid-dle a-ges of your life, not too old, no lon-ger young,



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold.  
you were raised to praise the liv-ing Lord, to whom you now be-long.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be-gun.



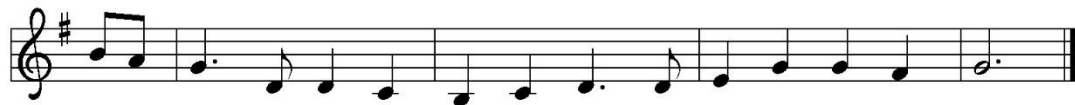
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es in and you shut your wea-ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."  
I'll be there to make your vers-es rhyme from dusk till ris-ing sun."  
I'll be there as I have al-ways been, with just one more sur-prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold."



## THE BAPTISMAL RITE

Please sit.

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

P In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a sinful humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

P Whom do you present to receive the Sacrament of Holy Spirit?  
R I/We present Grady Hoffman Fincher.

The minister addresses the sponsors and parents.

P In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?  
R I do.

Please stand for the prayers.

A Let us pray for he who is to be baptized and for all the baptized everywhere:

A That Grady may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A That the Holy Spirit may open Grady's and all our hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A That Grady and all your baptized may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A That, with all your people, Grady may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A That Grady and all baptized may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,  
C **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 minister begins the thanksgiving.*

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that he who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of he who is cleansed by this water and bring him forth as inheritor of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen**

*The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.*

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C **I do.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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 minister baptizes the candidate.*

P Grady Hoffman Fincher is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*Please Sit.*

*The Laying on of Hands (Confirmation)*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your  
sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life  
through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Grady Hoffman: the  
spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit  
of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C **Amen**

*The Anointing with Oil.*

P Grady Hoffman Fincher, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit  
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C **Amen**

*A lighted candle is given to the baptized.*

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and  
glorify your Father in heaven.

P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of  
this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them  
teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in  
their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation  
you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

*Please Stand.*

P Through Baptism God has made this new brother a member of the priesthood  
we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear  
his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow  
member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a  
worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

**THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*Please sit.*

**THE ANTHEM**

Greater love hath no man

John Ireland

*Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.*

*Love is strong as death.*

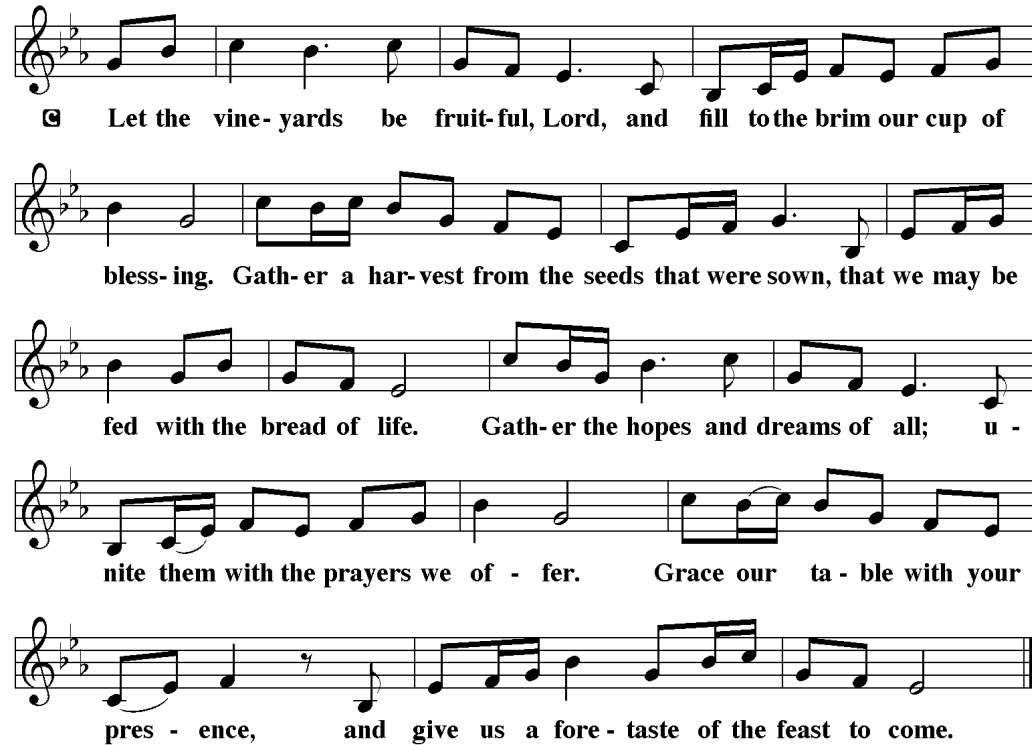
*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.  
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins,  
should live unto righteousness.*

*Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus;  
 Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
 that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you  
 out of darkness into his marvelous light.  
 I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your  
 bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your  
 reasonable service.*

## 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

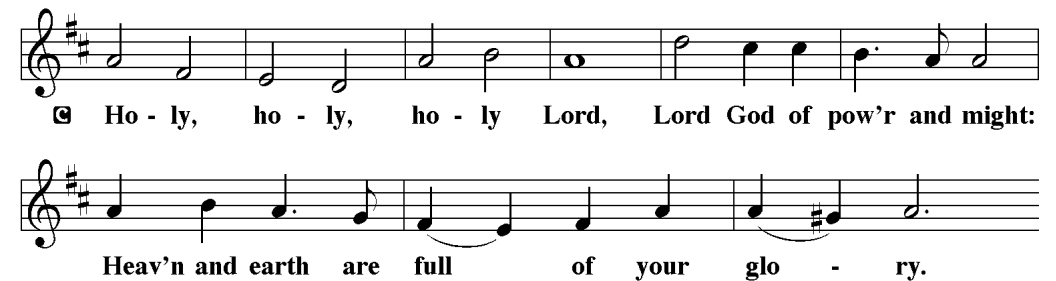
A Let us pray.  
 A Blessed are you,

**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**

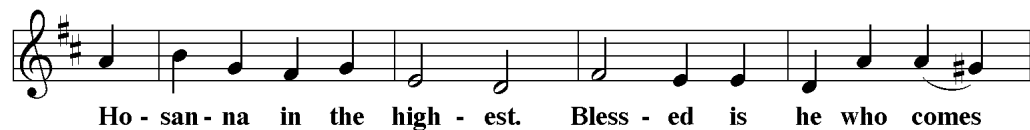


### THE COMMUNION RITE

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.



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.



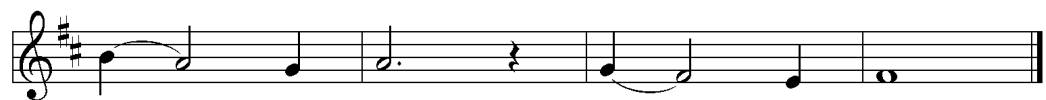
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

*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,

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.*



### A BLESSING OF OUR GRADUATES

*The congregation at St. James is invited to offer a blessing upon Judah Estes, Michael Folino, Rory Kartheiser and Joshua Rinker upon the occasion of their graduation.*

*Please join our graduates for a reception in the Fellowship Hall after worship.*

P Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup>Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>When you search for me, you will find me. (*Jeremiah 29*)

P We are gathered together to celebrate your accomplishments and to offer prayers for you.

C **We give blessings to you for all that you have achieved and many more achievements yet to come.**

P One part of your life's journey is complete. You will prepare to begin another phase that will take you to unimaginable places.

C **We give you blessings of good will and love as you journey forth into the world. We thank you for the fellowship that you have shared with us and pray that as you begin your next journey, you will know that our love and support go with you.**

P Use your experiences as a beacon to guide you on your path. Don't look back; continue only forward, while using those memories to create a new path.

C **We pray that God will give you strength and determination to develop new relationships that will help to strengthen and sustain your faith.**

P Because we are made in the image of God we have been blessed with the power to make choices and decisions.

C **We pray that you make wise decisions, always turning to God for help. God hears, God listens, God is always with you. Keep in mind that when you turn to him he will guide you. Amen.**

#### THE BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen**

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

*Please see next page.*



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 DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

#### Postlude

#### Toccata in Seven

John Rutter



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