

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Christine Ruff

**Communion Assistant:** Elizabeth Hurley

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

**Greeter:** Laura Patterson

**Videographer:** Laurie Miller

**Building Supervisors:** Robert Davis & Gretchen Walker

**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); Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; Will Irvin; Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Stan Parnell (friend of Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney).

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Tony and Norma Mosley, by their children.

*To assist in your offering*  
Secure Online Giving



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

**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 6, 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 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 8 – Judy King

July 10 – Casey Gale, Jim Weisel

July 11 – Margaret Fink, George Patterson, Thomas Propst, Jr.

### CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 6	9:00am	Parish Choir
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Ice Cream Social
Monday, July 7	11:30am	Mary Magdalene Circle & Quilters Summer Luncheon
Tuesday, July 8	6:00pm	Congregation Council
Sunday, July 13	9:00am	Parish Choir
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	VBS Volunteer Meeting
	11:00am	Social Ministry Meeting (Parlor)



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Register Now!**

**ROAD TRIP**

**ON THE GO WITH GOD**

**VBS: July 20 - 22, 2025**

All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Contact the church office to volunteer.

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
GROWING IN CHRIST  
EST. 1843



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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION



**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 FORGIVENESS

**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,

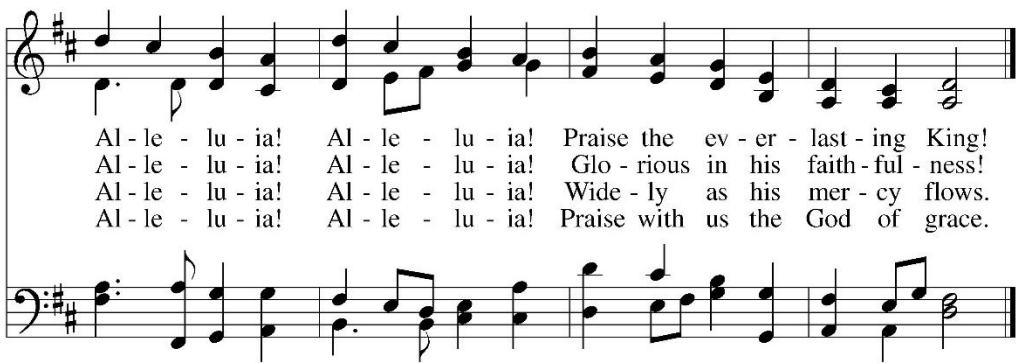
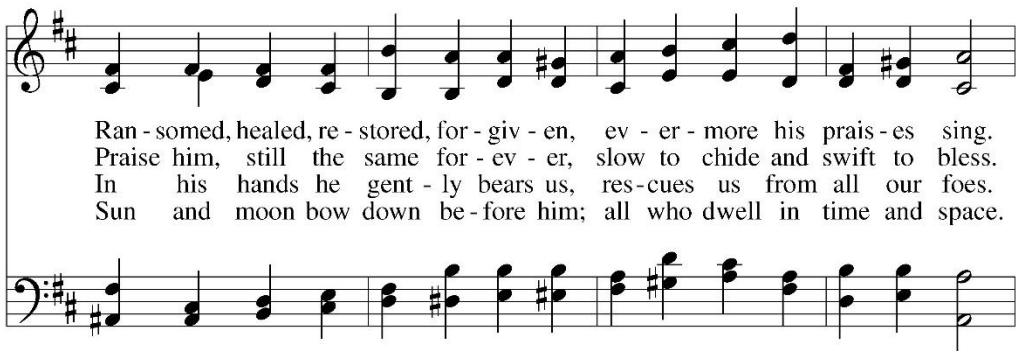
**C** **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, 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: #549 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.  
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.  
3 Ten - der - ly he shields and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows.  
4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, who be-hold him face to face.



### 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** The Lord be with you  
**C** **And also with you.**  
**P** God of glory, Father of love, peace comes from you alone. Send us as peacemakers and witnesses to your kingdom, and fill our hearts with joy in your promises of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** **Amen.**



*Please sit.*

### THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:10-14

<sup>10</sup> Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;  
rejoice with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over her—  
<sup>11</sup> that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast;  
that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious bosom.

<sup>12</sup> For thus says the Lord:  
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,  
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;  
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,  
and dandled on her knees.  
<sup>13</sup> As a mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;  
your bodies shall flourish like the grass;  
and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord is with his servants,  
and his indignation is against his enemies.

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

### THE SECOND READING: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

[<sup>1</sup> My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive

themselves. <sup>4</sup> All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor’s work, will become a cause for pride. <sup>5</sup> For all must carry their own loads. <sup>6</sup> Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.] <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup> If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup> So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. <sup>11</sup> See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup> It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. <sup>14</sup> May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup> As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

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. Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C     **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup> Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ <sup>6</sup> And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ <sup>10</sup> But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’” <sup>16</sup> “Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.” <sup>17</sup> The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” <sup>18</sup> He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. <sup>19</sup> See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

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: #379 Spread, Oh, Spread Almighty Word**

1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord;  
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race  
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,  
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;

tell how his own Son he gave, all from sin and death to save.  
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.  
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.  
let the gath - 'ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

**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** With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Heavenly Father, thank you for entrusting us with the mission of spreading the Gospel throughout the world! Thank you for the Holy Spirit, who reminds us of everything Jesus has taught. Thank you for your Son's grace and forgiveness when we fall short. And thank you for his promise to give us his strength and authority, which is sufficient for all our needs. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son sent the Seventy to announce your Kingdom's close approach. We pray for the Church across the earth. Grant that, in the power of the Spirit, it sows your Word in many hearts. Let it correct, encourage, comfort, and instruct sinners gently. May it reap a harvest of salvation in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make this congregation eager to worship, pray, and serve. Help us to endure rejection and to focus on the joy in heaven over each sinner who repents and turns to Jesus in faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for our country, especially as we celebrate the blessings of independence, liberty, and justice for all. Guide us, especially our elected leaders, in pathways of righteousness and truth. Grant the blessings of justice and peace throughout the world, so that all people may live, work, and serve you with glad and quiet hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guard and protect all who travel this summer, especially families enjoying time together on vacation. Grant them refreshment and relaxation; and renew their



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 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.

### 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. 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.

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: #221 Sent Forth By God’s Blessing

No harmony graphic is available. Please see #221 in the green LBW hymnal.

Musical notation for the first two lines of the hymn. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 1 Sent forth by God’s bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the 2 With praise and thanks-giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing, the

Musical notation for the next two lines of the hymn. The melody continues. The lyrics are: peo - ple of our God from his dwell - ing take leave. tasks of our ev - ’ry - day life we will face.

Musical notation for the next two lines of the hymn. The melody continues. The lyrics are: The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed the Our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em -

Musical notation for the next two lines of the hymn. The melody continues. The lyrics are: fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve. brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and race.

Musical notation for the next two lines of the hymn. The melody continues. The lyrics are: The seed of his teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls With your feast you feed us, with your light now

Musical notation for the next two lines of the hymn. The melody continues. The lyrics are: reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all. lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Musical notation for the next two lines of the hymn. The melody continues. The lyrics are: His grace did in - vite us, his love shall u - nite us to Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing give

Musical notation for the final two lines of the hymn. The melody concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are: work for God’s king - dom and an - swer his call. hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

## THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## Postlude



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## KEVIN ESTES IN CONCERT

As part of the Charlotte Area Chapter of the American Guild of Organists' Summer Concert Series, Kevin Estes will present a recital on Sunday, July 13th at 4pm. The concert host is Friendship Missionary Baptist Church located at 3400 Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte.

## VBS 2025!

Join us for Vacation Bible School **July 20 – 22, 2025**.

Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/StJamesVBS25>.

**Sign up by July 6 to guarantee a T-shirt.**

All volunteers will be required to have a current *Safe Gatherings* background check. Please contact [holly@sjnc.net](mailto: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>.

## VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED!

As summer travel picks up, we will need more volunteers to keep Sunday worship accessible online.

Serving as videographer is a simple process—just a few steps to start and stop the stream, with optional zoom control from your seat using a tablet.

Training is easy: we can walk you through it or have you shadow a current volunteer. Visit the website to sign up.