

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Kim Haberman
Communion Assistant: Elizabeth Hurley
Ushers: Brad Baker, Chip Harward,
Taylor Pruettue, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller
Greeter: Laura Overby
Building Supervisors: Tommy Propst

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); 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); Jennifer Cook (friend of Fonda Shumate); 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; Mary Frances Johnson (cousin of Francie Davis); Karen Johnston (friend of Judy Benz); Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); John Ledford (brother of Deb Black); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Al Pieschel; Lori Pittard; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney).

CROP WALK – Oct. 12

Join the St. James team on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 2pm for the annual Crop Hunger Walk.
Register to walk or donate at the link: <http://tinyurl.com/stjamescropwalkteam>.

TRUNK OR TREAT! – OCT. 26

Join us on Sunday, October 26, 2025, at our rear portico parking lot from 3:00pm - 5:00pm for St. James' annual Trunk or Treat event! Enjoy candy, popcorn, music, and games! If you would like to host a "trunk" or help run a game, please let us know: info@sjnc.net.
Candy Donations Welcome! - See basket at portico door!

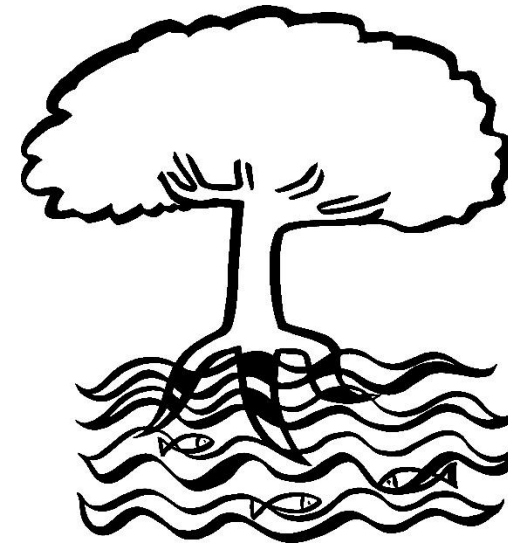
To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



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

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 5, 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.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Oct. 4 – Alex Holt, Meghan Kuly
- Oct. 5 – Phil Sloop
- Oct. 9 – Elizabeth Thompson
- Oct. 10 – Hayden Burroughs
- Oct. 11 – Ann Holt, Susan Miller

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Oct. 5	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, Oct. 6	10:30am	Quilting
	6:30pm	Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday, Oct. 7	10:30am	Mary Magdalene Circle
	6:00pm	Executive Committee
Thursday, Oct. 9	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Oct. 12	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	2:00pm	CROP Hunger Walk (First Pres.)

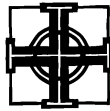
IMPORTANT DATES:

CROP Hunger Walk	Oct. 12 – 2PM
Million Meals Tour	Oct. 25 - 9AM
Trunk or Treat	Oct. 26 – 3PM
Organ Concert	Nov. 8 – 7PM
Carols by Candlelight	Dec. 13 – 7PM

BIBLE STUDY RETURNS! – OCT. 6

Simple Cattle, Irrational Pigs and Luther's Catechism

What do simple cattle and irrational pigs have to do with Luther's Catechism? Come and find out. **Starting Monday, October 6th @ 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall**, we will discover that Luther's catechism is far more than a torturous tool foisted upon middle schoolers. It is a gift, a treasure, for the household and the adult. We'll see how long it lasts. 6 weeks?



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Prelude Fanfare and Processional Wagner

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: #563 For the Fruit of All Creation (See green LBW for harmony.)



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For his gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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 Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.


B Lord God, heav- en- ly king, al- might- y God and Fa - ther:


We wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo- ry.


Lord Je- sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:


You take a- way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.


You are seat- ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re- ceive our prayer.


For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a- lone are the Lord,


you a- lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir- it,


in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Our Lord Jesus, you have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over you, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge you as Lord.
C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

¹The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.
²O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?
Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?
³Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
⁴So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

¹I will stand at my watchpost,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.
²Then the Lord answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.
⁴Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

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

THE SECOND READING: II Timothy 1:1-14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,
²To Timothy, my beloved child:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.
⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what

I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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

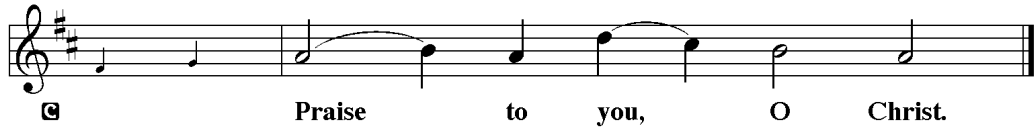
Please stand.
THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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 17th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.
⁷“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”
P The Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

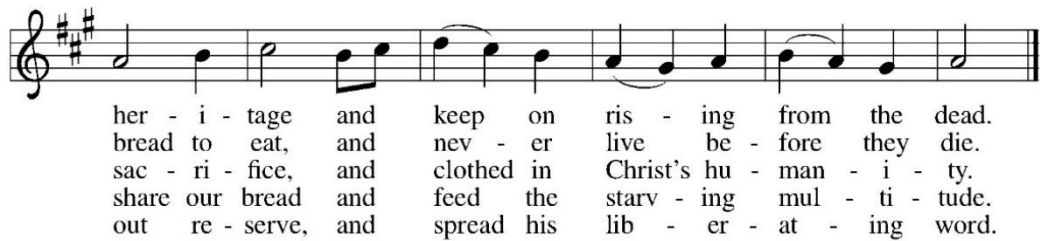
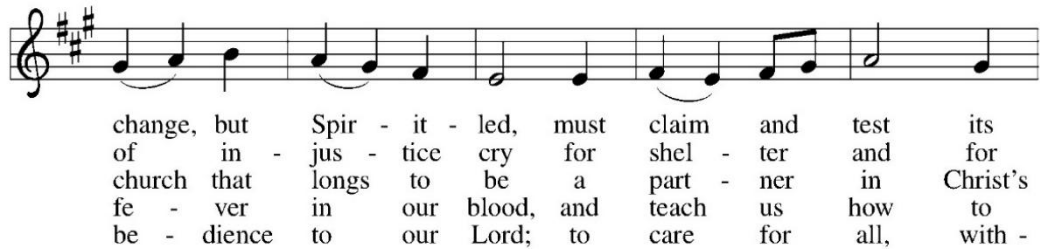
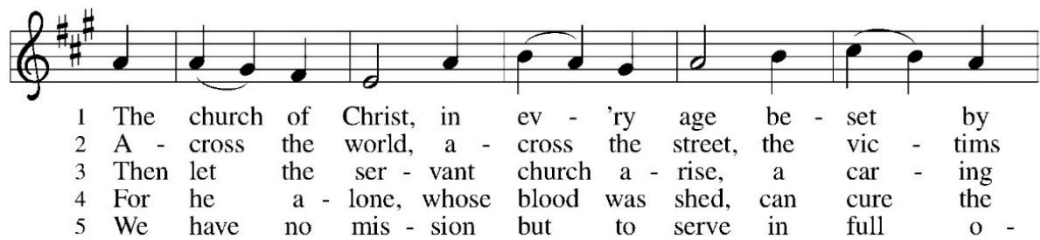
THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #433 The Church of Christ in Every Age

(See the green LBW hymnal for the harmony.)



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

Please sit or kneel, as able.

- A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all those according to their needs.
- A Dear heavenly Father, thank you for planting the mustard-seed of faith in us! Please water it with your Holy Spirit. Make its roots delve deep into your holy Word and Sacraments. Cause that seed to blossom and come to fruition, nourishing a hungry world with your son's forgiveness and love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your protection, guidance and blessing upon your Church. Make it steadfast in faith, courageous in witness, truthful in teaching and preaching, and gracious in service. Use it to lead many souls to Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill this congregation with your Holy Spirit. Let us never seem ashamed of Christ, but instead share his holy and forgiving love with everyone we encounter. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that the leaders of all nations, especially our own, acknowledge you as their Lord and Master. Let them faithfully and diligently do the work entrusted to them, knowing they must give to you an account of their actions. Help them to strive for justice tempered with mercy, and for peace wedded to righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant the watchman’s courage and faithfulness to all who protect and defend life from evil and violence. Especially we pray for our military, and all first responders. Prosper all they do that accomplishes your purposes. Be their mighty fortress when they are in peril. Reunite them safely with their loved ones. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be the rock and salvation, the hope and eternal possession of all who cry out to you in time of trouble. Heal them of wounds to body, mind, and spirit. Give to all who care for them tender hearts, gentle hands, compassionate service, and loving encouragement. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for fulfilling all your promises to those who have died trusting in you. Be the rock and salvation of all whose grief runs deep. Give them courage and hope. Make us gentle and tender-hearted with one another. Help us to forgive when the other sins, and to repent when we are wrong. When one stumbles, help the rest of us to support, guide, and encourage. Lead us safely through the evils and sorrows of this earthly life. Bring us into your Kingdom and into eternal fellowship with you and those whom you have redeemed through the merits of your beloved Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

THE PEACE

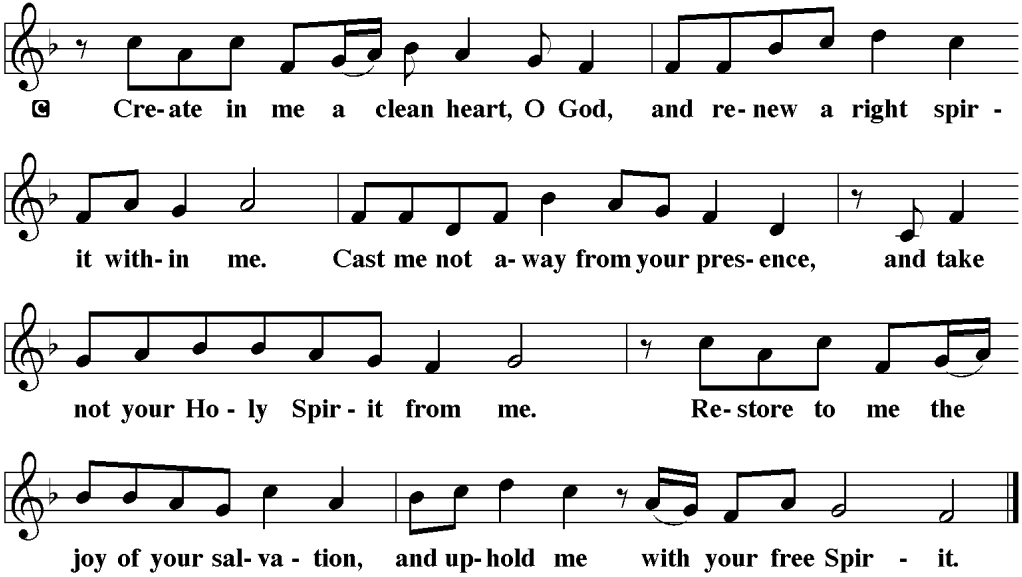
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Please sit.
THE ANTHEM O Lord, Increase My Faith Gibbons

*O Lord, increase my faith,
Strengthen me and confirm me in thy true faith;
Endue me with wisdom, charity, and patience,
In all my adversity, sweet Jesus, say Amen.*

THE OFFERING

Please stand.
THE OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

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:



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 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.



C Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty



of the Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is



yours, al - might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

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.



C 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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Luke Estes, organ

Da Jesus an dem Kreuze stund

(There Jesus Hung upon the Cross)

Verset

Samuel Scheidt

Leon Boëllmann

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



THE BENEDICTION

P

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

C

Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: #503 O Jesus, I Have Promised (See Next Page.)

THE DISMISSAL

P

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fête

Chausson

Please see green LBW Hymnal for the harmony.



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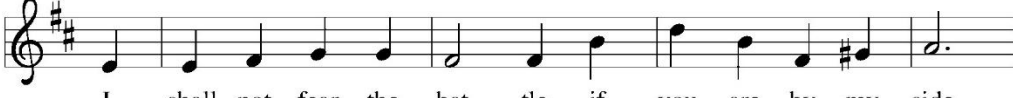
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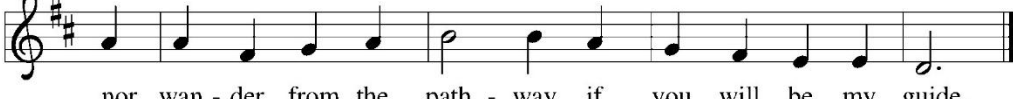
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