

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Barbara Albright

Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass

Ushers: Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,
Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright

Videographer: Emma DePaulis

Greeter: Nancy Faggart

Building Supervisor: Mike Rinker

PRAYER LIST

Chip Allman (friend of the Marlow family); 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); Jay Clemmer; Noah Clifton; Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Phyllis Freeman (mother of Fonda Shumate); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); Linda Hartsell; Maureen Hollmeyer; Hunter Huss; Mary Frances Johnson (cousin of Francie Davis); Karen Johnston (friend of Judy Benz); Mary Anne Lanahan (Aunt of Francie Davis); Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); John Ledford (brother of Deb Black); Ron Lee (neighbor of Kathryn Radcliffe); Leonard "Buddy" McEachern; Jason Matthews; Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Ruthie O'Brien (friend of the Marlow Family); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Mason Overby; Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Al Pieschel; Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Doris Smith; Bobbi Talbert (friend of Dale & Barbara Merrell); Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend); John Walker; Mr. & Mrs. Jim Weisel.

MEALS ON MISSION – Oct. 17

Join us **Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10am** at Cabarrus Arena and Events Center for a morning of service with Lifeline Christian Mission. We need **10 volunteers** to help pack meals for their Meals on Mission event. Supplies provided. Sign up at: tinyurl.com/mealsonmission. Contact Chris Miller for more information.

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



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

**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026**

**The Holy Communion
10:00am**



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

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

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

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

Welcome to St. James.

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

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

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

Let us know you visited!



Scan to connect!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Sept. 20 – Peter Muniz, Camron Trott, Carson Trott Sept. 23 – Annette Propst
Sept. 22 – John Patterson, Patricia Propst Sept. 24 – Lois Marlow

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 20	9:00am	Choir
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, Sept. 21	My Father's House Meal Ministry	
	10:30am	Quilting
Tuesday, Sept. 22	My Father's House Meal Ministry	
Thurs., Sept. 24	6:30pm	Choir
	7:30pm	Carols by Candlelight Rehearsals
Sunday, Sept. 27	Sonshine Backpack Items Due	
	9:00am	Choir
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

TRUNK OR TREAT – OCT. 25

Sunday, October 25 | 3:00–5:00 p.m. | Rear Parking Lot
Join us for candy, popcorn, music, and games! Want to host a trunk or help with a game? Sign up at tinyurl.com/stjamestrunkortreat.

2026 WELCA FALL CONFERENCE GATHERING – SEPT. 26

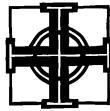
Saturday, Sept. 26 | 8:30 a.m. Registration | 9 a.m. Program
Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church (3600 Hwy 601, Concord)
Cost: \$8 (payable upon arrival). Contact Jean Beasley by Sept. 21 if you can attend.

SONSHINE BACKPACKS SUPPLY DRIVE

Help provide weekend food for local children in need! Needed: Shelf-stable milk, cereal, mac & cheese, canned goods, granola bars, juice, popcorn & pudding. Donations due Sept. 27 on the back kitchen counter. Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker.

BETHLEHEM AT THE FARM – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sunday, December 6 | 3:00–5:00 p.m. | Jones Family Farm (off Old Salisbury Rd.)
Help bring the Christmas story to life with a marketplace, shepherds, Mary and Joseph, live animals, and more! About 50 volunteers are needed. Please sign up: tinyurl.com/BATF26.



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Please silence your phones. Thank you.

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

Welcome

Prelude

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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

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

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND 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.

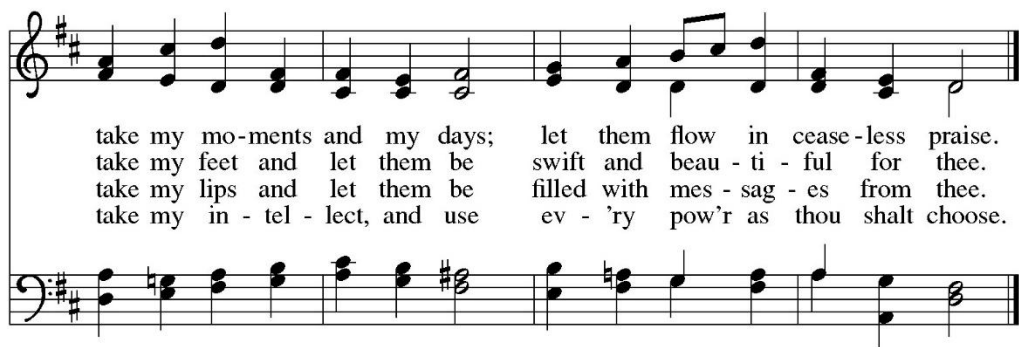
Please sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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: #406 Take My Life, That I Might Be

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo-ments and my days; let them flow in cease-less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau-ti-ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes-sag-es from thee.
 take my in-tel-lect, and use ev-ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

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 Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

4 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord and said, ‘O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. 3 And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.’ 4 And the Lord said, ‘Is it right for you to be angry?’ 5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

6 The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, ‘It is better for me to die than to live.’

9 But God said to Jonah, ‘Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?’ And he said, ‘Yes, angry enough to die.’ 10 Then the Lord said, ‘You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?’

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

THE ANTHEM

THE SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are

standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, 28 and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

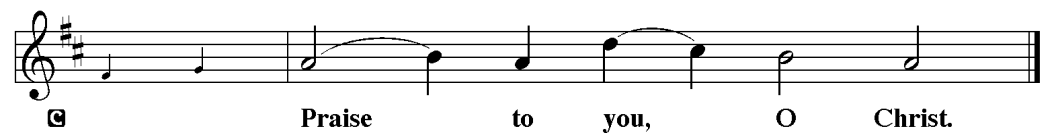


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; 4 and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” 7 They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay,

beginning with the last and then going to the first.” ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” ¹³ But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.
THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.
THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #469 Lord Of All Hopefullness

Please see next page.

1 Lord of all hope-ful-ness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ev - er
2 Lord of all ea - ger-ness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to
4 Lord of all gen - tle-ness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is con -

child-like, no cares could de - stroy: be there at our wak - ing, and
skilled at the plane and the lathe: be there at our la - bors, and
wel-come, your arms to em - brace: be there at our hom - ing, and
tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm: be there at our sleep - ing, and

give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

THE APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

A Let us approach the throne of grace on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

Thank you, Father, for calling Matthew, and us, to be your disciples and workers in your Kingdom's vineyard! Thank you for seeking us to do your work, even when others disapprove. Give us grace to hear your call, and strength to do your will. Thank you for the wages of everlasting life and salvation, and for your pleasure in us. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Make the Church a place where all may see the fair beauty of Jesus and find a welcome in his outstretched arms. Let them hear the Gospel, respond to your call, and labor fruitfully and faithfully in your service. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Help the people of this congregation to stand firm together, striving to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. Help us to work at whatever task pleases you. Make us glad when others begin to work alongside us, knowing that your grace has drawn them to serve you, even as it drew us. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

We pray for our young people. Give them delight in learning, and love for your people. Preserve them from the consequences of folly or malice. Use their energy to please you and to serve their neighbor. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Grant wisdom to our earthly leaders. Let them seek you while you may be found; call upon you while you are near; and govern in accordance with your holy will. Graciously grant patience, kindness, and humility to everyone, so that we may lead peaceable lives. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Be the safe shelter and solid rock to everyone in times of trouble, including Mason and all who serve, protect and defend. Lift them high above the things that trouble them. Give patience and compassion to all caregivers, especially those whose work is long, hard, and thankless. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Thank you, Father, for the saints who have before us. Give us strength to labor cheerfully in your vineyards. Help us to share the Gospel wisely and well, following the example of the apostles and evangelists. Then, let us rejoice in the company of the redeemed, as together we see our Savior face to face. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

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

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE OFFERING

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

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



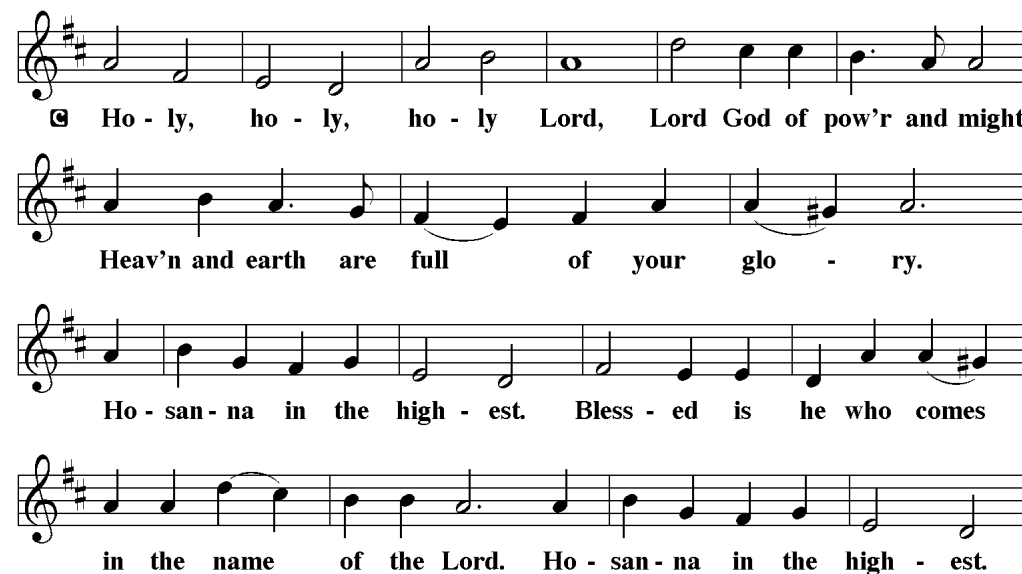
THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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 Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
 You have filled all creation with light and life;
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.
 You rescued Israel, your chosen people.
 Through the prophets you renewed your promise;
 and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,
 who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom
 and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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, gracious Father, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and 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.



☐ 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:

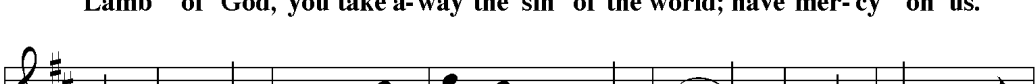
**C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



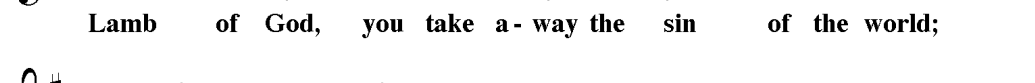
☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us.



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.

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,
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: #517 Praise to the Father

1 Praise to the Fa - ther for his lov - ing - kind - ness, ten - der - ly
 2 Praise to the Sav - ior for his deep com - pas - sion, gra - cious - ly
 3 Praise to the Spir - it, com - fort - er of Is - rael, sent from the

car - ing for his err - ing chil - dren; praise him, all an - gels;
 car - ing for his cho - sen peo - ple; young men and wom - en;
 Fa - ther and the Son to bless us! Praise to the Fa - ther,

praise him in the heav - ens; praise to the Fa - ther!
 ag - ing folk and chil - dren, praise to the Sav - ior!
 Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it! Praise to the tri - une God!

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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