

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Christine Ruff

**Communion Assistant:** Samantha Hillegass

**Ushers:** Mike Downs, Al Brown, Jr., Sid Hughes

Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss

**Videographer:** Annette Propst

**Building Supervisors:** Hunter Huss & Kim Haberman

**PRAYER LIST**

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); 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); Margaret Garrison; Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; Will Irvin; 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); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney); Deb Walker.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The altar flowers are given by Fuller and Jean Beasley to the Glory of God and in honor of Robert Henry Beasley as he celebrated his first birthday on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

Please save the date and join us for a congregational sing-along of Advent and Christmas Carols accompanied by full Orchestra, Organ and the Parish & Bell Choirs of St. James Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 13th at 7:00pm.

*To assist in your offering*

Secure Online Giving



Open Camera – Scan QR Code

*Thank you for supporting St. James!*

**The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 17, 2025**

**The Holy Communion**  
**10:00am**



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

### Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

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

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

Welcome to St. James.

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

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

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

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

August 17 – Michael Bestler  
August 18 – Helen Fincher, Sam Jones  
August 19 – Jim Harris, Jr.  
August 21 – Meagan Lambert  
August 23 – Brittany Eaton

### CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 17	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, August 18	10:30am	Quilting
Sunday, August 24	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

### STUFF THE PENCIL BOXES!

Throughout the month of August, our Christian Education Committee is collecting pencils to support students in our local schools.

High-need item: Ticonderoga #2 Pencils

Also collecting: Crayola Colored Pencils

Look for the pencil boxes on the counter in the Portico to leave your donations. Thank you to everyone who has donated! We've collected 541 pencils and 264 colored pencils thus far!

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOU

We're looking for caring volunteers to help with our Children's Sunday School classes. No teaching experience needed – just a love for kids and willingness to share God's Word. Materials and training provided. Please email Ann Blackwelder at [mafb2468@gmail.com](mailto:mafb2468@gmail.com) or call the church office.

### USHERS NEEDED

We are currently looking to add a few new ushers to our Sunday worship team. Whether you're able to serve regularly or are simply willing to be on call as a substitute, your help would be greatly appreciated. Reach out to Gretchen Walker ([gwalk64@ctc.net](mailto:gwalk64@ctc.net)) to volunteer.



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

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**



**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: #522 Come, Thou Almighty King** *(See LBW hymnal for harmony.)*



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;  
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword;  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear  
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -  
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy  
in this glad hour! Thou, who al - might - y art, now rule in  
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.  
ev - 'ry heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

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 Almighty and ever-living God, you have given great and precious promises to those who believe. Grant us the perfect faith which overcomes all doubts, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord  
C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

23Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? 24Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. 25I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed, I have dreamed!” 26How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? 27They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. 28Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. 29Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

29By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. 30By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. 31By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

32And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. 36Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— 38of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. 39Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

1Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne 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 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C Glory to you, O Lord

49“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! 51Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 52From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; 53they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

54He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. 55And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. 56You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

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: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

*Please see next page.*

1 Lord, keep us steady in your word; curb those who are proud.  
2 Lord Jesus Christ, your power make known, for you are peace and love.  
3 O Comforter of the afflicted, send us your Holy Spirit, by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son.  
Lord of lords alone; defend your holy church, that we may bring to naught all he has done.  
and may sing to your praise e - ter - nal - ly. and lead us out of death to life.

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

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

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy church of God, and for the unity of all peoples; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For all the holy people of God, for the clergy, for Timothy and all bishops and all leaders; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For our president, for the leaders of nations, for all in authority that their leadership may foster compassion and justice, Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For this city of Concord, for every city and community, and for those who live in them; Lord, in your mercy,

- C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, for the sick and suffering, and all who we remember silently in our hearts; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and disgrace; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach; Lord, in your mercy,

C

Hear our Prayer.
- A

For all the saints now resting from their labors; Lord, in your mercy,

C

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. **Amen.**

### THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

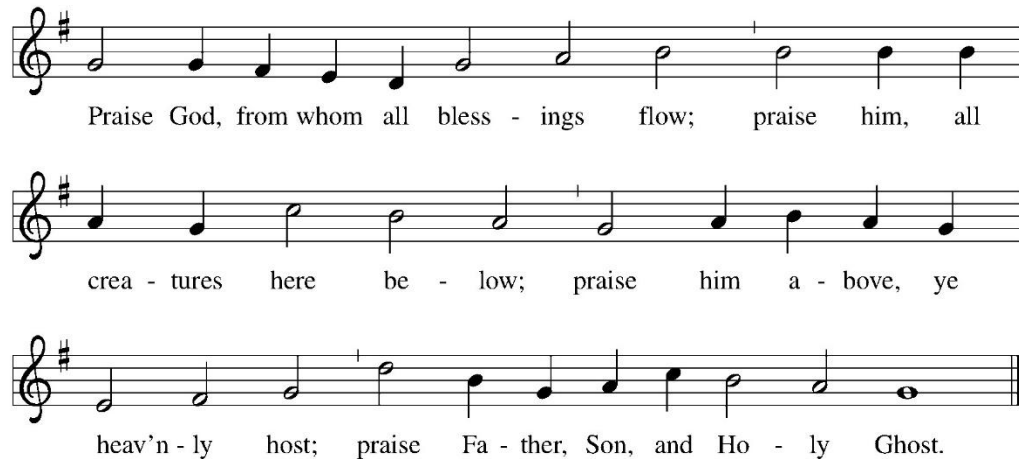
*Please sit.*

### THE ANTHEM

### THE OFFERING

*Please stand.*

### THE OFFERTORY #564 “The Doxology”



### 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.

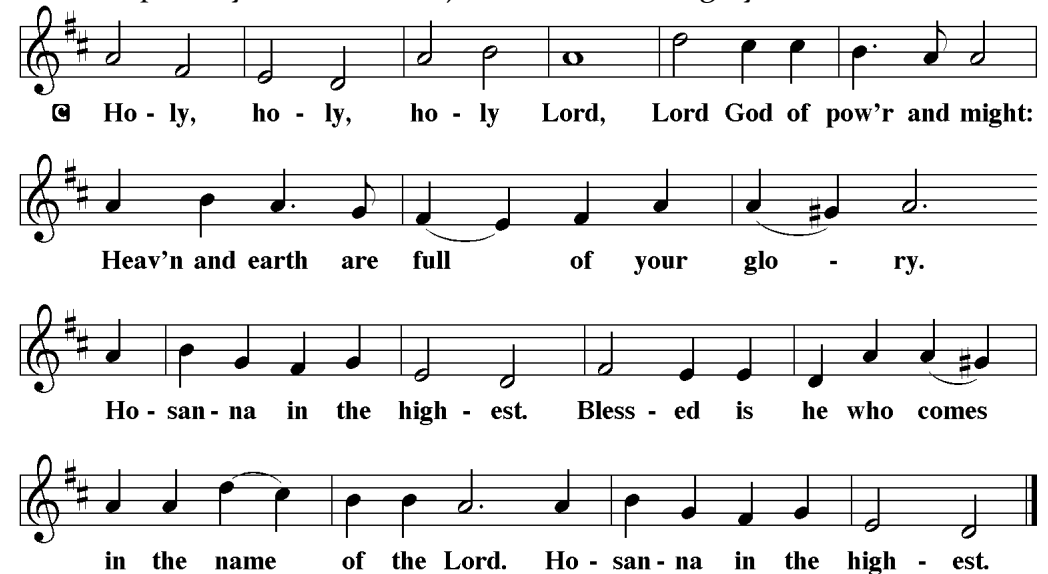
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him

should not perish, but have eternal life.  
We give thanks to you  
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.  
**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**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.

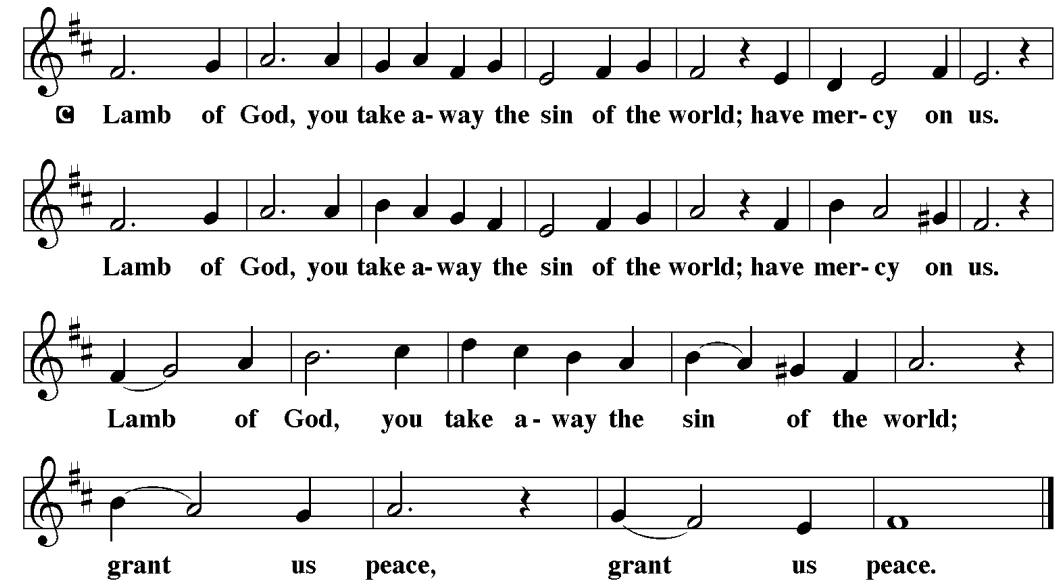
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### 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**



### THE BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen**

### THE SENDING HYMN: On Our Way Rejoicing

*Please see next page.*

1 On our way re-joic-ing glad-ly let us go.  
2 Un-to God the Fa-ther joy-ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con- quered; van- quished is the foe.  
un- to God the Sav- ior thank- ful hearts we bring;

Christ with- out, our safe- ty; Christ with- in, our joy;  
un- to God the Spir- it bow we and a- dore,

who, if we be faith- ful, can our hope de- stroy?  
on our way re- joic- ing now and ev- er- more.

*Refrain*

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,  
 hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

The musical score is written for four staves. The top two staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom two staves are in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the upper staves, with the lower staves providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

## THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
 C **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude



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## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee is looking for volunteers to join. If you are interested, please reach out to Travis Nesbit in person or via email at [tnez13@gmail.com](mailto:tnez13@gmail.com).

## GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SEPT - 7

Join us after worship on Sunday, Sept. 7 in the Fellowship Hall for *God's Work, Our Hands*, a day of service across the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. We'll assemble hygiene and school kits for Lutheran World Relief, create Mission Quilts, and write encouragement cards for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

All activities will take place in the Fellowship Hall, and all materials will be provided. Just bring your enthusiasm and appetite! Bagged lunch will be provided. We have yellow T-shirts for those who have never participated or no longer have theirs from past events. T-shirts will be handed out after worship on Sunday 8/24.

Please sign up online at [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net)

## SONSHINE BACKPACKS

St. James will be supporting the Sonshine Backpack Ministry, which provides weekend food for Cabarrus County schoolchildren in need.

For over 12 years, this ministry—led by Bonita Rowland at St. John's Lutheran Church—has worked to ensure students don't go hungry when school meals aren't available.

Each quarter, our church will collect non-perishable food items to help fill these backpacks. Items may include shelf-stable milk, cereal cups, oatmeal, or grits, macaroni & cheese or canned pasta, soup, vegetables, and fruit, granola bars, juice boxes, popcorn, and pudding cups.

Please place your donations on the back counter in the church kitchen during the month of **September**.

Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl at 704-425-8621 or Gretchen Walker at [gwalk64@ctc.net](mailto:gwalk64@ctc.net).

## BLESSING BOX NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER

St. James is once again sponsoring the Blessing Box for the month of September. Please consider donating items throughout the month to be placed in the box in Rotary Square. Requested items include nonperishable food items, baby food, bottled water, and hygiene items. Please place items in the Blessing Box or leave items in the designated portico bin.