## **ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

Lector/Intercessor: Margaret Garrison Communion Assistant: Kim Haberman Ushers: Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline, Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright Greeter: Joyce Smith

Videographer: Laurie Miller

Building Supervisors: Chip Blackwelder & Mike Rinker

## 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; Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); 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).

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God by Jim & Laurie Miller in honor of Christopher's birthday today.

## 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: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/stjamescropwalkteam">http://tinyurl.com/stjamescropwalkteam</a>.

**To assist in your offering**Secure Online Giving



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

# The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 28, 2025

Holy Communion Holy Baptism 10:00am



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

## **Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church**

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

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

Welcome to St. James.

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

<u>Restrooms</u> are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A <u>nursery</u> 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. 28 – Francie Davis, Miles Marlow, Christopher Miller

Sept. 30 – Katie Popovici

Oct. 1 – Chase Lineberger, Conner Lineberger

Oct. 3 – Nicholas Crainshaw

## **CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

Sunday, Sept. 28	9:00am 9:30am 10:00am	Adult Sunday School Choir Children's Sunday School Worship
Monday, Sept. 29	10:30am 6:30pm	Quilting Cub Scouts
Thursday, Oct. 2	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Oct. 5	9:00am 9:00am 9:30am 10:00am	Adult Sunday School Choir Children's Sunday School Worship

## **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

## 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!

## ORGAN CONCERT - NOV. 8

Enjoy an evening of music for organ and timpani on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 7pm. Featuring: Brice Burton, Principle Percussionist for the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra & Dr. Kevin L. Estes, Director of Music Ministry & Organist.



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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION



Prelude II in G major Mendelssohn

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

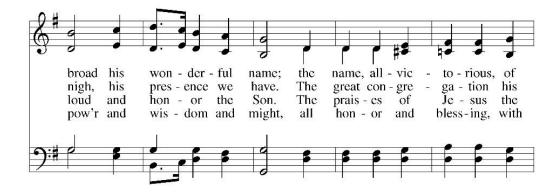
- P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen
- P If we say we have 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.

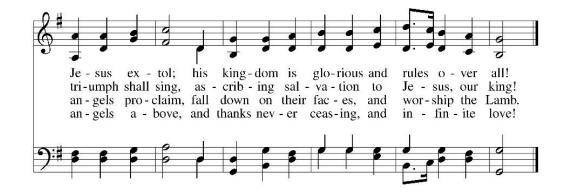
Please sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- 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: #252 You Servants of God



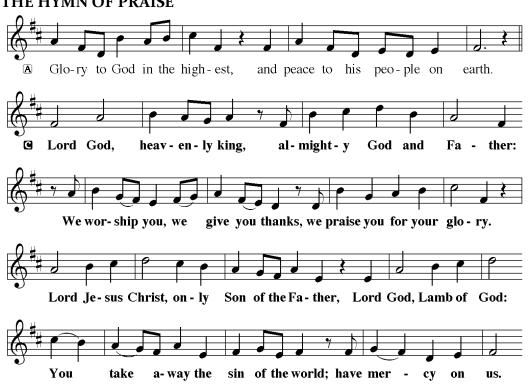


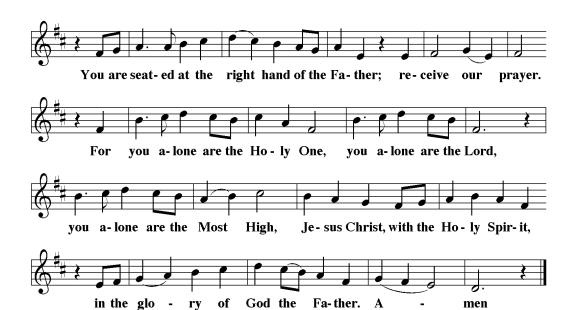


## THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- And also with you.

#### THE HYMN OF PRAISE





## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- God of love, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them; keep us from those things that harm us; and guide us in the way of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Amen.



#### Please sit.

## THE FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a-4-7

<sup>1</sup>Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,

<sup>4</sup>Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall:

5who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music;
6who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
7Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

## THE SECOND READING: I Timothy 6:6-19

<sup>6</sup>Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; <sup>8</sup>but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup>But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

"But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup>It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup>As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

# Please stand. THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.



<sup>19</sup> There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' 25But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup>He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' 30He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31He said to

him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

P The Gospel of the Lord.



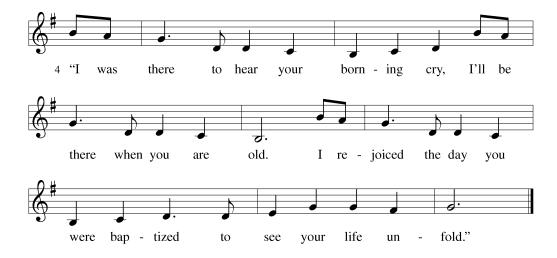
Please sit.
THE SERMON

**Pastor Bill Ridenhour** 

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry





## Please sit. Holy Baptism



The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

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

*A parent/sponsor for each candidate presents the candidate:* 

R I/We present Emery Strome Poplin to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The minister addresses the sponsors and parents.

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

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R I do.

#### Please Stand.

# The Prayers are offerred.

A Let us pray for Emery, about to be baptized, and for all the baptized everywhere:

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

- A That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- A That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- A That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- A That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: 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 minister begins the thanksgiving.* 

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

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

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

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

## C Amen

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.
- P Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
- R I do.
- P Do you believe in God the Father?

- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
  He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
  and born of the virgin Mary.
  He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
  was crucified, died, and was buried.
  He descended into hell.\*
  On the third day he rose again.
  He ascended into heaven,
  and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
  He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- I believe in the Holy Spirit,
  the holy catholic Church,
  the communion of saints,
  the forgiveness of sins,
  the resurrection of the body,
  and the life everlasting. Amen

The minister baptizes each candidate.

P Emery Strome Poplin is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

#### Please Sit.

The minister lays both hands on the head of each of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit (Confirmation).

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

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

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized.

P Emery Strome Poplin, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A lighted candle may be given to each of the baptized:

- A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen

#### Please Stand.

- A Through Baptism God has made this new sister a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- C We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.
- P The Peace of the Lord be with you always
- C And also with you.

Please sit.
THE ANTHEM

He Watching over Israel (from *Elijah*)

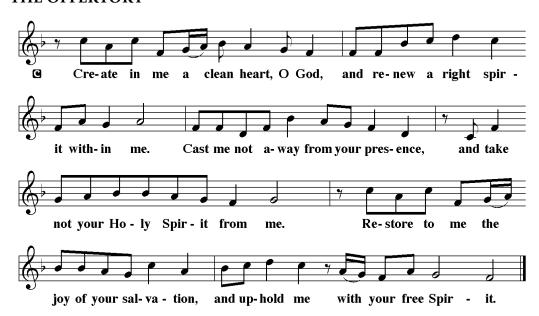
Mendelssohn

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief languish, He will quicken thee.

-paraphrased from Psalm 121

## THE OFFERING

## Please stand. THE OFFERTORY



# THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.

Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



#### THE COMMUNION RITE

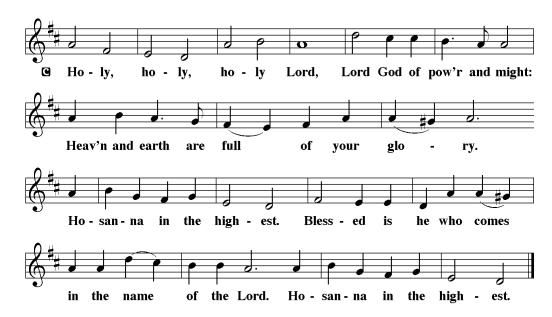
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise 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.

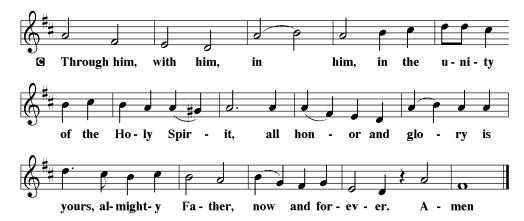
- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

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.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

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;

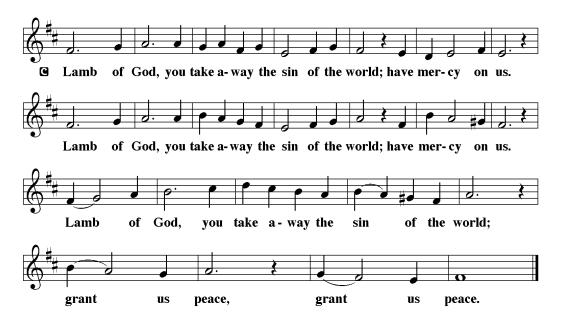
and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.



#### 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: #415 God of Grace and God of Glory

Please see next page.

Please see hymn #415 in the green LBW Hymnal for the Harmony.

## THE DISMISSAL

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

Postlude

Fugue II in G major

Mendelssohn



#### COPYRIGHT:

**Lutheran Book of Worship** © 1978. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Licenses SAS-002140, SB177826. **Borning Cry** (Text and Music) © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002. **God of Grace and God of Glory (Arrangement)** © CPH Publishing (SESAC). Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002.



## 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 6**<sup>th</sup> @ **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?

# CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT - DEC. 13

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 7pm.