

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Barbara Albright

Communion Assistant: Elizabeth Hurley

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

Videographer: Anthony DePaulis

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); Jeff 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; Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend); John Walker; Mr. & Mrs. Jim Weisel.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given by Kim Haberman to celebrate the Glory of God and the members of St. James.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Join the St. James Choir for Carols by Candlelight! Rehearsals begin Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



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

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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 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. 6 – Sophie Horton, Trey Horton, Dylan Urso
Sept. 8 – Laura Overby, Edith Propst
Sept. 9 – Dianne Lambert
Sept. 10 – Ryan Patterson, Alisa Wickliff, Libby Williams
Sept. 11 – Riece Pittard

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 6	9:00am	Choir
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, Sept. 7	Closed for Labor Day	
Tuesday, Sept. 8	12:00pm	Lively Leisures
	6:00pm	Congregation Council
Thurs., Sept. 10	6:30pm	Choir
Sunday, Sept. 13	9:00am	Choir
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	God's work. Our hands. RSVP->



LIVELY LEISURES - SEPT. 8

Join us Tuesday, Sept. 8, at noon with guest speaker Dr. Doug Kelling, whose father, an Army doctor, was among the first to enter the Dachau concentration camp at the end of WWII.
Program: The Holocaust, The Bad, The Ugly, The Good and "I Don't Know."

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. — SEPT. 13

Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for a day of service.
T-shirts available Sept. 6 & 13 if you do not have one. **Bagged lunch provided with RSVP.**

HELP PROVIDE FOOD FOR MY FATHER'S HOUSE

St. James will provide meals for My Father's House Shelter Ministry **Sept. 21–22** and needs help with sides, desserts, and snacks.

Mon., Sept. 21: Ham meal | **Tues., Sept. 22:** Chicken strips
Sides: Mac & cheese • Mashed potatoes • Baked beans • Green beans • Corn • Pasta/veg. casseroles • Fruit
Desserts & Snacks: Cookies • Cupcakes • Goldfish • Lance crackers • Juice boxes • Fresh fruit
To help, contact Martha Matthews: 704-787-2180.

SONSHINE BACKPACK SEPTEMBER SUPPLY DRIVE

Help provide weekend food for local children in need through our partnership with Sonshine Backpacks! Needed: Shelf-stable milk • Cereal • Mac & cheese • Canned goods • Granola bars • Juice • Popcorn • Pudding. **Donations due by Sept. 27** on the back kitchen counter.
Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker.



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: #251 O Day of Rest and Gladness



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n-ly man-na falls;
4 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.



on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
To Ho - ly Ghost be prais - es, to Fa - ther, and to Son;



sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.
and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three-fold light was giv'n.
and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh-ing streams.
the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

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 eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do

not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18th chapter. 15-20
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

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: #370 Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;

2

Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;

3

We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,

4

From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.

our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.

and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.

and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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.

O dear Lord, these lessons are hard! It's tough to think about sin and reconciliation, discipline and hard conversations. Please help us to thank you for the guidance and promise your Son gives us, even in such awkward encounters. And fill us with your Spirit, so we are equipped to put into practice what Jesus has given us for such times. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Make your Church courageous in warning people of their sinfulness, and humble in confessing its own sin. Help it to graciously offer forgiveness to any who turn to you. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Bless this congregation with humility, gentleness, and wisdom. Help us to speak truth with so much love, that others eagerly seek the mercy, reconciliation and life that comes from Christ. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

We pray for families, congregations, and communities in which people have hurt one another. They struggle with betrayal and anger. They need humility, to confess and repent when they have done wrong. They need courage, to forgive when they have been wronged. They need hope, to relearn trust. Refresh them with your Spirit and nourish them with your Word. Give them the grace and mercy of Jesus, so they can heal and reconcile, to your glory and for the sake of their fellowship. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Give everyone the will and the opportunity to work, and give our society the generosity to assist those who cannot. Especially we ask you to strengthen and help entrepreneurs, small business owners, and all employees. Help us to value their contribution to our common welfare. Guide us in finding ways to help them prosper, for the good of all. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Give wisdom, courage, and right intentions to those in the military and law enforcement. Make them worthy instruments of your will. Use them to bring safety, freedom, and justice to those who suffer at the hands of evildoers. Heal them when *they* are victims of evil. By their labors, lay the groundwork for peace to flourish. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

We plead on behalf of all who suffer. Grant them health, hope, guidance, and the joy of your presence in their lives. Fill all who care for them with compassion. Give your salvation to them all. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the saints now resting from their labors. Help up follow their faithful example that our discipleship may show your love to all the world. 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.

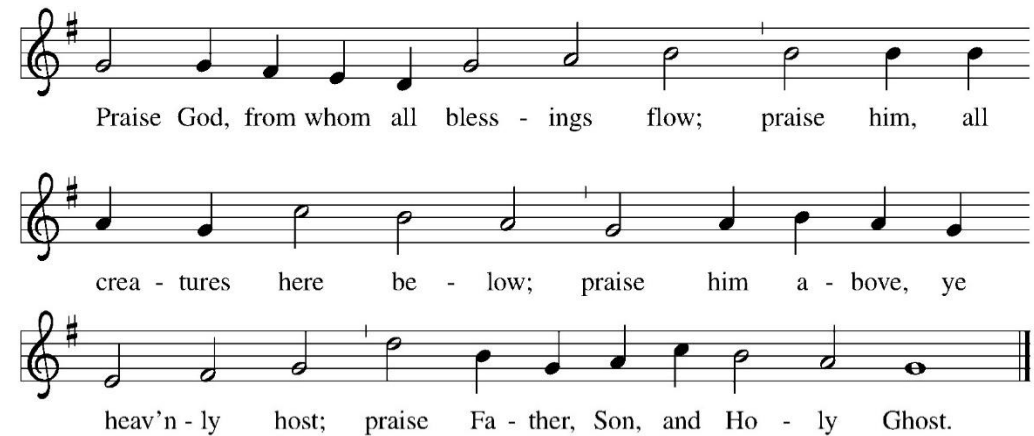
Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY #564 "The Doxology"



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

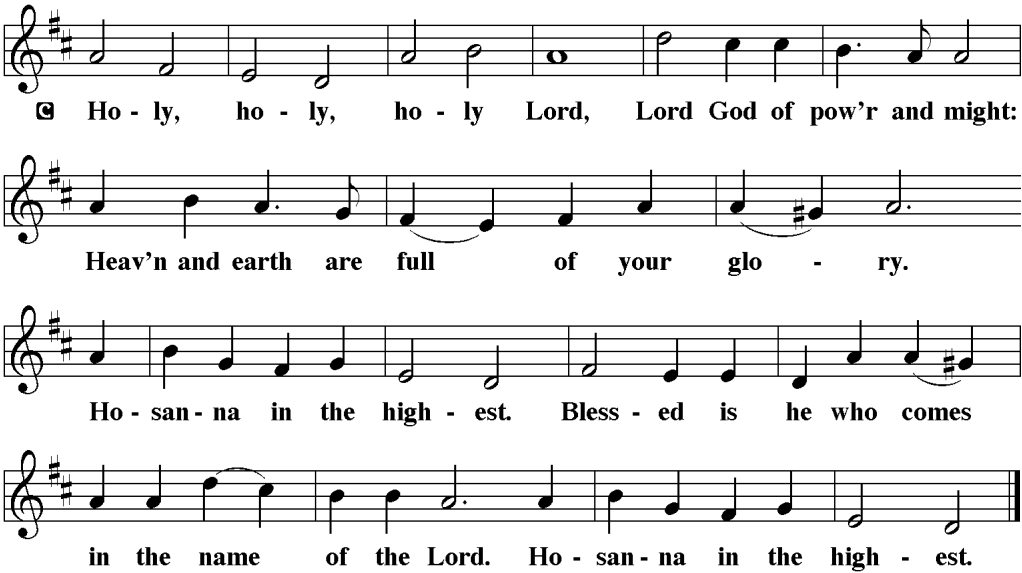
A Blessed are you,

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

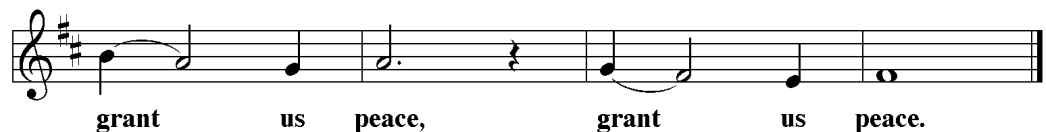
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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



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



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.

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.

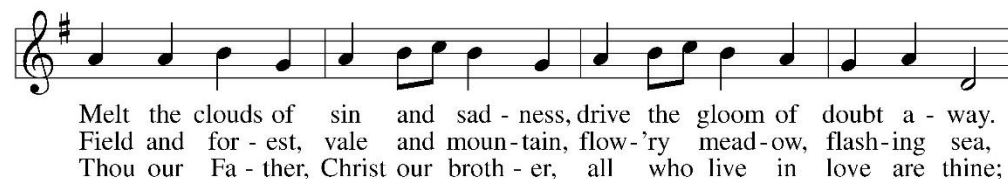
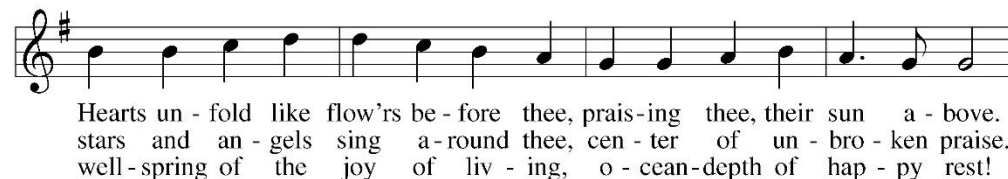
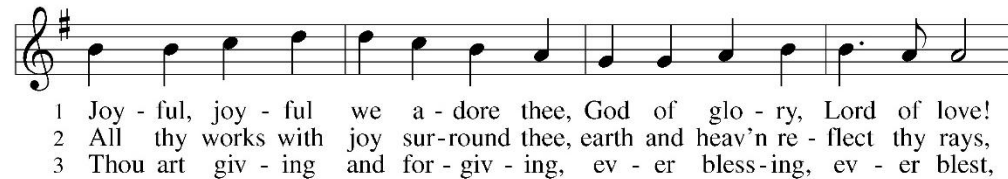


THE BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen**

THE SENDING HYMN: #551 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

