

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Christine Ruff

**Communion Assistant:** Elizabeth Hurley

**Acolyte:** Josh Rinker

**Ushers:** Chip Popovici, Jimmy Harris,

Jeff Jones, Jeff Gilbert, Phil Tesh

**Building Supervisor:** Jeff Gilbert & Kenny Propst

**PRAYER LIST**

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; Family of Virginia Gaye Blackwelder, St. John (Friend of Lex & Laura Patterson); Caroline Bost; Patrick Bryn (son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn); 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; Harriett Huss Hodge; 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); Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Becky Phillips; Al Pieschel; Lori Pittard; Tom Ridenhour.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of the St. James Choir by Kelley Carpenter.

**MY FATHER'S HOUSE MEAL SUPPORT (Dec. 15 & 16)**

We need volunteers to provide side dishes for meals on Dec. 15 (ham) and Dec. 16 (chicken strips) for My Father's House Meal Ministry. If you can help, contact Martha Matthews at 704-787-2180. Suggested sides: mac & cheese, potatoes, veggies, casseroles, rolls, desserts, and simple snacks.

*To assist in your offering*

Secure Online Giving



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

**The Second Sunday in Advent  
December 7, 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](http://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**

Dec. 10 – Jason Urso  
Dec. 11 – CJ Harward, III  
Dec. 13 – Debbie Davis

**CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

Sunday, Dec. 7	<i>Poinsettia Order Deadline</i> 🌸	
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	10:30am	Quilting
	6:30pm	Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Dec. 9	Noon	Lively Leisures
	6:00pm	Congregation Council
	6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight Rehearsals
Thursday, Dec. 11	<i>Salvation Army Bell Ringing Day (Sign up at sjnc.net)</i>	
	6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight Rehearsals
Saturday, Dec. 13	7:00pm	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>
Sunday, Dec. 14	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Social Ministry Meeting (Parlor)

**SONSHINE BACKPACKS – DECEMBER DRIVE** 📦

We're continuing our quarterly partnership with Sonshine Backpacks to provide weekend food for local children in need.

Requested items: shelf-stable milk, cereal/oatmeal, mac & cheese, canned pasta/soup/veggies/fruit, granola bars, juice, popcorn, pudding.  
Please place donations on the back kitchen counter by **Sunday, Dec. 28**.  
Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker.

**COCOA, COFFEE, & COOKIES WITH ST. JAMES CHILDREN - DEC. 21**

Join us after worship December 21 for cocoa, coffee and cookies in the Fellowship Hall as the children of St. James share the Christmas story.

See the weekly Ring Out Newsletter for more information! Subscribe at [sjnc.net](http://sjnc.net).



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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION



**Welcome**

**Prelude**                      Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme                      J. S. Bach

*Please stand.*

### THE INVOCATION

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

C        **Amen.**

### THE 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 to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P        We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C        **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P        Our indifference toward your coming,

C        **we confess to you, Lord.**

P        Our desire to control time and seasons,

C        **we confess to you, Lord.**

P        Our failure to be alert to signs of your presence in our midst,

C        **we confess to you, Lord.**

P        Our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C        **we confess to you, Lord.**

P        Our injustices toward people you came to save,

C        **we confess to you, Lord.**

P        In the mercy of almighty God, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C        **Amen**

**THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #29** Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

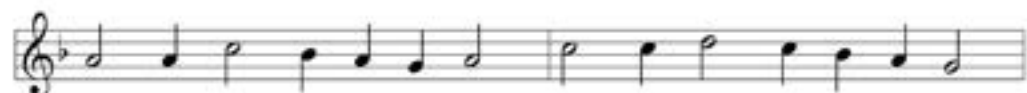
*When not printed, hymn harmonies may be found in the green LBW hymnal.*



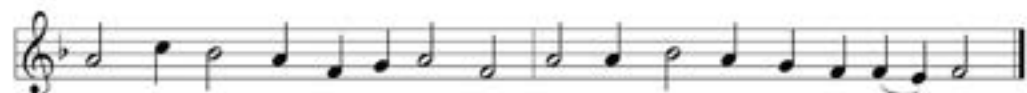
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro - claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

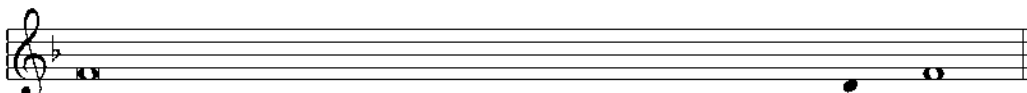
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## THE KYRIE



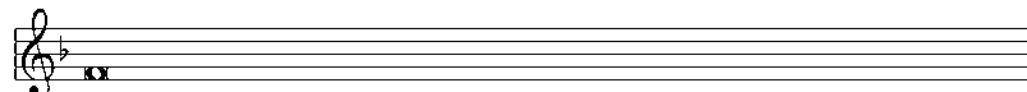
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **☩ Lord, have mer - cy.**



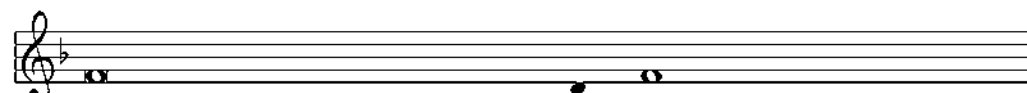
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**☩ Lord, have mer - cy.**



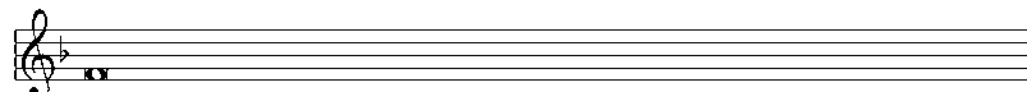
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



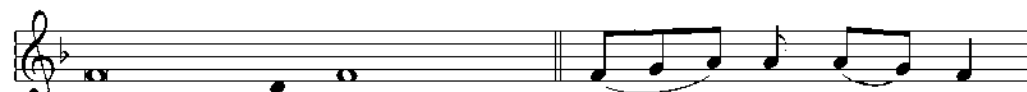
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**☩ Lord, have mer - cy.**

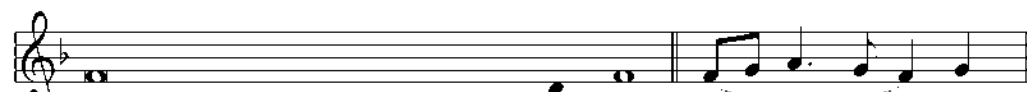


**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

**☩ Lord, have mer - cy.**



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **☩ A - men**

## PRAYER AT THE ADVENT WREATH

**P** Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C** Amen.

*The Advent Wreath is lit.  
Today, the congregation sings the first two stanzas.*



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on  
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's  
4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

*Refrain*  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re - joice!  
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

#### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you  
C **And also with you.**  
P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

#### THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
7 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
9 They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.  
10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

#### THE SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name’;

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

<sup>11</sup> and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him’;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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. Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.



In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

P The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please sit.*  
THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

*Please stand.*  
THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #36 On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry

1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounce - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you. e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

THE NICENE CREED  
We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Please kneel or sit as able.*  
THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

From all sin, from all error, from all evil;

from the cunning assaults of the devil;  
from an unprepared and evil death:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From war, bloodshed, and violence;  
from corrupt and unjust government;  
from sedition and treason:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From epidemic, drought, and famine,  
from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning and storm;  
and from everlasting death:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your incarnation; by your holy birth:  
**Help us, good Lord.**

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;  
by your agony and bloody sweat;  
by your cross and suffering;  
by your precious death and burial:  
**Help us, good Lord.**

By your glorious resurrection and ascension;  
by the gift of the Holy Spirit:  
**Help us, good Lord.**

In all time of our tribulation;  
in all time of our prosperity;  
in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:  
**Save us, good Lord.**  
Though unworthy, we implore you  
**to hear us, Lord our God.**

To rule and govern your holy catholic Church;

to guide all servants of your Church in the true knowledge and understanding  
of your Word and in holiness of life;  
to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense to those who  
would believe; and to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and gone  
astray:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To beat down Satan under our feet;  
to send faithful workers into your harvest;  
to accompany your Word with your Spirit and power;  
to raise up those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and  
to comfort and help the fainthearted and the distressed:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To give to all nations justice and peace;  
to preserve our country from discord and strife;  
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;  
and to bless and guide all our people:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;  
to protect and guide all who travel;  
to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;  
to watch over children and to guide the young;  
to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;  
to bring reconciliation to families in discord;  
to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;  
to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;  
to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows;  
to watch over our loved ones in need; and to have mercy on all your people:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,  
and to reconcile us to them; to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures  
of the earth, the sea, and the air; and graciously to hear our prayers:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**



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**

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

**THE ANTHEM**                      E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come                      Paul O. Manz

## THE OFFERING

## THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all

7 D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> Bm A A<sup>7</sup>  
crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye

12 D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D  
heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

18 A<sup>7</sup> D Bm F<sup>#</sup>m D G A<sup>7</sup> D A  
No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A<sup>7</sup>/E D/F<sup>#</sup> D/A A<sup>7</sup> D  
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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.**



P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

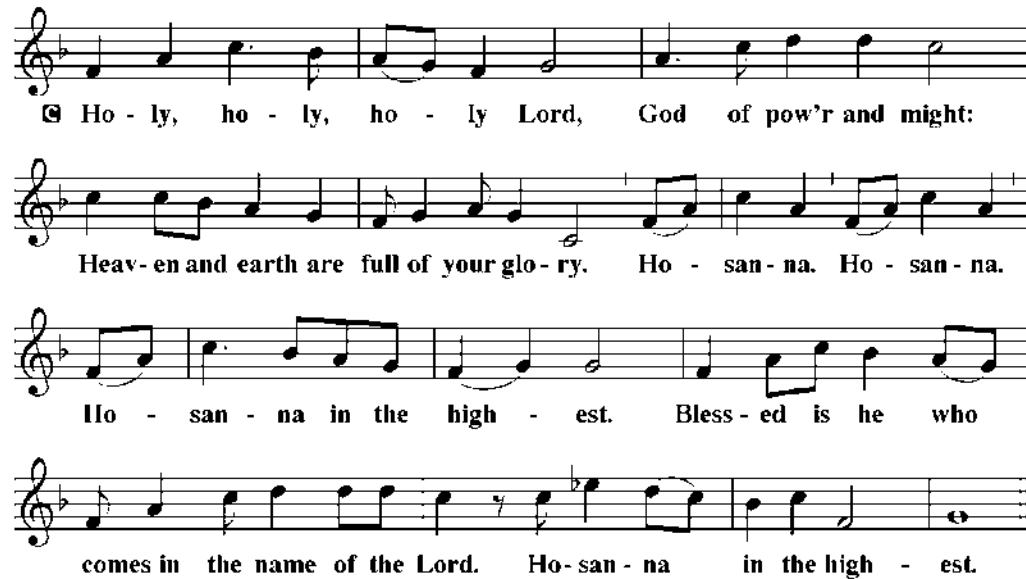
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, almighty and everliving God.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness.

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.

*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

A Let us pray,

A O God, in this meal we have been given a foretaste of the feast that is to come.  
Help us always to be alert to your gifts in our midst; through 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: #725 Blessed Be the God of Isreal (Please see next page.)

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates Lowry



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1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree,  
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm  
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.