

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:

Communion Assistant: Dianne Lambert

Acolyte: Noah Pittard

Ushers: Chip Popovici, Jimmy Harris,
Jeff Jones, Jeff Gilbert, Phil Tesh

Greeter: Gretchen Walker

Building Supervisors: Jeff Gilbert & Chip Popovici

PRAYER LIST

Paul Auten (friend of Robert & Debbie Davis), Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); 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); Anne Fridlund; Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Tom Grady; Scott Harrington (friend of Glenda Poole); Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Stan Parnell (friend of Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Geoff & Pam Seige (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Children and Volunteers... Please save the dates: **July 20 – 22, 2025** for Vacation Bible School. All volunteers will be required to have a current *Safe Gatherings* background check. Please contact holly@sjnc.net for instructions.

The Second Sunday after Easter
April 27, 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 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.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

April 27 – Thomas Grady

April 28 – Kara Bestler

April 29 – Sam Hurley, Cheryl Webb, Stacey Wilson

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 27	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, April 28	10:30am	Quilting
	6:30pm	Scouts
Thursday, May 1	5:30pm	Handbells
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 4	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

COOK SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Attention Students!

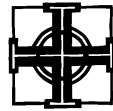
In 1968, John M. Cook, Jr. established an endowment to assist college and graduate students who are members of St. James Lutheran Church by helping with their tuition expenses.

The Cook Trust Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the 2025/2026 academic school year.

Interested applicants can email holly@sjnc.net for an application. Please confirm if you are a first-time or returning applicant so you will receive the appropriate forms.

Hard copies are also available for pickup from the office.

**** Earlier deadline this year - MAY 11, 2025 ****



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Welcome

Prelude

Hornpipe

G. F. Handel

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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: #132 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 For to - day a - mong the twelve Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry to our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en;
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 his deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal.



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts which with true af - fec - tion
 Neith - er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel-come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 nor the watch-ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor - tal.
 God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness!

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

THE HYMN OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



B Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you
C And also with you.
P Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord's resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; 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: Acts 5:27-32

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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

THE SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

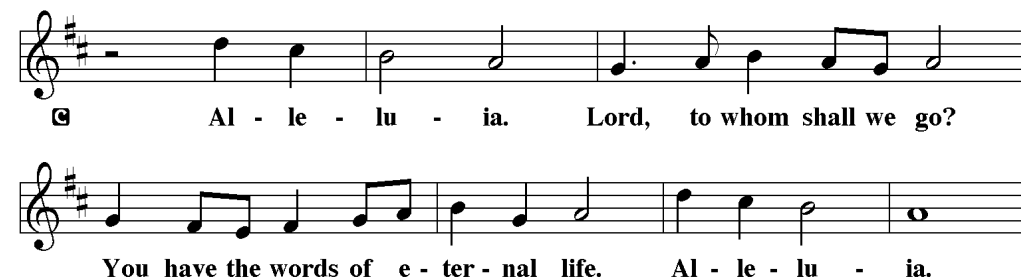
So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

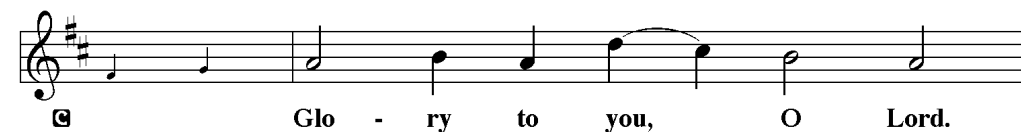
Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

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



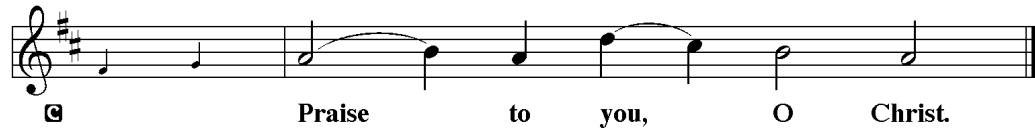
¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #130 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" All on earth with an - gels say;
2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, ye heav'ns; and earth, re - ply.
Lo! The sun's e - clipse is o'er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n.
Thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the resurrection, thou!

6 King of glory, soul of bliss,
everlasting life is this:
thee to know, thy pow'r to prove,
thus to sing, and thus to love!

THE NICENE CREED

**C 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.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his 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 he 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 Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

A Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy.

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

C **Hear our prayer.**

A We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

C **Hear our prayer.**

P O God, you gladden our hearts by the annual celebration of the resurrection of our Lord: In your mercy grant that we, who celebrate these joyous days on earth, may at length attain to the eternal Easter in heaven; through your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Tom Fettke

When I gaze into the night sky,

And see the work of Your fingers.

The moon and stars suspended in space.

But what is man that You are mindful of him?

You have given man a crown of glory and honor.

And have made him a little lower than the angels.

You have put him in charge of all creation;

The beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.

But what is man, oh, what is man

That You are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of Your name

Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.

O Lord, our God little children praise Him perfectly.

And so would we, and so would we.

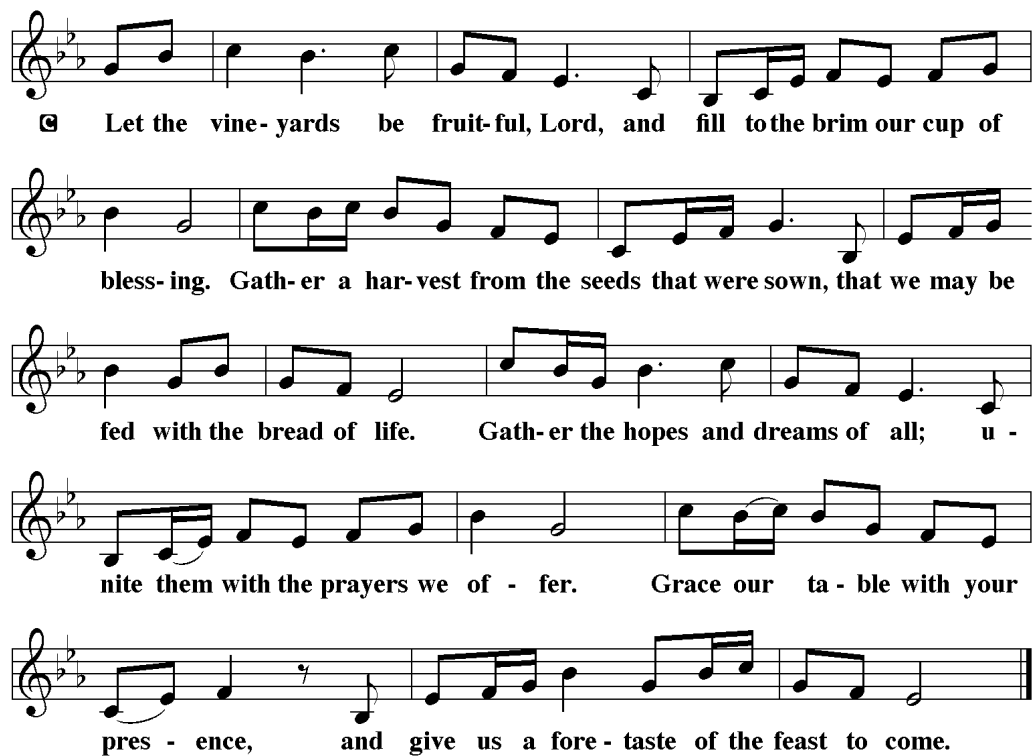
Alleluia, Alleluia. The majesty and glory of Your name!

Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless- ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

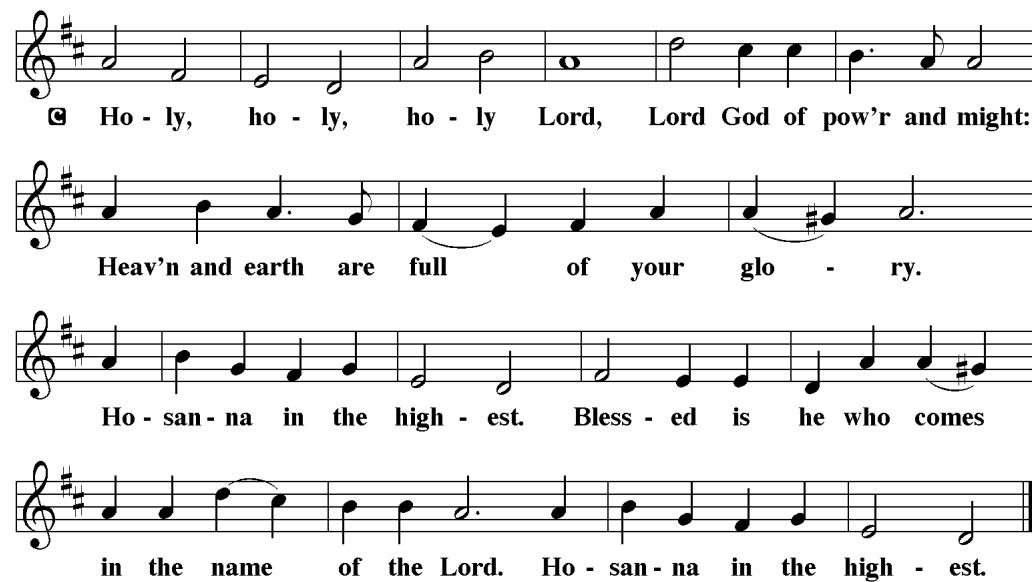
THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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 You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives

and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may 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.**



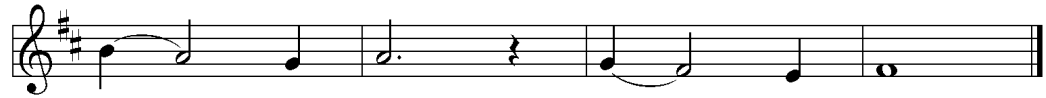
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 CANTICLE



C Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev- 'ry peo-ple: A light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo-ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,



and will be for - ev - er. A - men

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray,

P 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: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia! (128)

1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!

Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!

of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

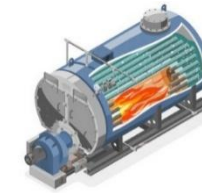
Postlude

Tanz

Nealson



REPORT OF THE BOILER SPECIAL APPEAL



BABY! IT'S WARM IN HERE!

WE DID IT!

As of Easter Sunday, St. James raised

\$150,071.97

for the Boiler Project.

THANK YOU!!

Your generosity means St. James will be warm for many winters to come
AND, more importantly, God will continue to change lives in this building.

This is worthy of a celebration.

Since we will be warm this winter let's cool down with:

Ice Cream Social

(Delicious Cabarrus Creamery Ice Cream)

May 18th after worship.

We'll set up under the Portico.

Bubble Blast on the playground for the younger kids (and kids at heart)