

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Frank Irvin

Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass

Acolyte:

Ushers: Mike Downs, Al Brown Jr., Sid Hughes,
Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss

Videographer: Annette Propst

Greeter: Esther Circle

Building Supervisor: Wendell Overby

PRAYER LIST

Brad Baker; Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Emma DePaulis; Anne Fridlund; Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Tom Grady; Linda Jones (family of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Tom Ridenhour; Geoff & Pam Seige (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the Saint James congregation and Pastor Bill by Kelley Carpenter.

OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

2025 Offering envelopes are ready for pick-up on the table behind the sacristy (office hallway). If you did not receive a box and would like one, contact Jill Irving.

CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST

"Y'all Come" early on **Sunday, Dec. 22** for a continental congregational breakfast beginning at **8:45am** and enjoy the company of your fellow saints of St. James. At approximately 9:15am, support and enjoy the Sunday School kids singing the Christmas story.

2025

SUNDAY MINISTRY SIGN-UPS

Sign up to be a Communion Assistant, Lector, Videographer, or Acolyte in 2025! All Sundays in the new year are now posted. Sign up by scanning the code or visiting the website.



**The Third Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 15, 2024**

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.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Dec. 15 – Kelley Carpenter
Dec. 16 – Don Fowler, William Irvin, Justin Urso
Dec. 18 – Judy McAnulty
Dec. 19 – Jakob Craver, Heather Hughes
Dec. 20 – Rory Kartheiser

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 15	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
Monday, Dec. 16		<i>My Father's House Ministry</i>
	10:30 am	Quilting
	6:30 pm	Scouts
Tuesday, Dec. 17		<i>My Father's House Ministry</i>
Wednesday, Dec. 18	5:30 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, Dec. 21	8:30am	<i>Leah's Hope Trailer</i>
Sunday, Dec. 22	8:45am	Congregational Breakfast
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	10:00 am	Worship

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24:
Christmas Eve at St. James
Family Service - 5:30pm
Musical Prelude - 10:30pm
A Carol Mass - 11:00pm



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Welcome

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Karg-Elert

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.

Silence for reflection self-examination.

Please sit or kneel, as able.

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: #25 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

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. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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

C 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.

C 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. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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

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

PRAYER AT THE ADVENT WREATH

P Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord’s coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C **Amen.**

As the Advent Wreath is lit the congregation sings, verses 1-3 of “Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel.”

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,

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-joyce! Re - joyce!
 and death’s dark shad - ows put to flight.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you.**

P Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ’s coming and so prepare his way; through 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

THE SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. ⁹ Even now the ax 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.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them,

“Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Fling Wide the Door

A harmony graphic is not available. Please see #32 in the green LBW hymnal.

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

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.**

**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 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.
For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

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

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul O. Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy, to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,
who was and is and is to come, sing holy, holy, Lord!*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth ye saints below,
for Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
they need no
light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!*
-Adapted from Revelation 22

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE DOXOLOGY

*For Season in Advent, the Offertory is the Doxology set to the familiar Christmas carol
tune, The First Noel. The tune will be played once prior to the congregation singing.*

D Bm A A7 D/F# G D A7 D A7
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all
7 D G A7 D A7 D A7 Bm A A7
crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye

12 D/F# G D A7 D A7 D G A7 D A7 D
heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
18 A7 D Bm F#m D G A7 D A
No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,
22 Bm D/A G D A7/E D/F# D/A A7 D
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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, 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 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.

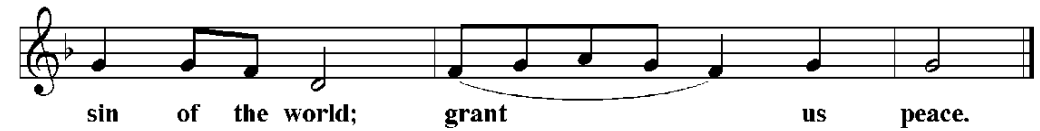
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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 -

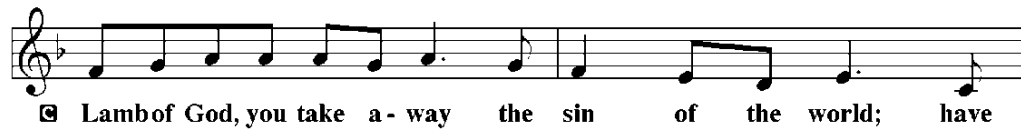


THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**



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

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: The King Shall Come

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

THE DISMISSAL

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

Postlude



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Doxology: Text and music adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website umcworship.org. Email: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

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Worship Live Stream

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced our world to shut down in 2020, St. James began to live stream worship. This was a helpful way to sustain our community in a difficult time. St. James continues to live stream worship to this day. For the sake of our homebound members (and our nurse staff/volunteers) who watch faithfully we will not stop live streaming worship.

It is possible to live stream worship with only a wide angle shot of the sanctuary that does not change. That only requires waking up the laptop, clicking on the live stream button and starting the stream. It is also possible to have a live stream in which the camera moves throughout worship. That makes for a more interesting “broadcast” and requires volunteers willing to be our “director” by changing the “shots” on the tablet.

This month of December has no one scheduled to serve in this role. We need to increase the number of volunteers willing to serve as the “videographer.” The small, faithful band of current volunteers will enthusiastically welcome you to the club and teach you everything you need to know. The greater the number of videographers the smaller the number of times each person is needed to serve. Please speak to Pastor Bill.