

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Kim Haberman

Communion Assistant: Christine Ruff

Ushers: Mike Downs, Al Brown, Jr., Sid Hughes

Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss

Videographer: Laurie Miller

Building Supervisors: Hunter Huss & Kim Haberman

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Margaret Garrison; Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; Will Irvin; Mary Frances Johnson (cousin of Francie Davis); Karen Johnston (friend of Judy Benz); Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); John Ledford (brother of Deb Black); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney); Deb Walker.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Please save the date and join us for a congregational sing-along of Advent and Christmas Carols accompanied by full Orchestra, Organ and the Parish & Bell Choirs of St. James Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 13th at 7:00pm.

To assist in your offering

Secure Online Giving



Open Camera – Scan QR Code

Thank you for supporting St. James!

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 24, 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.

Let us know you visited!



Scan to connect!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

August 24 – Lisa Burke
August 25 – Audrey Baker, Scott Benson, Will King
August 26 – Noah Hardister
August 27 – Abigail Bestler, Lily Kartheiser
August 29 – Finn Hinson, Eva Horton, Marcia Klauss
August 30 – Carson Crainshaw, James Hughes, Hunter Huss, Donna Sloop

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 24	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, August 25	10:30am	Quilting
Tuesday, August 26	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 31	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

STUFF THE PENCIL BOXES!

Throughout the month of August, our Christian Education Committee is collecting pencils to support students in our local schools.

High-need item: Ticonderoga #2 Pencils

Also collecting: Crayola Colored Pencils

Look for the pencil boxes on the counter in the Portico to leave your donations. We've collected 812 pencils and 288 colored pencils thus far!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOU

We're looking for caring volunteers to help with our Children's Sunday School classes. No teaching experience needed – just a love for kids and willingness to share God's Word. Materials and training provided. Email Ann Blackwelder at mafb2468@gmail.com or call the church office.



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



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.*

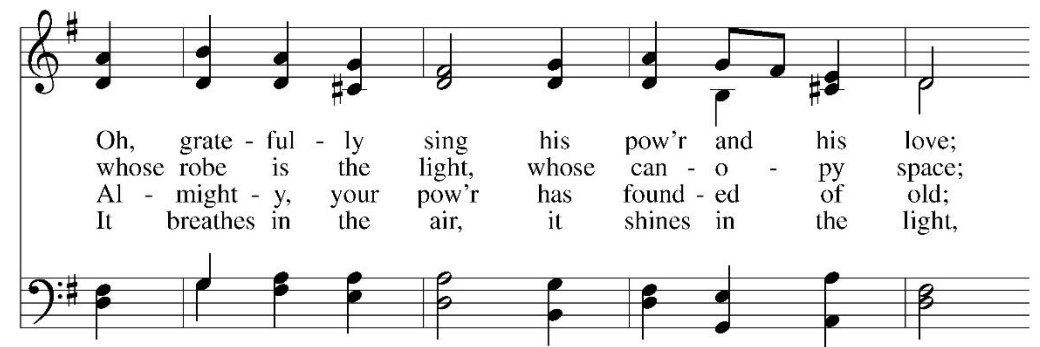
P Most merciful God,

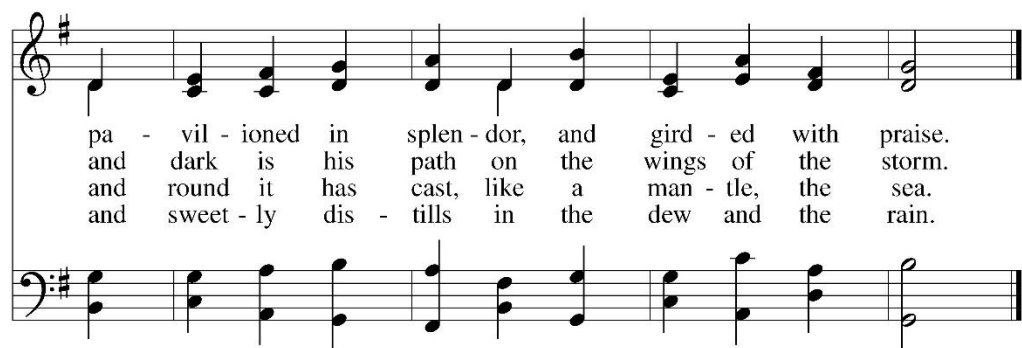
C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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: Oh, Worship the King





5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

6 O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
while angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to your praise.

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 God of all creation, you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom.
As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ as Lord.
C **Amen.**



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

If you remove the yoke from
among you,
the pointing of the finger, the
speaking of evil,
10if you offer your food to the
hungry
and satisfy the needs of the
afflicted,
then your light shall rise in
the darkness
and your gloom be like the
noonday.
11The Lord will guide you
continually,
and satisfy your needs in
parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered
garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
12Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the
foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of
the breach,

the restorer of streets to live in.
13If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
14then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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

THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

18You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, 19and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. 20(For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” 21Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) 22But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

25See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! 26At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” 27This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. 28Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; 29for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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. Luke, the 13th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord**

10Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. 11And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” 13When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. 14But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” 15But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie

his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? 16And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” 17When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

No harmony graphic is available. Please see #423 in the green LBW Hymnal.



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,



con-se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.

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

Please sit or kneel, as able.

A Let us pray for the Church, the world, and for one another.

Heavenly Father, thank you for showing us what you would have us do, even when it is hard. Give us strength and grace to worship you in the beauty of holiness, and to share your love, justice, and mercy with others. Thank you for establishing for us a kingdom that can never be shaken. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lead the Church you love in the narrow way of peace, holiness, and truth. Make it a trustworthy, open gate to Christ. Lead all who are wounded in soul

and body to the salvation he offers them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Touch the hearts of the people gathered here with your beauty and goodness. Make our words gracious and our deeds lovely. Make of us a kingdom of priests, holy in your sight; and a family of servants, faithfully doing your will. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring to fruition Isaiah's vision that all nations shall serve and worship you. Give leaders the strength and desire to work for peace, righteousness, and justice for all people – especially the poor and those devastated by human malice or natural disaster. Help all of us to be true neighbors to one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant healing, hope and strength to everyone who suffers. Assure them of your loving presence, and let them enter into your gates with thanksgiving and into your courts with praise. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most holy Father, receive into your Kingdom our beloved dead. Keep us faithful and true, holy and steadfast, as we walk the narrow Way established by Jesus. Give us hope and joy along that way. Help us encourage one another. Bring us into that Kingdom which you have promised to all whom you redeem by the sufferings of Christ. There let us know the unspeakable joy of abiding in your love forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

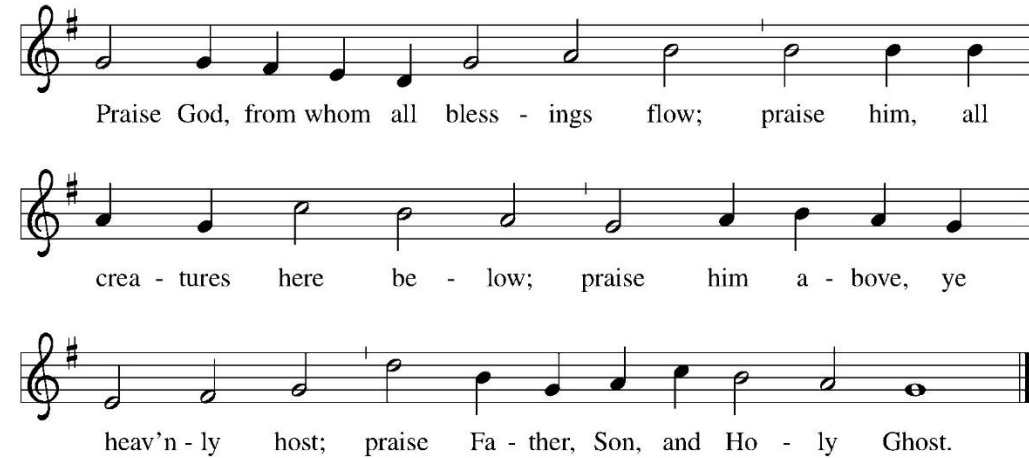
Please sit.

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.

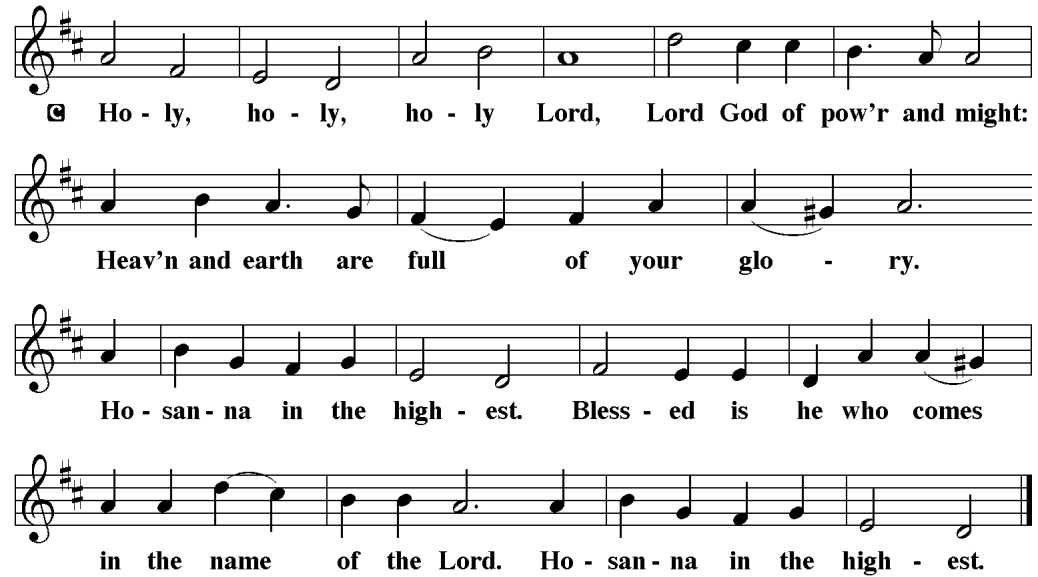
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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 Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**


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.



Please sit.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

-Luther's Small Catechism Part V

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray,

A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord

C Amen



THE BENEDICTION

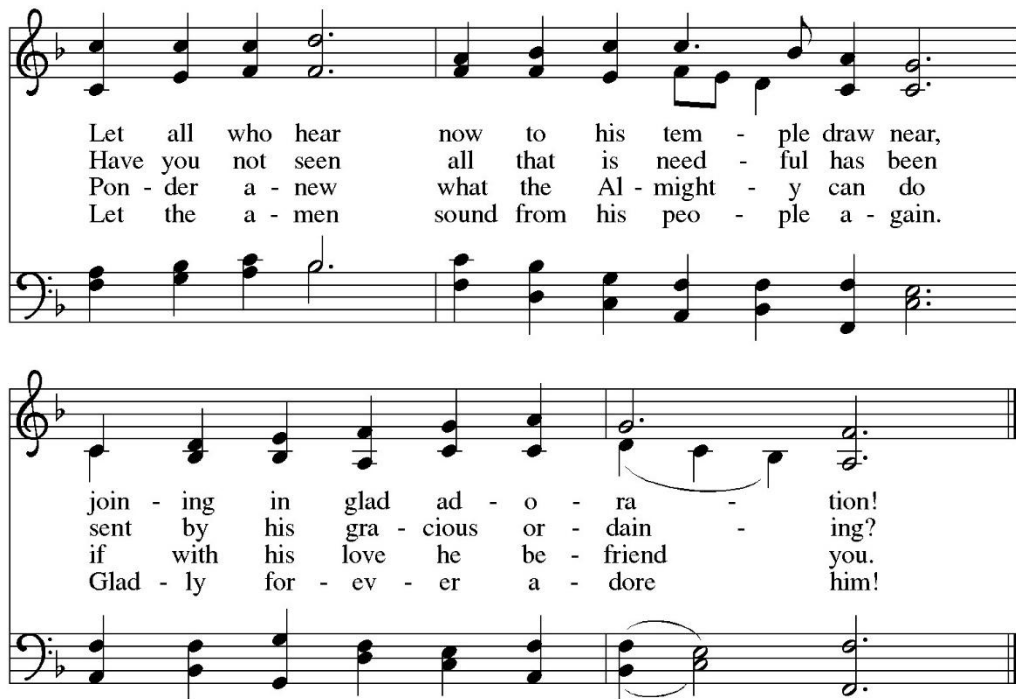
P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign-ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a-dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal-va-tion!
and, as on wings of an ea-gle, up-lift-ing, sus-tain-ing.
sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai-ly at-tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him!



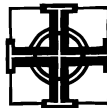
Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

THE DISMISSAL

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

Postlude



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STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee is looking for volunteers! If you are interested, please reach out to Travis Nesbit in person or at tnez13@gmail.com.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SEPT - 7

Join us after worship on Sunday, Sept. 7 in the Fellowship Hall for *God's Work, Our Hands*, a day of service across the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. We'll assemble hygiene and school kits for Lutheran World Relief, make Mission Quilts, and write encouragement cards for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

All materials and a bagged lunch are provided. First-time participants or those without a T-shirt can pick one up after worship on Sunday, 8/24.

Please sign up online at www.sjnc.net

BLESSING BOX

St. James is once again sponsoring the Blessing Box for the month of September. Please consider donating nonperishable food items, baby food, bottled water, and hygiene items. Items may be placed in the Blessing Box at Rotary Square or in the designated portico bin.

USHERS NEEDED

We are currently looking to add a few new ushers to assist with Sunday worship. Whether you're able to serve regularly or are simply willing to be on call as a substitute, your help would be greatly appreciated. Contact Gretchen Walker (gwalk64@ctc.net) to volunteer.