

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Kim Haberman  
**Communion Assistant:** Samantha Hillegass  
**Acolyte:** Josh Rinker  
**Ushers:** Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin,  
Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard  
**Greeter:** Judy Benz  
**Building Supervisor:** Wendell Overby

**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; 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**

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God in honor of Leonard "Buddy" McEachern's 90th birthday and in gratitude for his lifetime of faith and devotion to community, friends, and family. Given by Joan McEachern and Jack & Jennifer Ritchie.

**BIBLE STUDY RETURNS NOV. 24 @ 6:30PM**

Our study of Luther's Catechism has ended. A study of the Birth Narratives from Matthew and Luke will prepare us for Jesus' birth.

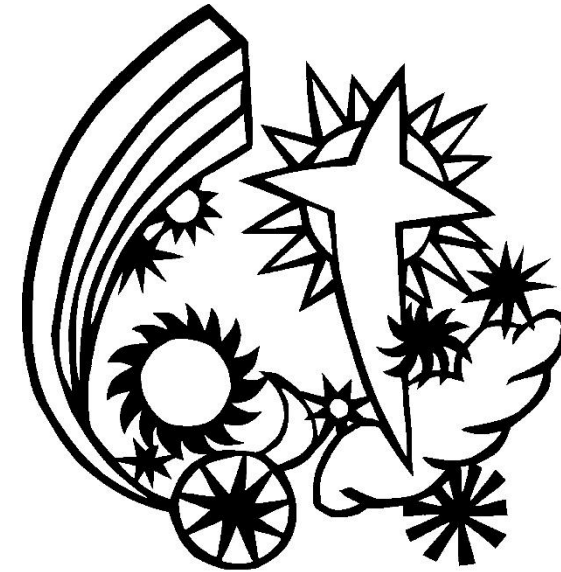
*To assist in your offering*  
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*Thank you for supporting St. James!*

**The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 16, 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**

- Nov. 16 – Karen Parks, Heidi Patterson, Noah Pittard
- Nov. 17 – Jane Craver, Michael Korinko, Buddy McEachern, Jr.
- Nov. 18 – Emerson Baker
- Nov. 19 – LeeAnn Miller
- Nov. 20 – Ralph Barnhardt

**CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

|                   |                                            |                                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday, Nov. 16   | <i>Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due</i> |                                  |
|                   | 9:00am                                     | Budget Q&A                       |
|                   | 9:00am                                     | Choir                            |
|                   | 9:30am                                     | Children's Sunday School         |
|                   | 10:00am                                    | Worship                          |
| Monday, Nov. 17   | 10:30am                                    | Quilting                         |
| Thursday, Nov. 20 | 6:30pm                                     | Choir Rehearsal                  |
| Sunday, Nov. 23   | 9:00am                                     | Adult Sunday School              |
|                   | 9:00am                                     | Choir                            |
|                   | 9:30am                                     | Children's Sunday School         |
|                   | 10:00am                                    | Worship                          |
|                   | 11:00am                                    | Congregational Meeting and Lunch |

**NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH, MEETING AND COUNCIL NOMINEES**

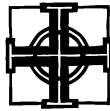
Join us on Sunday, November 23 for a Congregational Lunch and Meeting following worship in the Fellowship Hall—please bring a dish to share! During lunch, we'll review and vote on the 2026 budget and elect four members to a three-year term on Church Council. Nominees are Tony Folino, Kim Haberman, Judy Hoekstra, Eric Olsen and Gretchen Walker.

**ADVENT FAMILY CELEBRATION**

Join us on Sunday, Nov. 30 at 11:00am (after worship) as we begin the Advent season with a special time of fellowship and preparation! All families are invited to our Advent Family Celebration, featuring lunch, ornament making, and indoor tree decorating.

**EMPTY BOWLS – NOVEMBER 20th**

Come to Central Cabarrus High School this Thursday from 5-7:30pm and enjoy some great Italian food. You will help our neighbors facing food insecurity and take home a pottery bowl created by Lindsay Olsen's art students. See the bulletin insert for more info.



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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION



**Prelude** Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Variation 18 Rachmaninoff

*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: #265 Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

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



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin-ing to the per - fect day.

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

Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.

Lord God, heav- en- ly king, al- might- y God and Fa - ther:

We wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo- ry.

Lord Je- sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a- way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat- ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re- ceive our prayer.

For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a- lone are the Lord,

you a- lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir- it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther. A - men

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.  
C And also with you.  
P Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of life here and may live with you forever in the world to come, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
C Amen.



*Please sit.*  
**THE FIRST READING:** Malachi 3:13 – 4:2a  
<sup>13</sup>You have spoken harsh words against me, says the Lord. Yet you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ <sup>14</sup>You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What do we profit by keeping his command or by going about as mourners before the Lord of hosts?’ <sup>15</sup>Now we count the arrogant happy; evildoers not only prosper, but when they put God to the test they escape.’  
<sup>16</sup>Then those who revered the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord took note and listened, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who revered the Lord and thought on his name. <sup>17</sup>They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, my special possession on the day when I act, and I will spare them as parents spare their children who serve them. <sup>18</sup>Then once more you shall see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

4:1See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

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

THE SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, 8 and we did not eat anyone’s bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. 9 This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. 11 For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 13 Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 6 ‘As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.’

7 They asked him, ‘Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?’ 8 And he said, ‘Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and, “The time is near!” Do not go after them.

9 ‘When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.’ 10 Then he said to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; 11 there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

12 ‘But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13 This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; 15 for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17 You will be hated by all because of my name. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your souls.

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: #230 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and



by de- ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we  
u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

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

*Please sit or kneel, as able.*

THE PRAYERS

A Most holy God, you promise to come with power, glory, judgment, and healing. Sometimes that disturbs us! We want you to make all things right and new! But before that can happen, you'll show us our sins in all their ghastly glory. Cover us then, Lord, with your healing wings. Clothe us in the righteousness of Christ. Shield us with your Holy Spirit. Make us holy, whole, and filled with your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Cleanse and strengthen your Church throughout the world. Make it watchful and faithful. Let it tirelessly preach the Gospel and serve the world for Jesus' sake. Make it a place of healing for people who are wounded by the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sometimes it is hard for our congregation to “keep on keeping on” in worship, witness, and welcome. Keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus and our ears alert to his Word. Amid the distractions and temptations we experience, grant that we may prefer nothing whatsoever to Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen and shield everyone persecuted on account of Jesus. By their faithful endurance, turn the hearts of their tormentors to Christ in repentance and faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for missionaries, seminarians, and for all whom you call to be a pastor, chaplain, deacon, or other church worker. Fill them with your Spirit. Kindle faith, hope, and love in their hearts. Surround them by a cloud of faithful witnesses, mentors, teachers, and prayer warriors. Bless them to be a blessing to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Although the form of this world is passing away, still it is our home. Bestow wisdom, integrity, and mercy upon our leaders in government, education,

industry, the military, our courts of justice, and every occupation in which people hold positions of responsibility and power. Grant to everyone the blessing of peace and a measure of prosperity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep all who suffer in your special care. Grant healing to body, soul, heart, and mind. Strengthen everyone who cares for them. And surround them with the protection of your holy wings. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most holy God, we thank you for the lives of your faithful people, especially those dearest to us, who now rest from their labors. Wipe away the tears of all who mourn their loss and support us in this life with your Word and holy Sacraments. Bring us into your Kingdom, where with all the redeemed, we shall adore you in the unity you share eternally with your Son and the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

#### THE PEACE

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

*Please sit.*

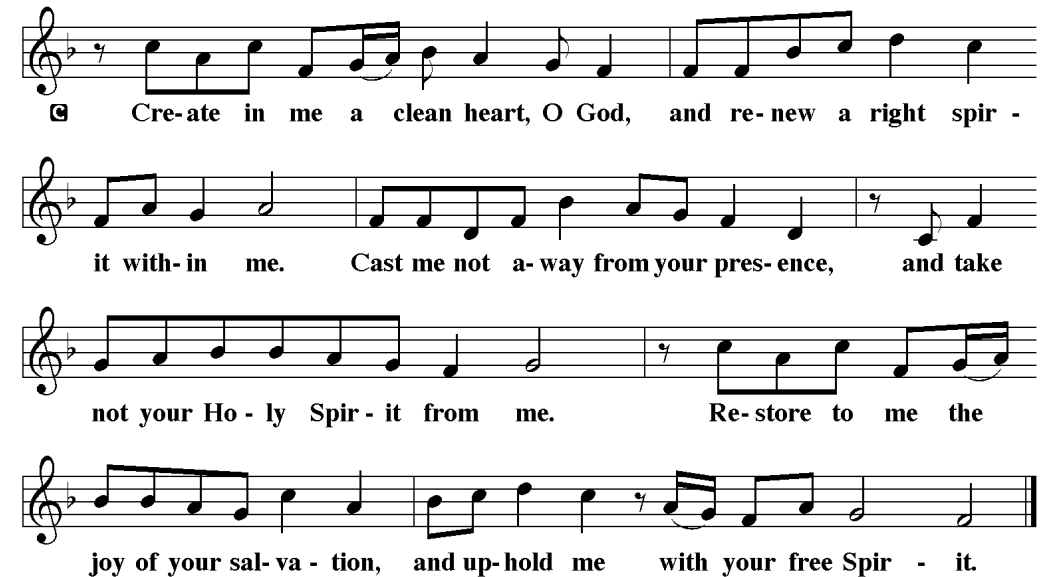
THE ANTHEM Antiphon Ralph Vaughan Williams(from Five Mystical Songs)

*Let all the world in every corner sing,  
My God and King!  
The heavens are not too high,  
His praise may thither fly:  
The earth is not too low,  
His praises there may grow.  
The church with Psalms must shout.  
No door can keep them out:  
But above all, the heart  
Must bear the longest part.*

#### THE OFFERING

*Please stand.*

#### THE OFFERTORY



#### THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

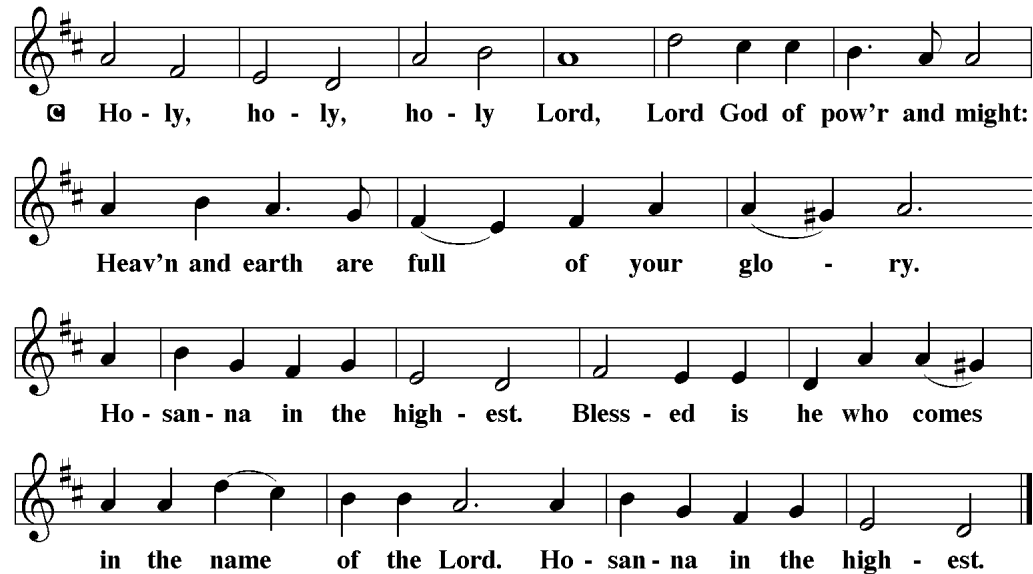
A Let us pray.  
A Blessed are you,  
C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for 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:



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 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**

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. 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.

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.