

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Barbara Albright  
**Communion Assistant:** Margaret Garrison  
**Acolyte:** Noah Pittard  
**Ushers:** Brad Baker, Chip Harward,  
Taylor Pruettue, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller  
**Greeter:** Nancy Faggart  
**Building Supervisor:** Tommy Propst

**PRAYER LIST**

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; 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; 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); Al Pieschel; Lori Pittard; Tom Ridenhour.

*To assist in your offering*  
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**The Festival of the Reformation**  
**October 26, 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**

- Oct. 27 – Michael Folino, Joan McEachern
- Oct. 28 – Cliff Caffrey, Linda Hartsell, Riley Moran, Taylor Pruette
- Oct. 30 – Adam Hartman, Jackson Propst
- Nov. 1 – Juanita Fitts
- Nov. 2 – Mary Elizabeth Stewart, Patricia Weisel

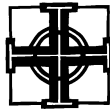
**CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

|                  |                          |                               |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday, Oct. 26  | 9:00am                   | Adult Sunday School           |
|                  | 9:00am                   | Choir                         |
|                  | 9:30am                   | Children's Sunday School      |
|                  | 10:00am                  | Worship                       |
|                  | 3:00pm                   | Trunk or Treat!               |
| Monday, Oct. 27  | 10:30am                  | Quilting                      |
|                  | 6:30pm                   | Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) |
| Thursday, Oct.30 | 6:30pm                   | Choir Rehearsal               |
| Sunday, Nov. 2   | Salvation Army Meal Week |                               |
|                  | 9:00am                   | Adult Sunday School           |
|                  | 9:00am                   | Choir                         |
|                  | 9:30am                   | Children's Sunday School      |
|                  | 10:00am                  | Worship                       |

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Salvation Army Meal Week     | Nov. 2 – 8                     |
| Organ Concert                | Nov. 8 – 7PM                   |
| Congregational Meeting       | Nov. 23 – 11AM (after worship) |
| Family Advent Event          | Nov. 30 – 11AM (after worship) |
| Carols by Candlelight        | Dec. 13 – 7PM                  |
| Christmas Eve Family Service | Dec. 24 – 5:30PM               |
| Candlelight Service          | Dec. 24 – 10:00PM              |

More information in our Ring Out Newsletter; subscribe at: [sjnc.net](http://sjnc.net).



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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION



**Prelude**

Now Thank We All Our God

Karg-Elert

*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: #369 The Church's One Foundation

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

**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**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.  
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy.  
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.  
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** Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

### PSALMODY

Psalm 46

*Congregational participation in the Psalmody is either new or has not been done in a long time. The two lines below are the congregation’s part to sing.*

*Organ:* *Everyone:*

The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of

Ja - cob is our strong - hold.

THE SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

- 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 GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” <sup>13</sup> But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.  
THE SERMON

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 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 sit or kneel, as able.*

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Thank you, dear Father, for all who love your Church. Thank you for raising up prophets, apostles, martyrs, theologians, and ordinary saints who treasure your holy Word and love your Church, even when she stumbles and sins. Thank you for Jesus, who makes the Church his Bride, and who even now makes her lovely with holiness, charity, and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon your Church. Make it your holy habitation. Keep it steadfast in your Word. Strengthen it in the face of temptation and defend it from evil. Purify it from sin and error, and bestow on it your saving peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Graciously protect and guide the people of this congregation, O Lord, our Help and our Redeemer. Gladden our hearts by filling them with the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Use us to nourish, instruct, and invite our neighbors into your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the work of faithful theologians who clarify doctrine, correct misunderstandings, and teach the faithful. Use them to educate seminarians and missionaries who will eagerly proclaim the Gospel of your Son, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to forgive sins and open your Kingdom to all who will receive him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift before you the needs of all whose lives are shaken and troubled by suffering. Be in their midst and let them not be overthrown. Say to them, 'be still, and know that I am God.' Restore them to health and hope, that they may proclaim the awesome things you have done. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most holy Lord, we give you thanks for the lives of all your saints whom you have redeemed through the precious blood of your dear Son. Grant that we may humbly follow in their footsteps, boldly trust in your promises, faithfully proclaim your Word; and cheerfully serve in your Name. 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 Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen

## THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

*Please sit.*

## THE OFFERING

## THE ANTHEM

Dem wir das Heilig itzt J. S. Bach  
(from *Cantata no. 129, Gelobet sei der Herr*)

|                                     |                                            |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <i>Dem wir das Heilig itzt</i>      | <i>To whom we now</i>                      |
| <i>Mit Freuden lassen klingen</i>   | <i>let "holy" ring forth with joy,</i>     |
| <i>Und mit der Engel Schar</i>      | <i>and with the throng of angels</i>       |
| <i>Das Heilig, Heilig singen,</i>   | <i>sing "holy, holy,"</i>                  |
| <i>Den herzlich lobt und preist</i> | <i>who is heartily honored and praised</i> |
| <i>Die ganze Christenheit:</i>      | <i>by all of Christianity:</i>             |
| <i>Gelobet sei mein Gott</i>        | <i>praised be my God</i>                   |
| <i>In alle Ewigkeit!</i>            | <i>in all eternity!</i>                    |

*Please stand.*

## THE OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -

it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take

not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the

joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

## 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.**

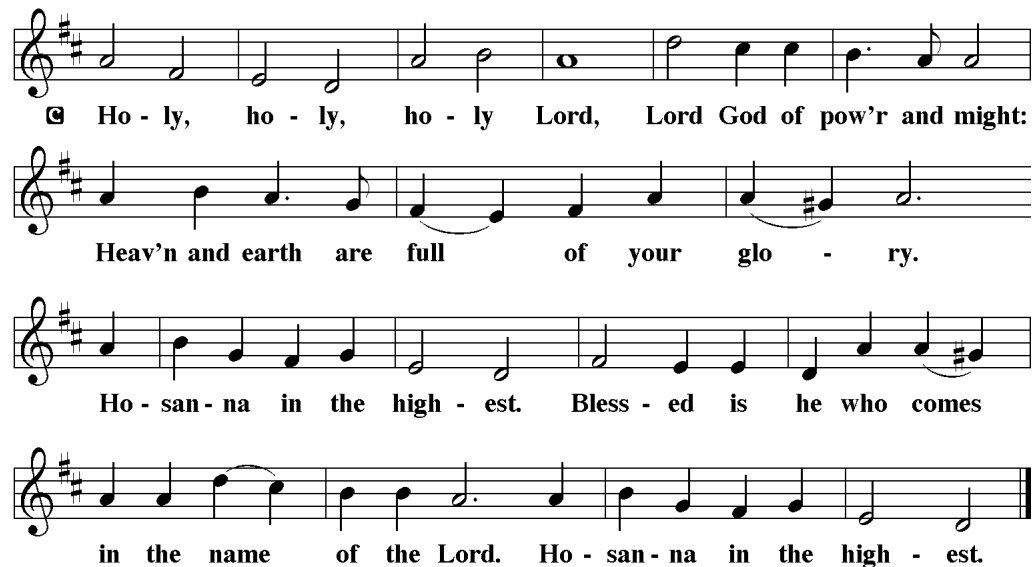
P Lift up your hearts.

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 Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise;

and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,

who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup

we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power

to share with us the great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,

the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,

that we who receive the Lord's body and blood

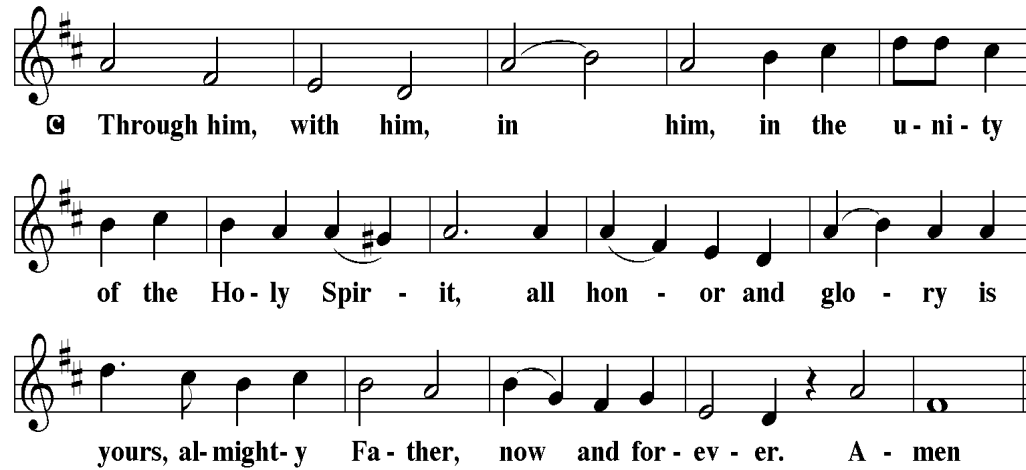
may live to the praise of your glory

and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,

and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



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. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you wish for the pastor to bring communion to you. Please advise an usher.*

*Please stand.*

### THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C **Amen**

### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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



THE BENEDICTION

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

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: #229 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*Please see next page.*

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The people respond - Amen!  
(from Rubrics)

Dan Locklair



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



### **The Festival of the Reformation**

The Festival of the Reformation is to be understood and observed not as a triumphalist celebration as though all error was purged from the church forever in 1517 (Luther nailed his 95 theses, questioning abuses in the sale of indulgences, to the castle church door in Wittenburg on 31 October 1517). Rather it is a day of humble recollection of the revolutionary and cleansing Word of God, which is continually reforming and renewing God's church. It is a day that reminds God's people of the provisional nature of all that is less than God, and of the sovereignty of God alone, who is always free to tear up and destroy in order to build and plant anew. Reform and renewal is not a once-for-all event, nor even an occasional eruption, but rather a continuing condition of the church.

A more irenic (a part of Christian theology concerned with reconciling different denominations and sects) date for the commemoration of the Reformation is June 25, the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, **which makes clearer the Lutheran understanding of itself not as a separate denomination but as a reforming movement within the Catholic Church of the West.**

*-From New Book of Festivals & Commemorations. Philip H. Pfatteicher © Fortress Press. 2008*

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### **Salvation Army Meal Week – Nov. 2-8**

We're once again partnering with the Salvation Army Night Shelter to provide seven evening meals, and we'd love your help! Individuals or groups can sponsor a meal by preparing/purchasing and delivering 50 dinners to 216 Patterson Ave., Concord by 6:30pm on their selected date Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

Meal expenses can be reimbursed through Jill Irvin.

Contact Chip Popovici with questions. Scan code to sign up.



### **Organ Concert – Nov. 8**

Enjoy an evening of music for organ and timpani on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 7pm. Featuring: Brice Burton, Principle Percussionist for the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra & our very own Dr. Kevin L. Estes, Director of Music Ministry & Organist for St. James!

### **Operation Christmas Child – Due Nov. 16**

It's that time again! Help share God's love by packing a shoebox for a child in need. Boxes and instructions are available in the portico. Please return unsealed shoeboxes by **Nov. 16**. Questions? Contact Samantha Hillegass.

### **Congregational Meeting – Nov. 23**

Save the date and plan to join us on Sunday, Nov. 23 after worship for a Congregational Meeting. Like last year, we will gather for a potluck with the purpose of electing church council members and acting upon the recommended budget for 2026.

### **Family Advent Event – Nov. 30**

Make plans now to join us after worship on Sunday, Nov. 30 for a special Family Advent Event. We'll enjoy lunch and ornament making to adorn the tree.

### **Carols by Candlelight – Dec. 13**

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 7pm.**