

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Margaret Garrison

Communion Assistant: Christine Ruff

Acolyte: Samantha Hillegass

Ushers: Chip Blackwelder, Michael Rinker,
Ashley Cline, Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright

Videographer: Annette Propst

Greeter: Esther Circle

Building Supervisors: Chip Blackwelder & Michael Rinker

ASH WEDNESDAY

St. James will observe Ash Wednesday on **March 5th** with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. **Worship will be offered at Noon and 7pm.**

PRAYER LIST

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); Catherine Durst (Daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Anne Fridlund; Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Tom Grady; Scott Harrington (friend of Glenda Poole); Maureen Hollmeyer; Linda Jones (family of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Ruther Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Stan Parnell (friend of Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Tom Ridenhour; Geoff & Pam Seige (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis).

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God in honor of Margaret Garrison's and Martha Matthew's birthday by Fuller & Jean Beasley.

St. James Staff

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor; prbill@sjnc.net

Dr. Kevin Estes, Director of Music Ministries & Organist; kevin@sjnc.net

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator; jill@sjnc.net

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Church Office; info@sjnc.net

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator; krad3700@gmail.com

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian

**The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 23, 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 you or to an usher.

Restrooms are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A nursery is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

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Praise and Thanks and Adoration (Text) . Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Licenses SAS-002140, SB177826. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002. All Rights Reserved.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

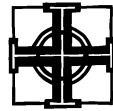
Feb. 23 – Caroline Bestler, Connie Rezza
Feb. 25 – Margaret Garrison, Martha Matthews
Feb. 27 – Mary Propst
Feb. 28 – Joseph Beasley, Robert Beasley, Joel Crainshaw

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 23	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Annual Meeting
Monday, Feb. 24	10:30am	Quilting
	6:30pm	Scouts
Thursday, Feb. 27	5:30pm	Handbells
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, March 2	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School Planning Meeting
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Lunch & Lenten Activity Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2 - Lunch & Lenten Activity Day
March 5 – Ash Wednesday
March 8 – Meal Packing with Lifeline Christian Mission
April 13 – Palm Sunday
April 17 – Maundy Thursday
April 18 – Good Friday
April 19 - Easter Egg Hunt
April 20 Easter Sunday
May 18 – Lunch & Bubble Blast Activity Day



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Welcome

Prelude Nimrod (from *Enigma Variations*) Edward Elgar

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Please sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,
C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #527 All Creatures of Our God and King

Please sing from the Green LBW hymnal in the pew rack.

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 God of compassion, keep before us the love you have revealed in your Son who prayed even for his enemies; in our words and deeds help us to be like him through whom we pray, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man

of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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 6th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much

again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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: #307 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

No harmony graphic is available.

1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and

taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can
un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
truth we dim - ly knew: how tri - fling oth - ers’
bid re - sent - ment cease; then, by your mer - cy



grant us grace to live the words we say.
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
debts to us; how great our debt to you!
rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C 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 kneel or sit as able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

A For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For all bishops, pastors and deacons that they may speak the good news of Jesus Christ, and for all the holy people that may hear and live it willingly, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples. For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

C **To you, O Lord our God.**

P For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

Prayer of St. Francis

Allen Pote

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, Thy pardon, Lord.

Where there is doubt, let there be faith.

Where there's despair, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, let there be light.

Where there is sadness, let there be joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek:

to be consoled, as to console,

to be understood, as to understand,

to be loved, as to love.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A 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.

Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love,
that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.

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 Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal
your reign. You are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you
created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to
the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 all people
for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and
his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice
in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy
Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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.



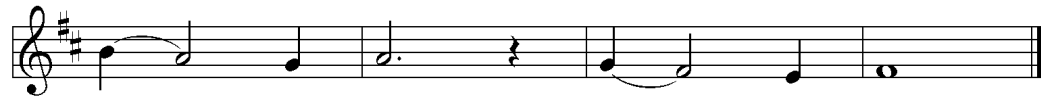
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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. 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,

P 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

Silence for reflection.



THE BENEDICTION

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

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: #470 Praise and Thanks and Adoration

Musical notation for the Sending Hymn, consisting of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, Son of God, to you we give,
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing, com - fort me in pain and strife;

for you chose to serve cre - a - tion, died that Ad - am's heirs might live.
through my laugh-ter and my weep-ing, lift me to a no - bler life.

Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way; faith - ful let me day by day
Draw my fer-vent love to you; con - stant hope and faith re - new

fol - low where your steps are lead - ing, find ad - ven - ture, joys ex - ceed - ing!
in your birth, your life and pas - sion, in your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Allegro vivace (from *Suite for Organ*)

Rousseau



ATTENTION FAMILIES

Join the Christian Education Committee and Pastor Bill on **Sunday, March 2 at 9:30am** in the Fellowship Hall for a discussion on your child's faith journey. Topics will include incorporating music into Sunday School, adding a Sunday School class for grades 3-5 this fall, and what, if anything you would like to see for yourselves during the time before worship (9:30 - 10:00am).

LUNCH & LENTEN ACTIVITY DAY

Families! - Join us for special Lunch & Lent activity day! The start of Lent is a time when we focus on getting ready for Easter! Join us **Sunday, March 2nd after worship** for a light lunch and stay for a fun take-home Lent egg activity to utilize throughout the Sundays in Lent.

MEAL PACKING - LIFELINE CHRISTIAN MISSION

Join us on **Saturday, March 8th, at 10:00 am at Gibson Mill** for a morning of service with Lifeline Christian Mission to pack 10,800 meals! The event is from 10:00am to 11:30am, and all necessary supplies will be provided. Visit the link to sign up!

<https://sjnc.net/special-event-sign-ups>.

CONFIRMATION PLANNING MEETING

Parents and students of confirmation age are encouraged to join the Christian Education Committee and Pastor Bill on **Sunday, March 30, after worship** for a Confirmation Planning Meeting. We'll discuss the confirmation schedule and other details for the upcoming program.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking volunteers to assist with Sunday ministries. If you are willing to volunteer as a communion assistant, lector, videographer, or acolyte, please sign up by scanning the code or visiting the website!

