

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright
Communion Assistant: Ann Blackwelder

Acolyte: Noah Pittard

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

Greeter: Laura Patterson

Building Supervisors: Chip Blackwelder & Mike Rinker

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); 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); Margaret Garrison; 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); 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God in memory of Jacob Liphan, musician extraordinaire and good friend of the St. James Choir by Patsy and Deb Black.

TRI-TONE BRASS – SEPT. 20

Join us for a memorable evening of music as three talented Juilliard graduates share their incredible gifts with our congregation and community. The brass trio performs on
Saturday, Sept. 20 at 7pm.

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



Open Camera – Scan QR Code
Thank you for supporting St. James!

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 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

- Sept. 16 – Collins Whisnant
- Sept. 17 – Evelina Matthews
- Sept. 19 – Trevor Matthews
- Sept. 20 – Peter Muniz, Camron Trott, Carson Trott

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 14	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, Sept. 15	10:30am	Quilting
Thursday, Sept. 18	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, Sept. 20	8:30am	Leah's Hope Trailer
	7:00pm	<i>Special Performance: Tri-Tone Brass</i>
Sunday, Sept. 21	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

IMPORTANT DATES!

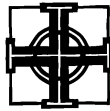
Tri-Tone Brass	Sept. 20 – 7PM
CROP Hunger Walk	Oct. 12 – 2PM
Million Meals Tour	Oct. 25 - 9AM
Trunk or Treat	Oct. 26 – 3PM
Organ Concert	Nov. 8 – 7PM
Carols by Candlelight	Dec. 13 – 7PM

MISSION & MONEY

Join us **Sept. 14 & 21 at 9am or after worship** in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Bill & Frank Irvin will share how our offerings fuel ministry and mission. Same info shared at all sessions; please attend one.

COMMUNITY CANDIDATE FORUM

Sept. 24, 7–8:30pm at Central UMC (30 Union St. N). Hear from Concord's Mayor & City Council candidates in a civil, non-partisan forum moderated by Mark Plemmons. Live-streamed & recorded.



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Prelude Prelude II in G major Felix Mendelssohn

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: Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us *(green LBW hymnal #424)*



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly,
3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our
4 Yes, the sor - row and the suf - f'ring which on
5 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your



life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing
free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine
hum - blest char - i - ty in your own mys -
ev - 'ry hand we view chan - nels are for
life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing



for the lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
of your good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone
te - rious sen - tence, "You have done it all to me."
gifts and of - f'ring due by sol - emn right to you;
for the lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.

and with that have free - ly giv - en bless - ings
 till our cold and self - ish na - tures, warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, that you
 right of which we may not rob you, debt we
 Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, hope, to

count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 deign for alms to sue, say - ing by your
 may not choose but pay, lest that face of
 stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of

and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
 love and pit - y turn from us an - oth - er day.
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

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.

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

B 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 O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

⁷The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

THE SECOND READING: I Timothy 1:12-17

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who

would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

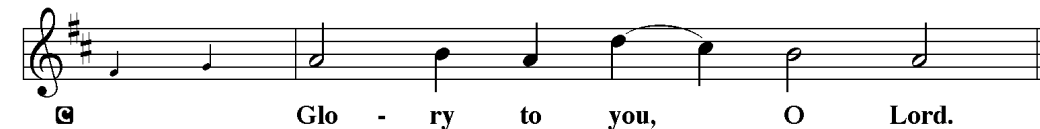
Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.



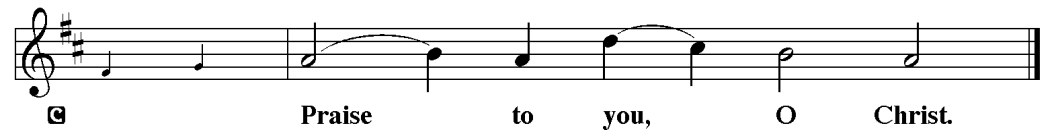
¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I

have found the coin that I had lost.’¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

PThe Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Amazing Grace (green LBW hymnal #448)



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but that
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

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.

- ALet us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all those according to their needs.
- AHoly God, thank you for Jesus! Thank you for making him our good Shepherd. Thank you for loving us so much that you give us forgiveness, life, fellowship with you, and love beyond all telling. Thank you most of all for giving us your Son, crucified, raised, and ascended to your right hand for our salvation. Lord, in your mercy,
Chear our prayer.
- AHeavenly Father, give your Church the grace and desire to faithfully follow Jesus. Give it leaders who rightly proclaim your Word and lift high the Cross of Christ. Give it your Holy Spirit, so it is a place of welcome, forgiveness, and transformation for every sinner who enters it. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Give your grace to this congregation. Forgive us when, like unruly sheep, we head-butt and distress your flock. Help us to repent of thoughtless words, self-centered actions, and anything else that hinders one of your dear children from loving and trusting you. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Give us strength to carry our crosses and follow Jesus wherever he leads us. Give us courage, to bear his love in the dark and ugly places of our world. Give us hope, so we believe that his Light will shine in every darkness, and no darkness can comprehend or overcome it. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Our nation struggles with divisions that threaten to bring out the worst rather than the best in us. Shepherd us, O Lord, through these troubled times. Bring healing to our hearts, homes, and communities. Anoint our eyes to see one another as fellow citizens and as beloved children of the same heavenly Father. And bring a measure of your peace to this weary world. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Be merciful to all who are hurting, weak, abused, hungry, or grieving; or who in any way need the abundance of your grace. Be their Good Shepherd, and bring them healing and hope. Help us all to be gentle, gracious, compassionate and kind to them, so that together, we may praise your goodness. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Dear heavenly Father, we entrust into your care all our beloved dead. Comfort all who mourn, and fill us with your Holy Spirit's wisdom and grace. Lord, in your mercy,

C **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.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

O for a Closer Walk with God

Charles Villiers Stanford

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



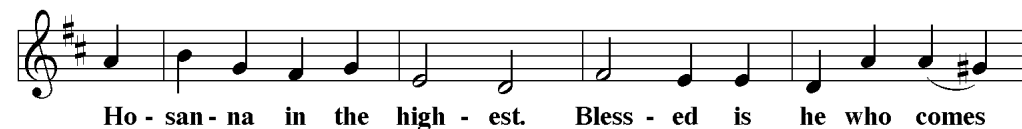
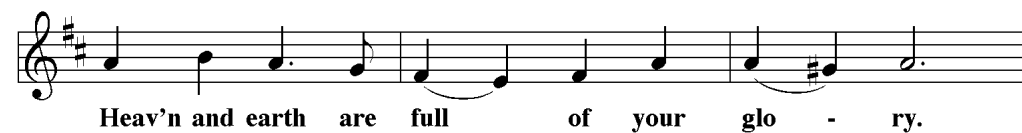
THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.
A Merciful Father,
C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--our
selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen**



THE COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times
and in all places offer thanks and praise to you,
O Lord, holy Father, 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

C we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

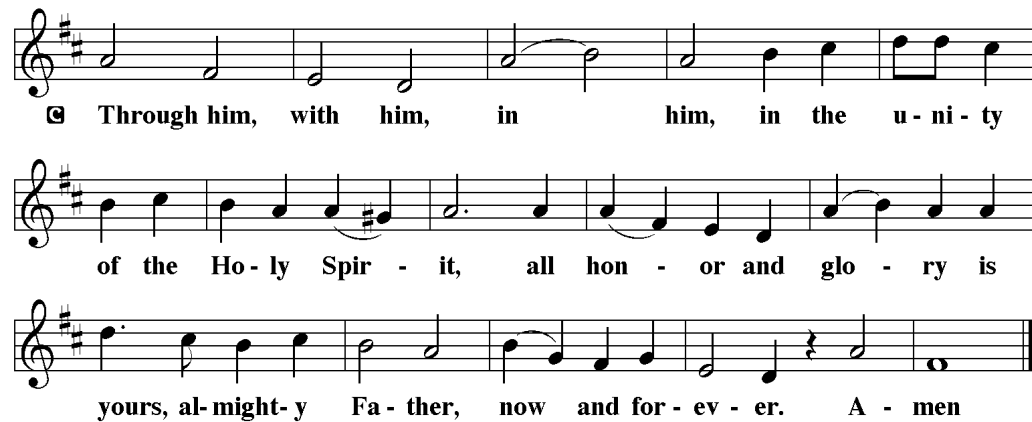
P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

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.

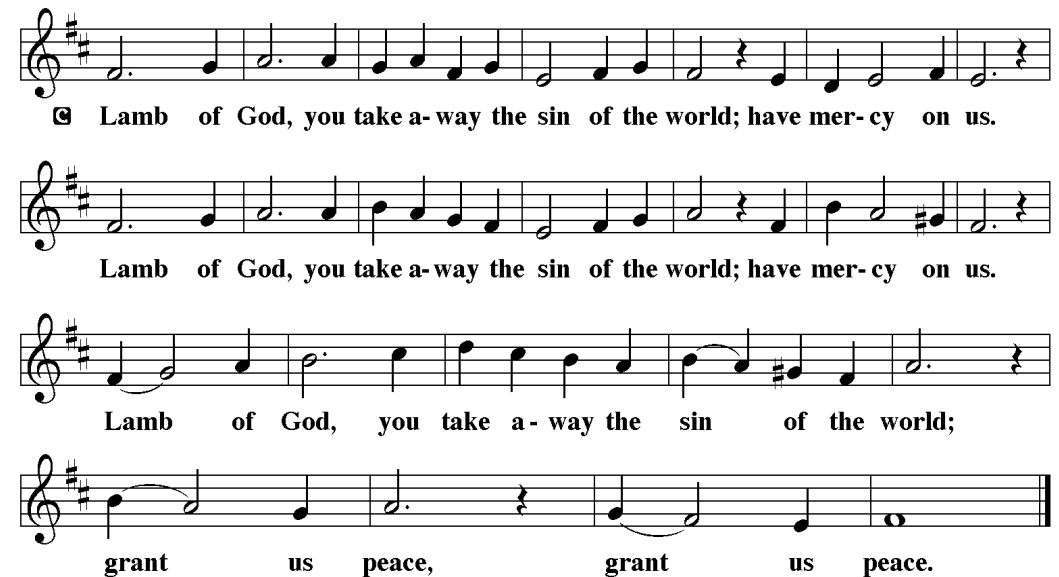


THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



Please sit.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

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

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

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

sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.
-Luther's Small Catechism Part V

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

Please stand.
THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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: O Christ, Our Hope (green LBW hymnal #300)



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's might - y
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den of our
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som has been
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us of our



Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
paid; you now as - cend the Fa - ther's throne in
pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pur - i - fied, by mer - cy pur - i - fied.

5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,
our future great reward;
our only glory, may it be
to glory in the Lord!

6 All praise to you, ascended Lord;
all glory ever be
to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
through all eternity!

THE DISMISSAL

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

Postlude Fugue II in G major Felix Mendelssohn

