ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Gretchen Walker **Communion Assistant:** Gretchen Walker

Acolyte: Noah Pittard

Ushers: Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin, Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard

Greeter: Lois Marlow Videographer: LeeAnn Miller 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 the grandchildren of Robert & Debbie Davis.

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 Secure Online Giving



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

Christ the King The Last Sunday after Pentecost November 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 to you or to an usher.

<u>Restrooms</u> are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A <u>nursery</u> 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. 26 – Lauri Fowler Nov. 28 – Kyleigh Hughes Nov. 29 – Garrett Baker

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

CHORCH CALLINDAR THIS WEEK		
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
Monday, Nov. 24	10:30am 6:30pm	Quilting Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Nov. 25	6:30pm	Choir
Thursday, Nov. 27	Thanksgiving – Church Office Closed	
Sunday, Nov. 30	9:ooam	Adult Sunday School
	9:ooam	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Advent Family Celebration

ADVENT FAMILY CELEBRATION - NOV. 30

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.

REGISTER TO RING!

St. James is partnering again with the Salvation Army to ring bells on December 4 and 11. One-hour time slots are available at: sign-ups.

COCOA, COFFEE, & COOKIES WITH ST. JAMES CHILDREN - DEC. 21

Join us after worship December 21 for cocoa, coffee and cookies in the Fellowship Hall as the children of St. James tell us the Christmas story.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Carols by Candlelight Dec. 13 – 7PM

Cocoa, Coffee, & Cookies Dec. 21 – 11AM (after worship)

Christmas Eve Family Service Dec. 24 – 5:30PM

Candlelight Service Dec. 24 – 10:00PM (9:30PM Prelude)



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Prelude Nun danket alle Gott

J. S. Bach

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

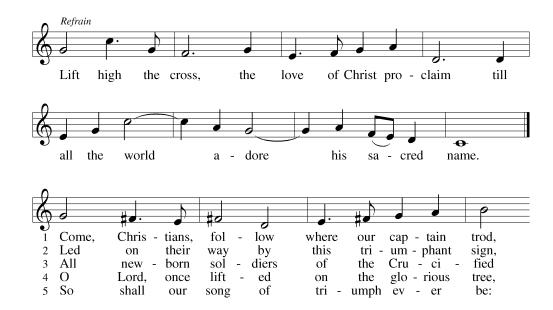
- P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen
- P If we say we have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

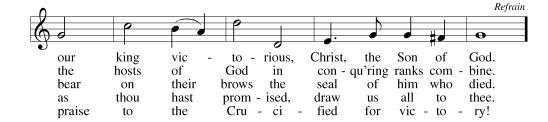
Please sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Most merciful God,
- 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: #377 Lift High the Cross

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



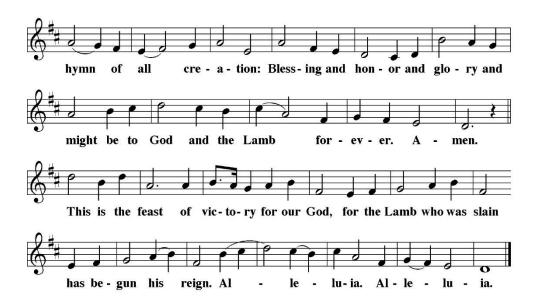


THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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





THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ² Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be

fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

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

THE SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

Please stand.
THE COSPEL ACCLA

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 23rd chapter.



P The Gospel of the Lord.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus^[there] with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[34 Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴² Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³ He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'



Please sit.
THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #328 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name



5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall, go spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

- 6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
- 7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

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 Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all those according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to be our King, whose throne was first the Cross, and whose crown was first the thorns. Thank you for his glorious and gentle rule. Thank you for filling us with your Holy Spirit, so we have the faith to acclaim him as King and love him as Savior and Brother. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have made the Church the Body of which Christ Jesus is the head. Fill the Church with your Spirit, so that through its words and deeds, many are delivered from the domain of darkness, receive forgiveness and redemption,

and are transferred into the Kingdom of your beloved Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make this congregation your treasured possession. Form us in the image of Jesus. Use us to proclaim his love and draw others to his Cross, until the whole world adores him as King, Savior, and God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our enemies, for criminals, evildoers, and hatemongers, and for everyone who is hard to forgive. Teach us to pray with Jesus, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Let him subdue every sinful heart to his will, so that he might truly be all in all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Say to our rulers: "Be still; and know that I alone am God." School their proud and disobedient wills to your commands. Be a strong bulwark and mighty fortress for the poor, weak, and innocent. Let peace, justice, health, and mercy be established in every land. Teach us all to acclaim Jesus as King of kings and Lord of all nations, and cause his peace to rule undisturbed in every heart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make war to cease in all the world. Break the bow, shatter the spear, and burn the shields with fire. Hasten the day when we need not lift up prayers for those in the military, or for first responders. Until then, equip them with integrity, competence, and courage. Preserve them in safety and heal them when they falter. When they return, use them in new ways to benefit our communities and nation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Exalt yourself, O Lord; be the refuge and strength of all who are afflicted by evil and suffering. Be their present help in time of trouble; and make their hearts glad. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Father, your Son promises Paradise to any who, like the repentant thief, turns in faith to him. We entrust to you our beloved dead. Help us to comfort and encourage each other to trust and follow Jesus. Teach us to pray, "Jesus, remember me, when you come into your Kingdom." Let us, with all the redeemed, adore and bless him forever. 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.
- And also with you.

Please sit. THE ANTHEM

The Promise of Living (from The Tender Land)

Copland

The promise of living with hope and thanksgiving Is born of our loving our friends and our labor.

The promise of growing with faith and with knowing Is born of our sharing our love with our neighbor.

The promise of loving, the promise of growing Is born of our singing in joy and thanksgiving.

For many a year we've know these fields
And know all the work that makes them yield.
We're ready to work, we're ready to lend a hand.
By working together we'll bring in the blessings of harvest.

We plant each row with seeds of grain, And Providence sends us the sun and the rain. By lending a hand, by lending an arm Bring out the blessings of harvest.

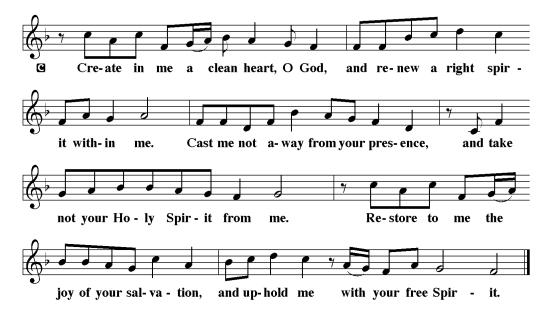
Give thanks there was sunshine, give thanks there was rain, Give thanks we have hands to deliver the grain.

O let us be joyful, O let us be grateful to the Lord for his blessing.

The promise of living, the promise of growing The promise of ending is labor and sharing and loving.

THE OFFERING

Please stand. THE OFFERTORY



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray.
- A Blessed are you,
- 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.

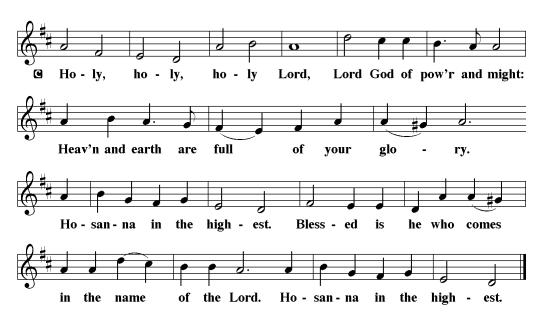
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord;

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, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,

his life-giving Passion and death,

his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,

not as we ought, but as we are able;

and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine;

that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son

may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,

and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever.

C Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

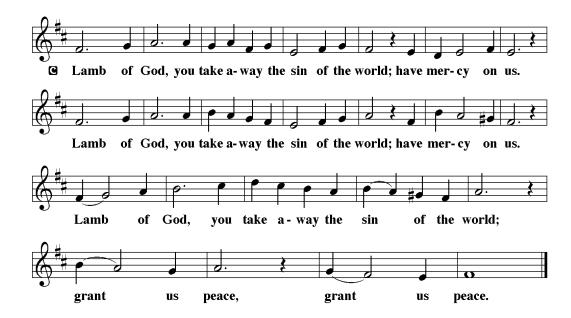
P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

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



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,

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: #170 Crown Him With Many Crowns (See next page.)

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude Sortie Leblanc



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- 1 Crown him with man y crowns, the Lamb up on his throne;
- Crown him the vir gin's Son, the God in car nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be hold his hands and side, 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave



hark, how the heav'n-ly whose arm those crim-son tro-phies won which now his brow a - dorn; rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied. and rose vic - to-rious in the strife for those he came to save.





and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys-ter - ies so bright.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

- 5 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose pow'r a scepter sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.
- 6 Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!
 For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.