

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector:** Lindsey Olsen

**Communion Assistant:** Kim Haberman

**Acolyte:** Riece Pittard

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

**Videographer:** Jason Pittard

**Greeter:** Laura Patterson

**Building Supervisor:** Mike Rinker

**PRAYER LIST**

Chip Allman (friend of the Marlow family); 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); Jay Clemmer; Noah Clifton; Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Phyllis Freeman (mother of Fonda Shumate); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); Linda Hartsell; Maureen Hollmeyer; Hunter Huss; Mary Frances Johnson (cousin of Francie Davis); Karen Johnston (friend of Judy Benz); Mary Anne Lanahan (Aunt of Francie Davis); Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); John Ledford (brother of Deb Black); Ron Lee (neighbor of Kathryn Radcliffe); Leonard "Buddy" McEachern; Jason Matthews; Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Ruthie O'Brien (friend of the Marlow Family); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Mason Overby; Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Al Pieschel; Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Doris Smith; Bobbi Talbert (friend of Dale & Barbara Merrell); Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend); John Walker; Mr. & Mrs. Jim Weisel.

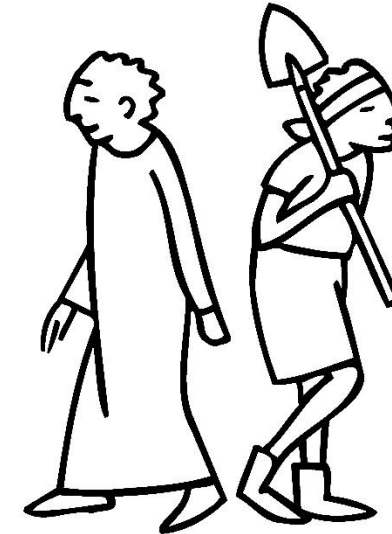
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Thank you for supporting St. James

**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 27, 2026**

**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. 27 – Tommy Propst
- Sept. 28 – Francie Davis, Miles Marlow, Chris Miller
- Sept. 30 – Katie Popovici
- Oct. 1 – Chase Lineberger, Conner Lineberger
- Oct. 3 – Nicholas Crainshaw

**CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

|                  |                                    |                                  |
|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday, Sept. 27 | <i>Sonshine Backpack Items Due</i> |                                  |
|                  | 9:00am                             | Choir                            |
|                  | 9:00am                             | Adult Sunday School              |
|                  | 9:30am                             | Children's Sunday School         |
| Monday, Sept. 28 | 10:00am                            | Worship                          |
|                  |                                    |                                  |
|                  | 10:30am                            | Quilting                         |
|                  |                                    |                                  |
| Thursday, Oct. 1 | 6:30pm                             | Choir                            |
|                  | 7:30pm                             | Carols by Candlelight Rehearsals |
| Sunday, Oct. 4   |                                    |                                  |
|                  | 9:00am                             | Choir                            |
|                  | 9:00am                             | Adult Sunday School              |
|                  | 9:30am                             | Children's Sunday School         |
|                  | 10:00am                            | Worship                          |

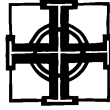
**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

Perform with the St. James Choir! Rehearsals for Carols by Candlelight are held Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Contact Kevin Estes ([kevin@sjnc.net](mailto:kevin@sjnc.net)) for more information.

**CROP Hunger Walk – Oct. 11**

Join the St. James team for the annual CROP Hunger Walk on **Sunday, Oct. 11 at 2:00 pm**. This year's fundraising goal is \$1600. Sign up to walk or donate!





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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION



*Please silence your phones. Thank you.*

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

**Welcome**

**Prelude**                      Festive Trumpet Tune                      David German

*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: #459 O Holy Spirit, Enter In



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your  
2 Left to our - selves, we sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on the  
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life; let your good Word in

work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell-ing. Sun of the soul,  
nar - row way, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead -  
doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -

O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength  
fast - ness, that we may fol - low you for - ev - er free, no mat -  
ful un - to death and live in love and ho - ly faith, from you

in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is  
ter who de - rides us. Gent - ly heal those hearts now bro - ken; give some  
true wis - dom learn - ing. Lord, your mer - cy on us show - er; by your

giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.  
to - ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.  
pow - er Christ con - fess - ing, we will cher - ish all your bless - ing.

**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**

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

**C** 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 God of love, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them; keep us from those things that harm us; and guide us in the way of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C        Amen.



*Please sit.*

**THE FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

**THE ANTHEM**

Let This Mind Be in You

Austin C. Lovelace

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.  
Who, being in the arm of God, thought it not robbery  
To be equal with God. But made himself of no reputation  
And took upon him the form of a servant,  
And was made in the likeness of men.  
And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself  
And became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.  
Wherefore, God hath highly exalted him.  
And given him a name which is above every name.  
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.  
-Philippians 2:5-11*

**THE SECOND READING:** Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my  
presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear  
and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to  
work for his good pleasure.

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. Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people  
came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these  
things, and who gave you this authority?’ <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one  
question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do  
these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’  
And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why  
then did you not believe him?”’ <sup>26</sup> But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the

crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’  
And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.  
<sup>28</sup> ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son,  
go and work in the vineyard today.” <sup>29</sup> He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed  
his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same; and he  
answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?’  
They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the  
prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in  
the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the  
prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds  
and believe him.

P     The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please sit.*  
**THE SERMON** **Pastor Bill Ridenhour**

*Please stand.*  
**THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #230 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word**

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

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

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.\*  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS

A Let us approach the throne of grace on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

Heavenly Father, thank you for making us your children. Thank you for your patience with us when we speak and act in ways contrary to your grace. Thank you for your Son Jesus, who perfectly says and does your will. Make us to be like him, so we are your heart’s delight and your blessing to the world. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Fill the Church with the mind of your dear Son, and fashion its members into his likeness. Conform its proclamation to his teaching, and its works to his self-sacrificing love. Let the light of his love shine into the world, so many turn to him and live. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Put the mind of Christ into this congregation. Let his humility and love shape and direct all we say and do. Give us hearts that are obedient to your will, to your glory and for the building up of your people. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Bless all parents, step-parents, and foster parents. Give them your Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and fear of the Lord, and joy in your presence. Forgive their errors and relieve their fears. Grant them the joy of seeing their children grow into healthy, loving adults. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Make the world’s leaders – not only of nations, but also of local government, into your wise and willing offspring. Teach them to serve you by ruling with justice tempered by mercy. Make all of us honest, sensible, and kind. Help us to make our communities and nation flourish. Help us to live at peace with each other. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Keep in your special care those in the military, including Mason, and all who risk their lives for the sake of others. Inform their minds, strengthen their bodies, and purify their hearts. Shape their actions to conform to your will. Bring them home safely and soon, and shield their loved ones with your love. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Bring the joy of your saving help to everyone in distress, sorrow, danger or need. Lead them through the things that afflict them into the light of your blessed presence. Give them the blessings of restored health, hope, and fellowship with those who love them. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

For the faithful witness of all the Saints who have gone before us. Thank you for welcoming them into your eternal kingdom. May their example guide our discipleship. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

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

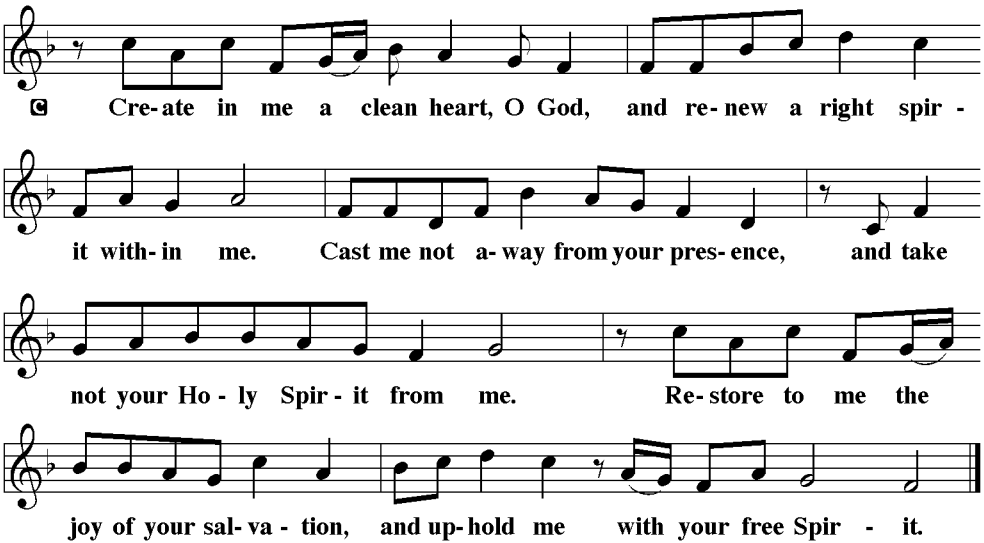
THE PEACE

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

*Please sit.*  
THE OFFERING

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

*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**

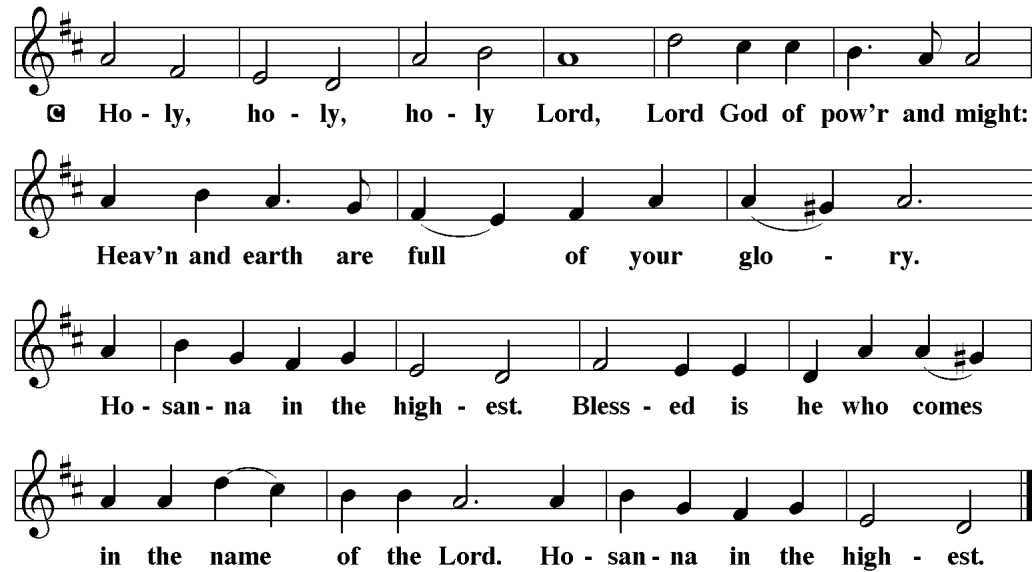


THE COMMUNION RITE

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.

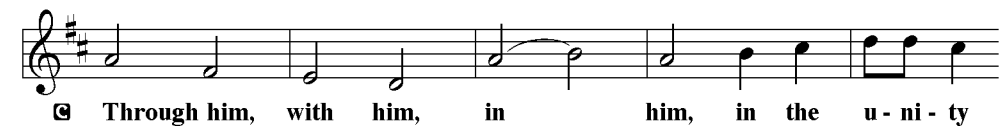
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**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.



of the Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is  
yours, al-might- y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:  
 C **Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
     **hallowed be thy name,**  
     **thy kingdom come,**  
     **thy will be done,**  
         **on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread;**  
**and forgive us our trespasses,**  
     **as we forgive those**  
         **who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
     **but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
     **and the power, and the glory,**  
     **forever and ever. Amen.**

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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please sit.*

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?  
 A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.  
 Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?  
 A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

*-Luther’s Small Catechism Part V*

*Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you wish for the pastor to bring communion to you. Please advise an usher.*

*Please stand.*

### THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray,  
 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**

*Silence for reflection.*



### THE BENEDICTION

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

**C Amen**

### THE SENDING HYMN: #504 O God, My Faithful God

*Please see next page.*

### THE DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

Allegro non troppo

Meier



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1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing  
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;  
4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:  
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—  
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;  
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in  
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless  
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,  
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.  
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.  
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.  
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

### **THANK YOU!**

**Your generosity makes ministry happen at St. James.**

|                                                 |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Offerings Budgeted for 2026</b>              | <b>\$405,055</b> |
| <b>Offerings Received as of August 31, 2026</b> | <b>\$233,197</b> |
| <b>Offerings Expected as of August 31, 2026</b> | <b>\$270,037</b> |
| <b><u>DEFICIT</u> as of August 31, 2026</b>     | <b>-\$36,840</b> |

### **BETHLEHEM AT THE FARM – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Sunday, December 6 | 3:00–5:00 p.m. | Jones Family Farm (off Old Salisbury Rd.)

Help bring the Christmas story to life with a marketplace, shepherds, Mary and Joseph, live animals, and more! About 50 volunteers are needed to make this St. James tradition possible. There are many roles available, and costumes are provided.



### **STAY CONNECTED!**

Sign up to receive our weekly *Ring Out* e-newsletter for news, events, and ministry updates.



### **Follow us on social media:**

Facebook & Instagram: **@stjamesnc**  
YouTube: **@stjameslutheranconcord**

### **MEALS ON MISSION – Oct. 17**

Join us **Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 a.m.** at Cabarrus Arena & Events Center for a morning of service with Lifeline Christian Mission. We need 10 volunteers to help pack meals as part of their Meals on Mission event. All supplies are provided.

Contact Chris Miller for more information.

Sign up:



### **TRUNK OR TREAT – OCT. 25**

Join us on **Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m.** in the back parking lot for St. James' annual Trunk or Treat event. Enjoy candy, popcorn, music, and games! If you are available to host a trunk or help run a game, please let us know!



### **SALVATION ARMY MEAL WEEK – NOV. 1-7**

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 6:30 p.m. on their selected date, **November 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**. Staying to serve is appreciated but not required.

Meal expenses can be reimbursed through Jill Irvin. Contact Chip Popovici with questions.

Scan QR code to sign up.

