ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass Acolyte: Joshua Rinker Ushers: Chip Popovici, Jimmy Harris, Jeff Jones, Jeff Gilbert, Phil Tesh Greeter: Theresa Steele Building Supervisors: Jeff Gilbert & Chip Popovici

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Dr. Kevin Estes and the Choir of St. James Lutheran by Elizabeth Hurley.

PALMS

Today's palms are given to the Glory of God in memory of Theresa "Terri" Fleck by Ann and Chip Blackwelder.

PRAYER LIST

Paul Auten (friend of Robert & Debbie Davis), Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Family of Michael Black (nephew of 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); 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); 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); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Geoff & Pam Seige (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Children and Volunteers... Please save the dates: **July 20 – 22, 2025** for Vacation Bible School. All volunteers will be required to have a current *Safe Gatherings* background check. Please contact <u>holly@sjnc.net</u> for instructions.

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION Palm Sunday April 13, 2025 THE HOLY COMMUNION TEN O'CLOCK



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.</u>

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

COPYRIGHT:

Lutheran Book of Worship © 1978. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Licenses SAS-002140, SB177826

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty: Music © 1941 by The H.W. Gray Co. Inc. Copyright renewed. Reprinted/Podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002. All Rights Reserved.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

April 13 – David Hardister, Amanda Irvin, Ciprian Popovici April 14 – Joan Mahoney, Mary Catherine Nivens, Michelle Urso April 15 – Hayden Weisel April 16 – Winstyn Downs April 17 – Bill Fischer, Laura Patterson, Kirsten Ziegler April 18 – Missy Hartman April 19 – Mallory Horton, Jackson Hughes

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday	9:00am 9:00am 9:30am 10:00am 4:00pm	Adult Sunday School Parish Choir Children's Sunday School Worship Youth Gathering
Monday, April 14	10:30am 6:30pm	Quilting Scouts
T hursday, April 17 Maundy Thursday	Noon 7:oopm	Maundy Thursday (Spoken Liturgy) Maundy Thursday Worship (with Choir)
Friday, April 18 Good Friday	Noon	Good Friday Service
Saturday, April 19	2:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt – Bring your baskets!
Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday	9:00am 9:45am 10:00am	Parish Choir Prelude Music with Instrumentalists Easter Sunday Worship

EASTER LILY GIFTS

Easter Lily Gifts are available for purchase now. Order deadline: Today! – April 13





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

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION THE HOLY COMMUNION



The People gather inside the sanctuary.

PRELUDE

Toccata for Organ

John Weaver

The minister, standing among the people, says:

THE INVOCATION and OPENING PRAYER

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C Hosanna to the Son of David.
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

C Amen.

THE PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven.

and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

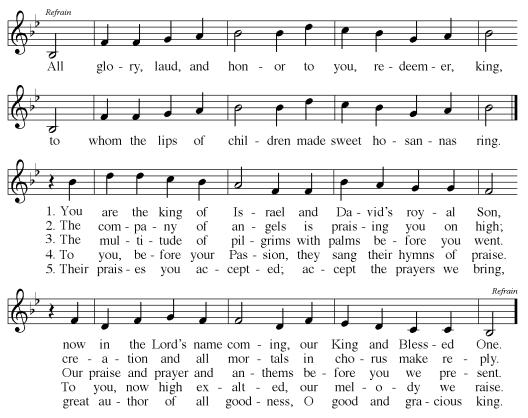
THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The people raise their branches.

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

- P We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path. We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen
- P Let us go forth in peace,
- C in the name of the Lord.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN #108 All Glory, Laud and Honor

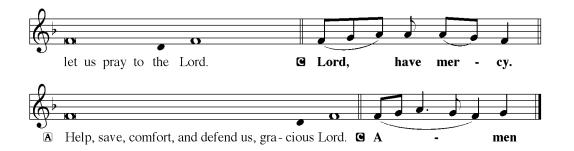


THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

THE KYRIE





THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C Hosanna in the highest.
- P Almighty God, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take our flesh upon him and to suffer death on the cross. Grant that we may share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.



Please sit. **THE FIRST READING:** Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

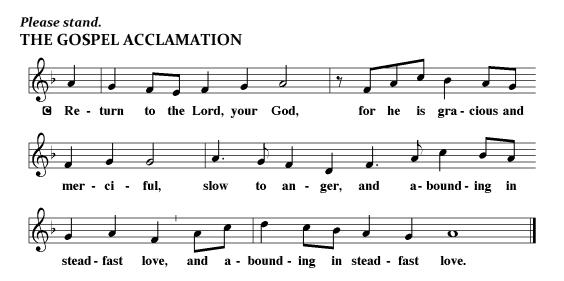
- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 23^{rd} chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. ²They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." ³Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." ⁵ But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

6 When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. 7 And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. 8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. 9 He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. 10 The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. 11 Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. 12 That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

13 Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, 14 and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. 15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. 16 I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

18 Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" 19 (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) 20 Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; 21 but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" 22 A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." 23 But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. 24 So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. 25 He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

26 As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27 A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women

who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. 28 But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' 30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' 31 For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

32 Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 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."

44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45 while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. 47 When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." 48 And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. 49 But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

P The Gospel of the Lord.C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit. THE HOMILY

Please stand. THE HYMN OF THE DAY: O Sacred Head Now Wounded



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 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 SUFFRAGES

A Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us.

> Turn away, O Lord, the fierceness of your wrath, And in pity spare your people: **And have mercy.**

Grant a favorable and speedy answer to the prayers of all, we implore you: **And have mercy.**

Look, O Christ, upon our groanings,

loose the bands of death, and grant us life: And have mercy.

Behold our tears, consider our sighs, and now at length in pity forgive our sins: And have mercy.

Though none of us be worthy to be heard, yet, O Christ, for your own self help us: And have mercy.

We cry to you, O Lord; have mercy on us; And grant forgiveness.

O King of heaven, everlasting Lord, receive the prayers which we pour forth: And grant forgiveness.

Visit the sick, bring forth the captives, help the widow and the orphan: And grant forgiveness.

We have sinned and have departed from you; Redeemer of all, save us: And grant forgiveness.

Have mercy on the penitent, and wash away the stains of sin: And grant forgiveness.

Let us all with one voice cry: Lord, have mercy.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, grant pardon, grant remission: And graciously have mercy.

O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins,

Neither reward us according to our wickedness.

Enter not into judgment with your servants For in your sight shall no one living be justified.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, Р and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE PEACE

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

Please sit. **ANTHMN:**

The Palms

Jean-Baptiste Faure

-J'Ericson Newby, baritone

O'er all the way, green palms and blossoms gay Are strewn this day in festal preparation. Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away, *E'en now the throng to welcome him prepare.*

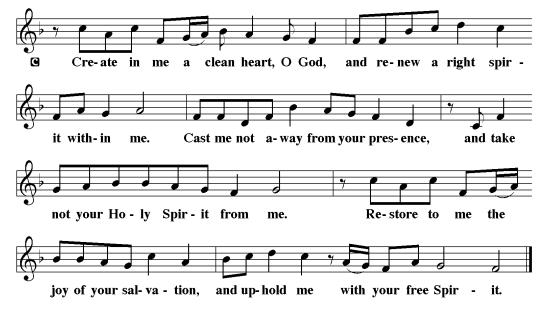
Join all and sing, his name declare, Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation. Hosanna! Praised to the Lord! Bless him who cometh to bring us salvation!

His word goes forth, and peoples by its might Once more regain freedom from degradation. Humanity doth give to each his right, While those in darkness are restored to light.

Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem, Of all thy sons sing the emancipation. Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem Brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.

THE OFFERING

Please stand. THE OFFERTORY



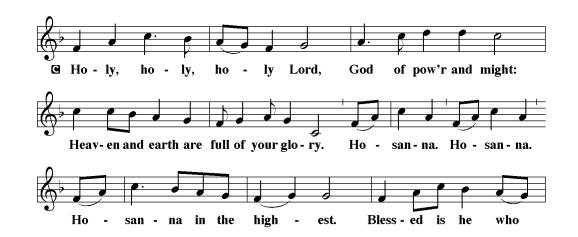
THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

- 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 the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

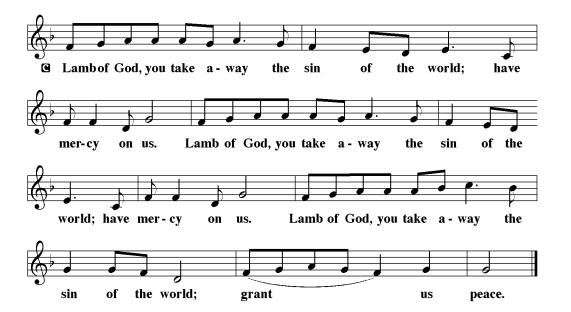
And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ. Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.

C Amen

С

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

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.

COMMUNION ANTHEM:

The Holy City -Wes Watts, Tenor

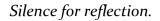
Please stand.

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

- A Let us pray.
- A Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his through the same Jesus Christ our Lord
- C Amen





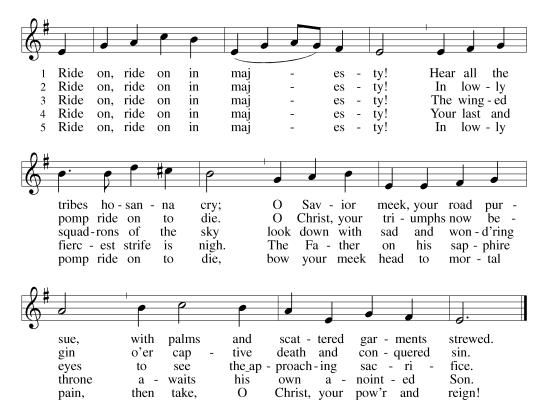
THE BENEDICTION

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

C Amen

Weatherly/Adams

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN Ride On, Ride On in Majesty



THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Maestoso et Allegro



Lowry

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

<u>Maundy Thursday: April 17th</u> Holy Communion / Laying on of Hands / Stripping of the Altar Noon – Spoken Liturgy 7pm – with Choir

Good Friday: Friday, April 18th

The Death of our Lord

Noon

THANK YOU!!

<u>On February 23rd, St. James launched a Special Appeal to raise \$150,000</u>. We need new boilers. The \$150,000 will cover (1) the cost of repairing the soon to be replaced boilers so we could have heat during this past winter and (2) the cost of the new boilers. There is also a contingency built into the budget. <u>As of April 7th, St. James has raised \$143,619.01. THANK YOU!</u> Thank you for your generosity and willingness to help ensure that God will continue to change lives in this building. That is why we need new boilers. We need new boilers because God changes lives in this building. Please prayerfully consider a gift. Any and all gifts are important. We have raised \$143,619.01 because we are working together. When your gift is stacked on your neighbor's gift which is stacked on another neighbor's gift there is no telling what we can accomplish. When we celebrate Jesus' resurrection on April 20th, we would love to celebrate the resurrection of our heating system by announcing we have met our goal.

COOK SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Attention Students!

In 1968, John M. Cook, Jr. established an endowment to assist college and graduate students who are members of St. James Lutheran Church by helping with their tuition expenses. The Cook Trust Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the 2025/2026 academic school year.

Interested applicants can email <u>holly@sjnc.net</u> for an application. Please confirm if you are a first-time or returning applicant so you will receive the appropriate forms. **** Earlier deadline this year - MAY 11, 2025 ****

The Resurrection of our Lord (Easter Sunday): April 20th

Prelude Music with Instrumentalists – 9:45am Festival Holy Communion – 10am