

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Kim Haberman

**Communion Assistant:** Samantha Hillegass

**Acolyte:** Noah Pittard

**Ushers:** Dale Merrell, Gretchen Walker,  
Robert Davis, Lex Patterson, Samantha Hillegass

**Greeter:** Barbara Albright

**Videographer:** Annette Propst

**Building Supervisors:** Robert Davis & Gretchen Walker

**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); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; Will Irvin; Mary Frances Johnson (cousin of Francie Davis); Karen Johnston (friend of Judy Benz); Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); 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 Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney); Deb Walker.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of our father Joseph Miller Propst, Sr. whose birthday is today, from his children.

*To assist in your offering*

Secure Online Giving



Open Camera – Scan QR Code

*Thank you for supporting St. James!*

**The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 20, 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**

- July 21 – Ashley Cline
- July 22 – Avery Ziegler
- July 23 – Holden Downs, Jill Trott
- July 25 – Tom Grady, Laurie Miller, Justin Monk
- July 26 – Kirby Bryn, Elizabeth Hurley, Al Pieschel

**CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

Sunday, July 20	9:00am	Parish Choir
	10:00am	Worship
	5:30pm	Vacation Bible School
Monday, July 21	10:30am	Quilting
	5:30pm	Vacation Bible School
Tuesday, July 22	5:30pm	Vacation Bible School
Sunday, July 27	9:00am	Parish Choir
	10:00am	Worship

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Join us for the annual Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am worship. Be sure to stick around afterwards for a congregational lunch. Everyone is welcome; please RSVP to help us plan! Scan below or email [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net) to RSVP.





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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION



**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*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,

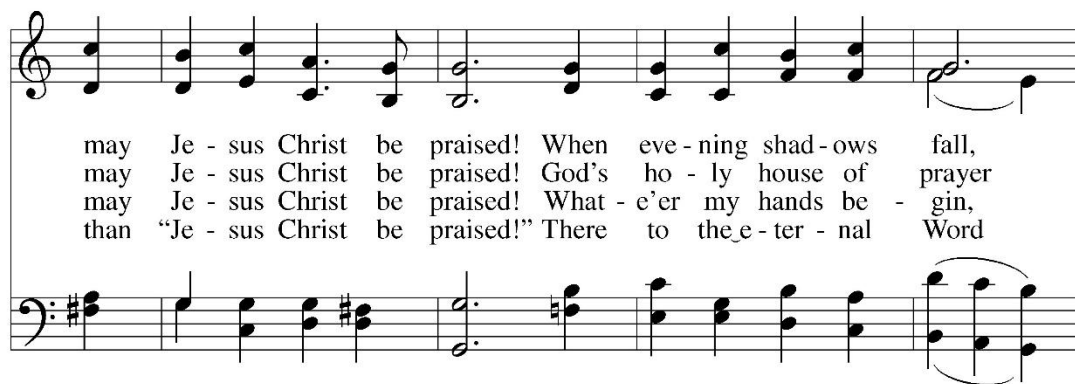
**C** **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, 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.

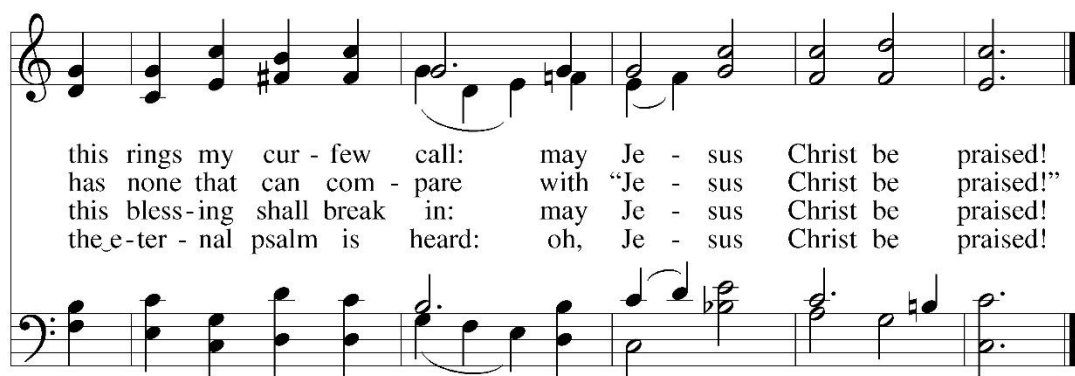
**C** **Amen**

### THE ENTRANCE HYMN: When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:  
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:  
3 To him, my highest and best, I sing, when love pos - sessed:  
4 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! What - e'er my hands be - gin,  
 than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
 this bless - ing shall break in: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!

5 Let all of humankind  
 in this their concord find:  
 may Jesus Christ be praised!  
 Let all the earth around  
 ring joyous with the sound:  
 may Jesus Christ be praised!

6 Sing, sun and stars of space,  
 sing, all who see his face,  
 sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
 God's whole creation o'er,  
 today and evermore,  
 shall Jesus Christ be praised!

### 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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you.**  
 P O God, you see how busy we are with many things. Turn us to listen to your teachings and lead us to choose the one thing which will not be taken from us, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 C **Amen.**



*Please sit.*

### THE FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-15

<sup>1</sup>The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup>Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

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

THE SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— <sup>23</sup>provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup>I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup>I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup>the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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

*Please stand.*  
THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>38</sup>Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

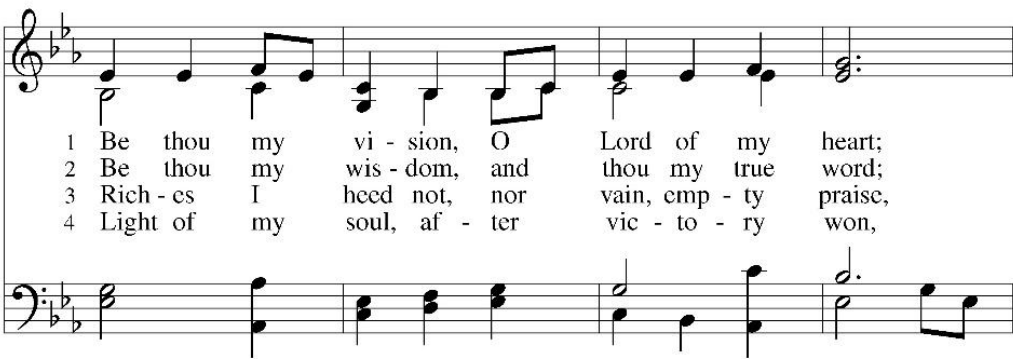
*Please sit.*

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

*Please stand.*

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,  
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er 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**

## THE PRAYERS

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

Lord, thank you for the gift of hospitality. You let us entertain angels unaware! Give us generous hearts, so we may refresh and gladden the hearts of others. Fill us with your Spirit, so that by faith, we may gratefully receive the hospitality of heaven, given to us in your well-beloved Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Build up your Church in mature faith, patient suffering, generous service, and gracious hospitality. Use it to reveal the mysteries of your love, so that many people seek your face, and live. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help the people of this congregation to rightly balance the loving hospitality of Martha with the loving listening of Mary. Let all we say and do to lead our neighbors to "the one thing needful" – the strong saving love of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your servant Paul suffered for the sake of the Gospel, as do many Christians in this day. Make them desire to glorify you. Help them encourage one another to

be witnesses to their Savior, who prayed even on behalf of his persecutors.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our nation, for our leaders, and for all the people and nations on earth. Let your holy presence dwell with us. Grant that we may know your will, and seek your peace. Teach us to sit at your feet; to love your Law; to display your mercy; and to share your blessings with one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be the strength and shield of all who stand in harm's way to protect life and liberty. Give them courage and competence. Heal wounds of body, soul, and mind. Restore them to their loved ones. And help them find new ways to serve you, their communities, and their nation, when their duties have ended. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be the light and salvation of all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Strengthen their bodies, refresh their hearts, take away their fears, and give them your peace. Bless all who care for them with kindness and competence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our departed loved ones who now receive that good portion that shall never be taken from them. Help us to comfort those who mourn. Help us to nourish all who hunger for food, fellowship, or forgiveness. Help us to grow in faith, hope, and love. Welcome us, and all whom you have redeemed, into your spacious House. There, let us no more be strangers, servants, or guests, but your dear children, who see you face to face forever. Lord, in your mercy, **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.**

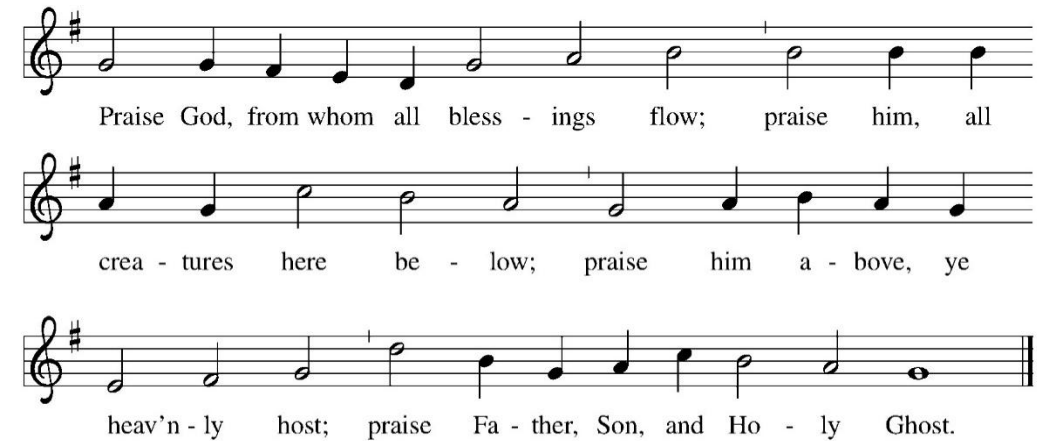
*Please sit.*

#### THE ANTHEM

#### THE OFFERING

*Please stand.*

#### THE OFFERTORY #564 "The Doxology"



#### 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.**

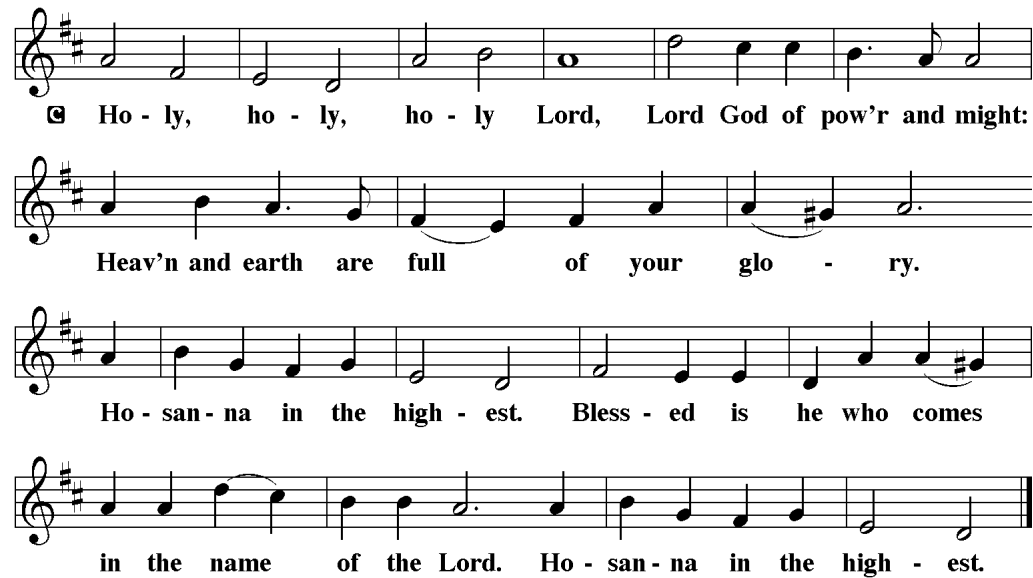
P Lift up your hearts.

**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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**P** 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.

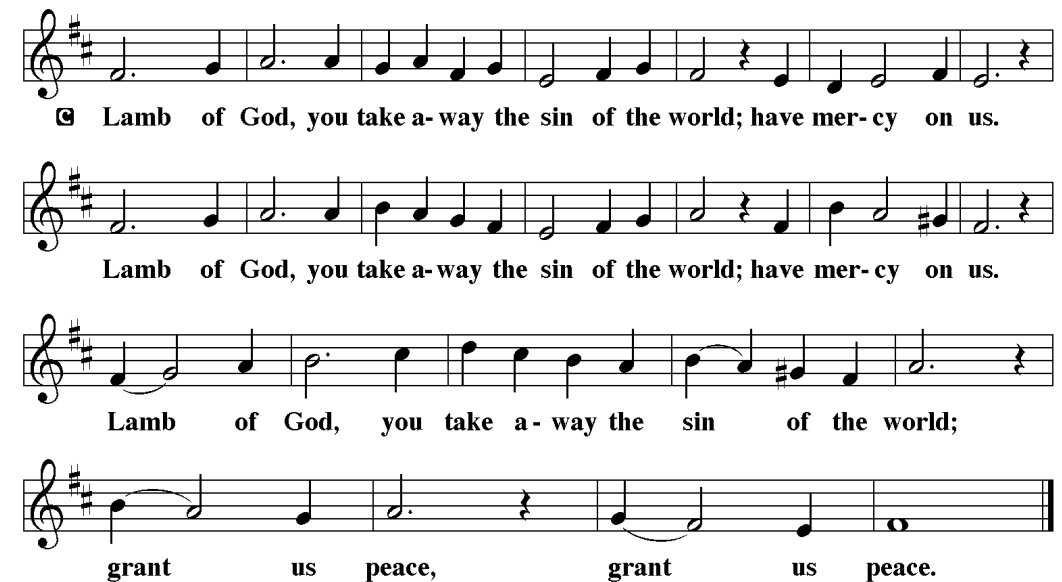
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

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

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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



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



*Please sit.*

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

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

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

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

*-Luther's Small Catechism Part V*

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

*Please stand.*

## THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C **Amen**

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray,

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**

*Silence for reflection.*



## THE BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen**

## THE SENDING HYMN: Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

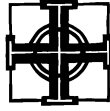
Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.  
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

## THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude



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**Prayers** adapted from Cathy Ammong's work at lutherancore.website.

**WE'RE HIRING!**

St. James is seeking a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries to lead and grow our youth program. Learn more on our website and help spread the word!

**MEAL TRAIN OPPORTUNITY**

The Meal Train for Jay Clemmer has been adjusted to one meal weekly on Mondays.

If you can assist with these efforts, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/JCMealTrain>.

**VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED!**

As summer travel picks up, we will need more volunteers to keep Sunday worship accessible online.

Serving as videographer is a simple process—just a few steps to start and stop the stream, with optional zoom control from your seat using a tablet.

Training is easy: we can walk you through it or have you shadow a current volunteer.

Visit the website to sign up.

**ST. JAMES STAFF**

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor; [prbill@sjnc.net](mailto:prbill@sjnc.net)

Dr. Kevin Estes, Director of Music Ministry & Organist; [kevin@sjnc.net](mailto:kevin@sjnc.net)

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator; [jill@sjnc.net](mailto:jill@sjnc.net)

Holly Sloop, Communications Coordinator; [holly@sjnc.net](mailto:holly@sjnc.net)

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator; [krad3700@gmail.com](mailto:krad3700@gmail.com)

Church Office: 704-786-0166; [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net)

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian