

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Christine Ruff

Communion Assistant: Elizabeth Hurley

Ushers: Al Brown, Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss

Greeter: Jean Beasley

Videographer: Chris Miller

Building Supervisors: Kim Haberman & Kenny Propst

PRAYER LIST

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; 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); Phyllis Freeman (Mother of Fonda Shumate); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Jeff Gilbert; Tom Grady; Harriett Huss Hodge; Maureen Hollmeyer; Hunter Huss; Dale Johnson (Friend of Dale Merrell); 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); Family of Don Matkins (brother-in-law of Margaret Garrison); Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Becky Phillips; Al Pieschel; Lori Pittard; Tom Ridenhour; Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend); Jesse Woodard (son-in-law of Beth Huss).

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God in memory of Gail L. Bost and Lois A. Walker by Deb & John Walker.

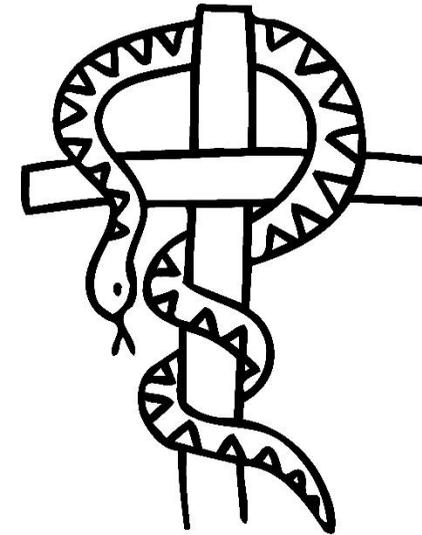
To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



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

**The Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 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**

We're Over-Flowing with News ...

So, our normal welcome page is greatly reduced. Welcome to St. James! We're glad that you are here. **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.

Lent and the Kyrie

NOTE: During the five Sundays in Lent, the choir will sing five different settings of the Kyrie, a most ancient form of prayer. The Lenten season emphasizes repentance and prayer in preparation for Easter and the Kyrie is an essential reminder of our need for God's mercy and grace. As the choir sings this liturgical act of humility, we confess our frailty and grow in anticipation of God's mighty act of resurrection at Easter.

The choir will "pray" through the voices of: Louis Vierne, whose French cathedral sound carries deep yearning; W. A. Mozart, whose Classical style holds clarity, sincerity and elegant simplicity in perfect balance; Franz Schubert, whose gentle melodies and lyric warmth invite quiet reflection; Maurice Duruflé, who draws on Gregorian chant and cloaks it in shimmering harmonies; and McClure, whose modern setting reminds us that the Church's oldest plea still speaks today.

Try the Choir — You Might Be Surprised

Many people assume you must be "really talented" to join a choir. In our church, we believe something simpler: if you have a willing heart and a desire to contribute, you belong here. The Parish Choir and Bell Choir do more than rehearse—they build community, support one another, and help lead the congregation in worship. You don't need prior choir experience, and you don't need to be able to "read every note." You will be welcomed by friendly members who will help you get oriented, answer questions, and make sure you feel at home from your very first rehearsal. Come explore—there is truly a place for everyone. To learn more, speak with any choir member, or contact Dr. Kevin Estes (kevin@sjnc.net). For Bell Choir details, please contact Brad Davis (cbdsax@gmail.com).

Let us know you visited!



Scan to connect!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

March 2 – Amy Splawn
March 5 – Lauren Popovici
March 6 – Sam McGuire, Sarah Poplin, Logan Whisnant
March 7 – Camden Burroughs, Avery Miller, Ella Wickliff

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 1	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, March 2	10:30am	Quilting
Tuesday, March 3	10:30am	Mary Magdalene Circle
	5:45pm	Mission Fund Meeting
	6:00pm	Executive Committee
Thursday, March 5	6:30pm	Choir
Sunday, March 8	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

SONSHINE BACKPACK 📦

We're continuing our quarterly partnership with Sunshine Backpacks to provide weekend food for local children in need.

Requested items: shelf-stable milk, cereal/oatmeal, mac & cheese, canned pasta/soup/veggies/fruit, granola bars, juice, popcorn, pudding.

Please place donations on the back kitchen counter by Sunday, March 29.

Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker.

ANIMAL SHELTER SUPPLY DRIVE 🐾

Throughout March, St. James Social Ministry Committee is collecting supplies for the Cabarrus County Animal Shelter. Needed items: paper towels, blankets (not stuffed or quilted), canned chicken breast, Dawn dish soap, and liquid Tide detergent.

Please place donations on the counter under the animal shelter board in the portico.

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 the hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

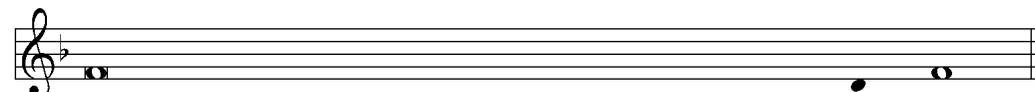
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

THE KYRIE



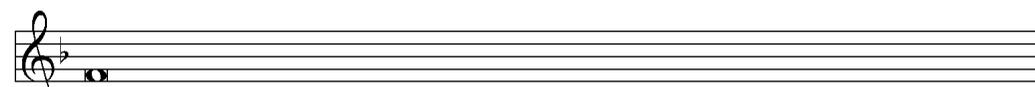
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**



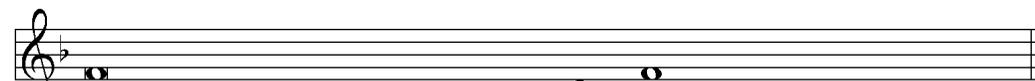
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



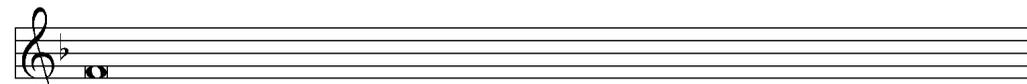
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



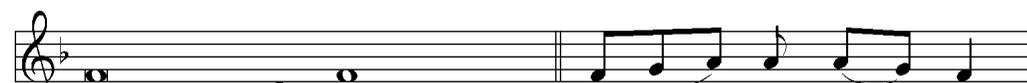
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



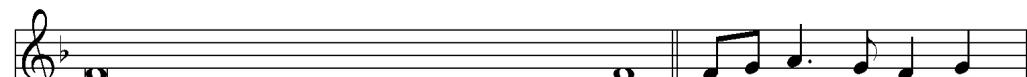
C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** **A - men**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you.**

P Eternal God, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ ³ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ ⁵ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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: #93 Jesus Refuge of the Weary

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



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest re - deem - er, whom we love,
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re - pen - tant vow,
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent love for you;



foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior from the world a - bove:
 though we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your thorn - en - cir - cled brow?
 may our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be - hold your cross a - new;



of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed, gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall;
 Yet your sin - less death has brought us life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest;
 till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side,



yet up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, you have borne the pain of all.
 on - ly what your grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 grav - en in our hearts for - ev - er, dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,
 by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
 from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his
 kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please kneel or sit as able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer, that he would be merciful to his people.

Dearest heavenly Father, we know John 3:16 by heart. Thank you for its truth. You *do* so love the world! You gave your only Son! We have everlasting life, not death! Thank you for your love. By your Spirit, let our lives reflect that love – to you, and to people who don't yet know your love or believe your Word. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let the wind of your Spirit blow through your Church. Breathe your life and love through it, to revive everyone who is wounded and dying from the assaults of the sin, death, and the devil. Make the Church your "wounded healer," able to draw broken and sinful people close to Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nicodemus, a teacher in Israel, needed the challenge, wisdom, and words of life that only Jesus could give. Grant that all who seek to be pastors, teachers, and theologians should always sit at Jesus' feet. Fill them with his Spirit. Make them truth-filled teachers and trustworthy guides to everyone in their care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill this congregation with the Holy Spirit, so that day by day, our hearts, minds, words, and works are reborn as instruments of your will. Use us to bring your redeeming love to those who need it most. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach and guide the leaders of all nations, especially our own. Help them prefer integrity and wisdom to the allure of power or popularity. Make them watchful and protective toward those entrusted to their care. Guide them in paths of justice and righteousness, and help us all to walk in those paths. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be the shield and strength of those who risk their lives on our behalf. Do not let their foot be moved. Deliver them from evil. Use them to bring safety and help in dangerous situations. Restore them to their loved ones when their task is done. Grant honor to the fallen, healing to the wounded, and peace to all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Watch over everyone who endures pain, sorrow, fear, doubt, loneliness, or despair. Be their shade and shelter. Give hope to their hearts, health to their bodies, confidence to their minds, and faith to their souls. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for embracing our beloved dead in your everlasting arms. Keep us steadfast in faith. Be our strength and shield. When we tread the verge of Jordan, bid our anxious fears subside. By the Cross of Jesus, land us safe on Canaan's side. Fill us with songs and praises that, with all the redeemed, we sing to you forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn from their evil way and live: Graciously turn us

from those punishments which we by our sins have deserved, and grant us grace evermore to serve you in holiness and pureness of living; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Please stand.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

Kyrie

Mozart

(from *Missa for Archbishop Colloredo*, K. 337)

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

THE OFFERING

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



THE COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast.

Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

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, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.



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 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

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.**

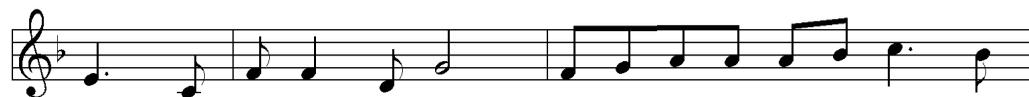
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



☩ 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.

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 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

Silence for reflection.



THE BENEDICTION

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

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: #544 The God of Abraham Praise

Please see next page.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Allegretto

Diemer



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Prayers adapted from lutherancore.website

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday

10am - Worship Service

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday

Laying on of the Hands & Holy Communion

Noon - Spoken Liturgy

7pm - Worship Service (with Choir)

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

The Death of Our Lord

Noon - Worship Service

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of Our Lord

9:45am - Prelude Music with Instrumentalists

10am - Holy Communion

1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2 The God of A-br'ham praise, at whose su-preme com-mand
3 The God of A-br'ham praise, whose all-suf-fi-cient grace
4 He by him-self has sworn; I on his oath de-pend.

An-cient of ev-er-last-ing days, and God of love.
from earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand.
shall guide me all my pil-grim days in all my ways.
I shall, on ea-gle wings up-borne, to heav'n as-cend.

Je-ho-vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con-fessed;
I all on earth for-sake—its wis-dom, fame, and pow'r—
He deigns to call me friend; he calls him-self my God!
I shall be-hold his face; I shall his pow'r a-dore,

I bow and bless the sa-cred name for-ev-er blest.
and him my on-ly por-tion make, my shield and tow'r.
And he shall save me to the end through Je-sus' blood.
and sing the won-ders of his grace for-ev-er-more.