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# Saint James Lutheran Church



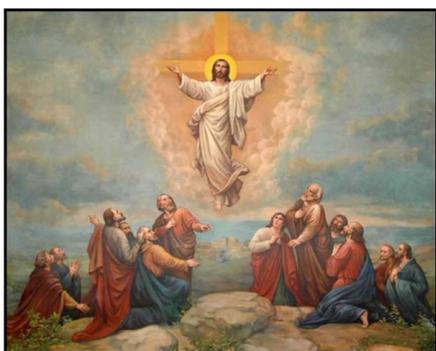
A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service"

## ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

MAY 24, 2020



### GATHERING

#### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*Pater, cum essem cum eis*

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to who 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.

**Amen.**

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.

*Silence is held for reflection and self-examination*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not love 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING *Acts 1:1-14*

*Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

A reading from Acts, the first chapter.

**I**n the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." <sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." <sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

### SECOND READING *Ephesians 1:15-23*

*The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

A reading from Ephesians, the first chapter.

**I** have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

## HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:44-53*

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” <sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

*Guest vocalist, Ilana Lubitsch*



- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
- 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
- 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
- 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## NICENE CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Living God, you chose us to be your witnesses in the world. We pray for the church in every place and the congregations in our community. Focus our hearts and minds on the ministry we share in your name.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All creation sings praise to you. You delight in the oceans, and the mountains are your throne. Teach us humility and respect for our home. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You rule the heavens, the earth, and time itself. Make this a time of justice, peace and solidarity. Guide all local, national, and international leaders. Build up safe communities. Bring an end to violence in families as well as between nations. Liberate those who live under oppression. Strengthen those who work for equality. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We wait with hope for your presence to heal us, bless us, restore us, and give us peace. You know all the names of those suffering for whom we pray this day. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You are our strength and shield. We give you thanks for the men and women of our armed forces, past and present, and especially for those who have died while serving. May their sacrifices serve the cause of peace, and may our nation be ever grateful for their service. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Your inheritance given to all your saints is your presence in our life and in our death. We remember with thanksgiving the faithful departed. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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.**

## **SENDING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to life, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISSMISSAL**

Go in peace, proclaim the resurrection!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn*, BWV 630

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)

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## PRAYER LIST

**Don Eng**

All health care professionals and first responders including:

**Deb Bradshaw**

**Lauri Fowler**

**DeeDee Gilbert**

**Annette Propst**

**Jason and Stephanie Matthews**

**Dr Bradley Propst, son of**

*Kenny and Annette Propst*

**Sam Hurley, son of Elizabeth Hurley**

**Lisa Snyder, friend of Debbie Wilkinson**

**Julie Greathouse, friend of Lois Marlow**

**Betsy Waselovich, sister of Golda Jay**

**Lauren, daughter of Angie Buchanan**

**Dr. Stephanie Garrison, daughter-in-law of Margaret Garrison**

**Dr. Kevin Burns, son-in-law of Margaret Garrison.**

*If you have someone you would like to add to the prayer list, please contact Keith. 704-786-0166 and leave a message or email at [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)*

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**24-May Ron Krome**

**27-May Brad Baker**

**29-May Dylan Rutemiller**

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

**Contributions and Receipts for May 17, 2020**

**\$5,155.00**

*(\$8,414.00 needed for weekly)*

## COOK SCHOLARSHIPS

**Deadline is June 1**

In 1968, John M. Cook, Jr established an endowment to assist college and graduate students who are members of St. James Lutheran Church to help pay their tuition. The Cook Trust Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the fall and spring semesters of the school year 2020/2021. Please contact the church office by phone or email [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net) to receive a first time or returning application. The deadline to return the application will be **June 1st, 2020** to be considered for a scholarship this fall. Please contact Kenny Propst with any questions that you may have regarding the application process at 704-467-2300 or [fcpsc@vnet.net](mailto:fcpsc@vnet.net)

**Join Saint James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups**—send Jeremy Jay any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at [jeremy@pbnjay.com](mailto:jeremy@pbnjay.com)

**St. James YouTube Channel** Search for St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC and subscribe.

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@stjamesnc

## OFFICE HOURS

**M-Th 8:30-4:00, F 8:30-1:00**

*Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00*

## DIRECTORY

Members of Saint James.....Ministers

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

## SAINT JAMES STAFF

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Mike Holt.....Youth and Family  
[mvholt1957@yahoo.com](mailto:mvholt1957@yahoo.com)

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