

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Margaret Garrison
Communion Assistant: Kim Haberman
Ushers: Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin,
Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard
Videographer: Jean Beasley
Greeter: Judy Benz
Building Supervisors: Pat McDonough

PRAYER LIST

Tom Grady; Tom Ridenhour; Noah Clifton; Linda and Paul Jones (family members of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Susan Tadlock (friend of Deb Black);
Mary Dorothy White (friend of Patsy Black).

John & Alma Cook Memorial Scholarship – Now Accepting Applications!

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 2024/2025 academic school year. Interested applicants can email holly@sjnc.net for an application. Please confirm if you are a first-time or returning applicant so you will receive the appropriate forms. **The deadline to return application is June 1, 2024.**

Spring Bible Study

Spring Bible Study continues Mondays at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Free Cabarrus County Pre-K

See if your family qualifies for a preschool program.
Visit www.cabarruspartnership.org or call 704-933-8278 for information.

I AM NAMI Walks

NAMIWalks powers the life-changing work of NAMI Cabarrus, And NAMI Cabarrus powers “Mental Health for All.” Join NAMIWalks Cabarrus on May 18 at 9 am at Frank Liske Park for Walk Day. Registration is live | Vendor opportunities available. namiwalks.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Children and Volunteers...Please save the dates July 28-30, 2024, for Vacation Bible School. All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Please contact the Church Office to complete this process.

The ASCENSION of our LORD (Observed) May 12, 2024

The Liturgy of the Word 10:00am



St James Lutheran Church
104 Union Street South
PO Box 684
Concord, North Carolina 28026
704-786-0166
www.sjnc.net

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 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.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

May 14

Lisa Folino

May 17

Liz Klein

May 18

Harrison Propst, Amy Whisnant

May 19

Nick Lovelace

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 12

9:00 am Adult Sunday School

9:00 am Parish Choir

9:30 am Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

Monday, May 13

10:30 am Quilting Group

6:30 pm Scouts

6:30 pm Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, May 14

6:00 pm Congregation Council

Wednesday, May 15

6:00 pm Bella Voce Choir

7:00 pm Parish Choir

Thursday, May 16

6:00 pm Handbells

Saturday May 18

8:30 am Leah's Hope Trailor

Sunday, May 19

9:00am Adult Sunday School

9:00 am Parish Choir

9:30 am Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

AN INVITATION FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH Sunday, May 19th at 4pm

Mike Holt and Pastor Bill invite you to a time when we can listen to you. Please come on the 19th and help us, help you. What does a youth ministry that you want to be a part of look like for you? Please come on Sunday the 19th and help us learn from you.

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

Are you about to celebrate your commencement from High School or College or Graduate School? Would you please remind us by calling or emailing the office? As is tradition at St. James, we are planning a time to recognize and celebrate your accomplishments. info@sjnc.net | 704-786-0166

ALTAR FLOWERS

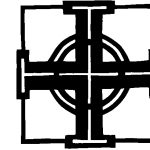
The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God and in honor and memory of all of our mothers by Jill Strahl.

THE SENDING HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign

Duke Street

LBW, green hymnal, #530 for harmony.



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



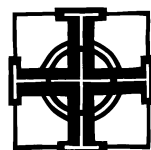
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary



WELCOME MIKE HOLT!

We welcome Mike Holt, retired ELCA Deacon and no stranger among the saints at St. James, as our guest preacher and worship leader. Pastor Bill is away celebrating Eve's college graduation. Worship this morning follows The Liturgy of the Word. We will not celebrate Communion this morning.

Gathering



Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome

Opening Voluntary

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

D 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

D 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.*

D 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**

D In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit
C **Amen**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: *The Head That Once Was Crowned* St. Magnus

LBW, green hymnal, #173 for harmony.



1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;
2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords is his by sov-'reign right,
3 The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is giv'n;

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, O God by your grace.
Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.
To you, O Lord.

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

D 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.**

Sending



THE BENEDICTION

D Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C **Amen**

Lord, have mercy.

For our pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For travelers, for the sick and suffering, for captives, for all who need our prayers and for all who we remember silently in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.



a roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.
the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav'n's e - ter - nal light.
to whom he man - i - fests his love, and grants his name to know;
their name, an ev - er - last - ing name, their joy, the joy of heav'n.

5 They suffer with their Lord below;
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the myst'ry of his love.

6 The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme!

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



B Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

D Almighty God, your only Son was taken up into heaven and in power intercedes for us. May we also come into your presence and live forever in your glory; 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.

Word



THE FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to

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.

Please kneel or sit, as able.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

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.
Lord, have mercy.

For his holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

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.

THE OFFERING

THE ANTHEM

God Is Gone Up

Gerald Finzi

*God is gone up with a triumphant shout!
The Lord with sounding trumpets' melodies:
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise,
Sing praises out, sing praises out, unto our King sing praise seraphic-wise!
Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing,
and let the King of Glory enter in.*

them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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."

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

THE SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸so 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God 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, ²¹far 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. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁴[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.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Ratisbon

LBW, green hymnal, #265 for harmony.

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

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,