

Saint James Lutheran Church

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



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

Welcome!

St. James is a house of prayer where all people can come to know the compassionate heart of Jesus. We are a community of Christians where you can belong before you believe. At Saint James the beauty of worship and ancient traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. together Join us as discover the sacred in the heart of the city. Our worship includes ancient and contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home or just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 8, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

We Welcome Everyone on this Lord's Day to the Liturgy of Holy Communion.

Newcomers and visitors, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

Although there are customary postures (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

Children are most welcome in worship at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building.

The First Aid Kit and the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

If you are interested in membership to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

Restrooms are available on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

Pew Pads are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

Join Saint James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

Send the Joseph Beasley any pictures and/ or articles you would like to have posted at ioseph.f.beasley@gmail.com



@stjamesnc

St. James YouTube Channel

Go to <u>youtube.com/</u> @stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.





WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Jesus, My Joy, My Heart's Desire

Johann Seb. Bach

Congregational Responses in **Bold**

(Stand)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.





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.**

KYRIE



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Sit)

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Mike Holt

FIRST READING ISAIAH 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

A reading from Isaiah, the forty-second chapter.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

¹Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

² Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name;

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters.

- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea,

the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.

- ⁶ He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness;

the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

9 The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests:

and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.

- ¹⁰ The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever.
- ¹¹ The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

SECOND READING ACTS 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

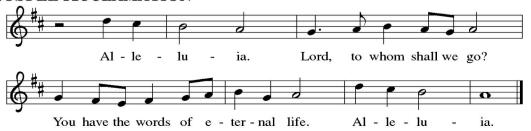
A reading from Acts, the tenth chapter.

Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Craig

(Next Page)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION

(See Insert)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN



(Kneel or sit, as able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith. Especially today we pray for Rev. Ethan Overcash and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in High Point, NC. Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus' baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds. Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity, vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service, for peacemakers, and for our enemies. Merciful God.

receive our prayer.

Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis especially those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ's resurrection life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

(Stand)

SHARING OF THE PEACE (This can be done verbally with no physical contact, if desired) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask 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, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen, amen, 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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!
(Sit)

All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion at Saint James. If you desire to receive Communion, please proceed to the altar by way of the center aisle. The ushers will direct you. You will receive a wafer and a cup of wine. For those unable to partake of wine, grape juice is available in the center circle of the tray. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. After communing, please use the outside aisle to return to your seat. Communion will be brought to persons in the pews who are unable to come forward to the altar. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so.



HYMN AT COMMUNION

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

ANTHEM AT COMMUNION

This is My Beloved Son

Daniel Uhl

(Stand)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

Amen.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY I Travel On In Peace and Joy

~Johann Seb. Bach

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 684

CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026 CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166

Website www.sinc.net

DIRECTORY

Members of Saint James......Ministers The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith......Bishop SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. Craig Saltzer, Interim Pastor csaltzer@triad.rr.com

336-225-7889

Keith Sutton, Parish Administrator

keith@sinc.net

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator iill@sinc.net

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Mike Holt, Youth and Family mvholt1957@vahoo.com

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Congregational Council

Debbie Davis, President Jon Miller, Vice President

Chris Miller, Secretary Kenny Propst, Treasurer

Chip Blackwelder Kim Haberman

Samantha Hillegass Elizabeth Hurley Beth Huss Frank Irvin

Pat McDonough Wendell Overby

Dee Pieschel OFFICE HOURS

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

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email all information to the church office at keith@sinc.net

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK 08-Jan Brad Davis

09-Jan Andrew Propst 09-Jan Benjamin Propst

09-Jan Heidi Propst 10-Jan Christine Lovelace

11-Jan Aspen MacFarlane

12-Jan David Trott 14-Jan Kim Johnson

14-Jan Lex Patterson

CALENDAR THIS WEEK Sunday, January 8

9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Youth Meeting

Monday, January 9 10:30 am Quilters Group

Tuesday, January 10 12:00 pm Lively Leisures

6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, January 11 6:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Council

7:00 pm Parish Choir 9:30 pm College Online

Sunday, January 15 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship

11:20 pm Grandparent's Camp 4:00 pm Youth Meeting

OFFERING **ENVELOPES:** Offering

Envelopes for 2023 have not arrived vet. In the mean time if you want to make a cash offering, there

are envelopes in the pew

racks.

OUR STEWARDSHIP Contributions and Receipts

for January 1, 2023

\$6,755.00 (\$8,121.67 needed for weekly)

PRAYER LIST

Emmanuel Lutheran

Church, High Point, NC

Martha Summers Patsy Black

Tom Grady

Clary Phillips Jim Weisel

The family of Jimmy Summers

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Frank Irvin

Dale Merrell Acolyte/Crucifer:

Communion Assistant:

Jacob Rinker Greeter:

Gretchen Walker Ushers: Dale Merrell, Gretchen Walker, Robert

Davis, Lex Patterson, Samantha Hillegass

Building Supervisor: Chris Miller

Videographer:

Robert and Debbie Davis

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