

**SAINT JAMES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PO Box 684
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166
WEBSITE www.sjnc.net

SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. Bill Ridenhour, Senior Pastor
prbill@sjnc.net

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Scott F. Foppiano, Organist /
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scottfop@gmail.com

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krad3700@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts for
November 12, 2023

\$15,281.27

(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

In-Person Attendance:
89

**Children's Sunday School is
back!** SS starts at 9:30 a.m.

With the return of Sunday School,
the Children's Sermon and the
Children's Church will cease.

The nursery will be for children up
to and including age 5.

**Salvation Army Ringing of the
Bells** at Sam's Club at Northlite

Shopping Center in Kannapolis—

Thursday, November 30 and
Wednesday, December 13. Sign up
times run from 10 am til 7 pm. The
last shift ends at 8 pm. Sign up sheet
is in Portico area...

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email all information to the church office by
Wednesday 10:00 am to info@sjnc.net

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

19-Nov LeeAnn Miller

20-Nov Ralph Barnhardt
Pat Merriott

21-Nov Brynlee Green
Ian Tonog Cashion

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:
Barbara Albright

Communion Assistant:
Margaret Garrison

Acolyte/Crucifer:
Noah Dixon

Ushers: Mike Downs, Al
Brown, Jr., Sid Hughes, Bill
Hardister, Hunter Huss

Greeters:
Judy Benz

**Families will make
Nativity Blocks today**
11:15 am— after worship
and we will have pizza.

**Scouts will be selling
Boston Butts for
Thanksgiving.** Scouts will
be in the Portico area before
Worship today to take orders
- \$40.00 each. Pickup will be
on Wednesday, November
22nd, the day before
Thanksgiving, between 9—
10 am in the St. James
Portico area. You may also
order by calling Eugene @
704-918-7200.

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given
to the Glory of God by Jo
Eng.

PRAYER LIST

- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Noah Clifton

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 19

- 9:15 am Parish Choir
- 9:30 am Children's SS
- 9:50 am Congregational Mtg.
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:15 am Families make
Nativity Blocks

Monday, November 20

- 10:30 am Quilting Group
- 6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, November 22

- 7:00 pm Parish Choir

Thursday, November 23

- Happy Thanksgiving!!!
(church office closed)

Sunday, November 26

- 9:15 am Parish Choir
- 9:30 am Children's SS
- 10:00 am Worship

Tree Lighting at St. James

Sunday, December 3rd at 5 pm
to make ornaments and Tree
Lighting Liturgy at 6 pm with
snacks and drink to follow.



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
ancient worship and
traditional spiritual practices
transform contemporary lives.
Join us as together we
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.

**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"*

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

**NOVEMBER 19, 2023
10:00 A.M.**

Introduction to Today's Worship

Our readings during November speak of the
end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the
coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and
distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the
night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus
tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our
gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and
common good. In a world filled with violence and
despair, we gather around signs of hope—word,
water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the
good news of Christ's coming among us.

Welcome!

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 (ages 0-up to and including ages 5)

First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. 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.

St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

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

St. James YouTube Channel Go to www.youtube.com search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

Announcements

Congregational Meeting today, November 19th at 9:50 am before Worship for the purpose of election of Council Members, Synod Delegates and approval of 2024 Budget.

Church Calendar remaining

2023 & 2024

If you have an event or meeting scheduled for the balance of 2023 and into 2024—please let the church office know as to create a reservation for those rooms—info@sjnc.net or call 704-786-0166.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Nun Danket alle Gott*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

Pastor Bill's Teaching Debut...

An Advent Journey—The Birth Narratives of Luke and Matthew

Mondays November 27 and December 4, 11, 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

Bring your Bible, your sense of humor and your questions. Do we have a coffee pot (asks the new guy??) If we do, we'll put it on. By then, you will have too many holiday sweets in your kitchen. Bring some with you.

We will go no more than an hour. It's possible we'll finish in less than four weeks. If we go longer than four weeks, you'll simply have to show up on Monday, December 25th. By 6:30 p.m. on the 25th, you will have had enough of your family.

With sufficient interest, Pastor Bill will run a brown bag matinee.

With sufficient need expressed, we will try for child care. No guarantees.

Blood Drive in memory of Carole Grady

is scheduled for Sunday, December 3rd. Appointments are available from 11 am—3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Use this link <https://donorportal.oneblood.org/donate-now/donation-centers-list-select-time?driveID=1349825> to reserve your donation time.

For more information, please contact Anne Eury at 704-201-5070.

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1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

GATHERING

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY AND WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Now Thank We All Our God* J. S. Bach, arr.: V. Fox

Congregational Responses in Bold

(Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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. **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.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

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 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

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. **Amen.**

(Stand)

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home;
 4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi-nal har-vest home.

All be safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.
 wheat and tares to-gether sown, un-to joy or sor-row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way;
 Gath-er then thy peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,

God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear.
 give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, in thy gar-ner to a-bide.

Come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit-ful ears to store in his gar-ner ev-er-more.
 Come, with all thine an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home!

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 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. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

LAMB OF GOD *Choir and Congregation*

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.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

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.**

DISTRIBUTION

(Sit)

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, give 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

APOSTOLIC 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

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people to seek more eagerly the help you offer, that, at last, they may enjoy the fruit of salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(Sit)

FIRST READING *ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18*

A reading from Zephaniah.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90: 1-8, 12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**
³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**
⁵you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
⁷For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
¹²So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

A reading from First Thessalonians, the fifth chapter.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Blessed are you,
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.

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 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, God of pow'r and might,
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

For the unbaptized and for those who have ceased to worship, for our lips to be willing to invite them. Form us to be a people ready to welcome, listen and change. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For a Spirit of healthy discourse and disagreement, for the power of the Spirit to raise up among us a common vision for your church in this place. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression and disgrace; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

That we may end of our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For all the saints now resting from their labors; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

The Pastor concludes the prayers.

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

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.

(Sit)

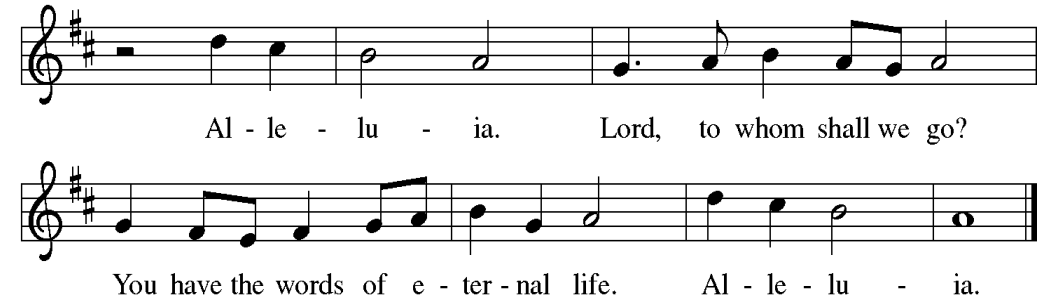
ANTHEM *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

Healey Willan

OFFERING *(Offering plates presented at the altar)* **(Stand)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Stand)*



HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 25:14-30*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

HYMN OF THE DAY *We Praise You, O God*

Kremser

1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

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.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 brief silence.

Each petition concludes, "Lord, in your mercy" and the congregation responds "hear our prayer."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy church of God, and for the unity of all peoples; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the civil authorities, for leaders of nations that their leadership may serve and protect all people and foster compassion and justice. For our city of Concord, for every city and community and for those who live in them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For reasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and the will to conserve it; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**