

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright
Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass
Ushers: Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin,
Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard
Videographer: LeAnn Miller
Greeter: Barbara Albright
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).

After Worship – Join us for a reception to honor our graduates!

**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.

**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.**

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.

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 DAY of PENTECOST
May 19, 2024**

**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**

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.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

May 19 Nick Lovelace
May 20 Karen Benson, Greg Hartman, Rich Rezza, Louise Walker
May 21 Beverly Heilg, Emma Parks, Ethan Patterson
May 22 Wayne King
May 23 Grayson Downs, Mason Overby

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 19	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:15 am	Graduate Reception (Fellowship Hall)
Monday, May 20	10:30 am	Quilting Group
	6:30 pm	Scouts
	6:30 pm	Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, May 22	6:00 pm	Bella Voce Choir
	7:00 pm	Parish Choir
Thursday, May 23	6:00 pm	Handbells
Sunday, May 26	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for our kids Louise and Miles for their birthdays by Gretchen Walker.

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EVERY TIME I FEEL THE SPIRIT Trad. Spiritual; Arr: William L. Dawson. ©1946 renewed 1973 Neil A. Kjos Music Co., Used with Permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002. All rights reserved.]

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C We pray that you make wise decisions, always turning to God for help.
God hears, God listens, God is always with you. Keep in mind that when
you turn to him he will guide you. Amen.

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST
THE HOLY COMMUNION**

THE BENEDICTION

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

Gathering



THE SENDING HYMN

Rise Up, O Saints of God

Festal Song

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! His king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, his word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome

Opening Voluntary *Chorale and Menuet from Sutie Gothique* Leon Boellmann

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

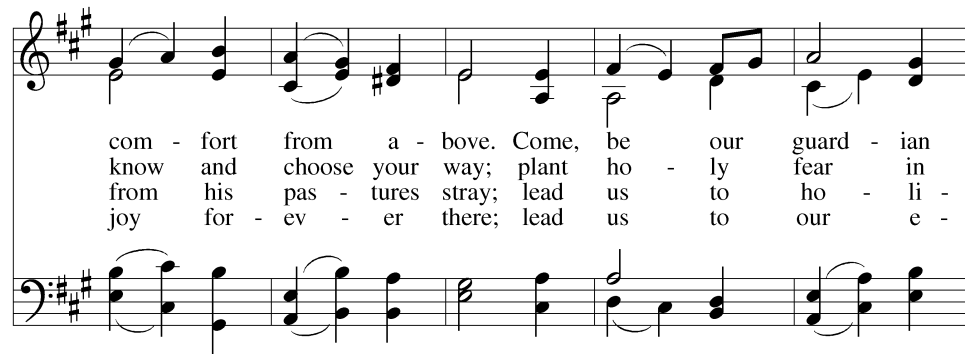
Closing Voluntary



THE ENTRANCE HYMN: *Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove* Wareham



1 Come, gra - cious Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, with light and
2 The light of truth to us dis - play and make us
3 Lead us to Christ, the liv - ing way, nor let us
4 Lead us to heav'n, that we may share full - ness of



com - fort from a - bove. Come, be our guard - ian
know and choose your way; plant ho - ly fear in
from his pas - tures stray; lead us to ho - li -
joy for - ev - er there; lead us to our e -



and our guide; o'er ev - 'ry thought and step pre - side.
ev - 'ry heart, that we from God may ne'er de - part.
ness, the road that we must take to dwell with God.
ter - nal rest, to be with God for - ev - er blest.

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.**

strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**



Blessing of the Graduates

P Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me. (*Jeremiah 29*)

P We are gathered together to celebrate your accomplishments and to offer prayers for you.

C **We give blessings to you for all that you have achieved and many more achievements yet to come.**

P One part of your life's journey is complete. You will prepare to begin another phase that will take you to unimaginable places.

C **We give you blessings of good will and love as you journey forth into the world. We thank you for the fellowship that you have shared with us and pray that as you begin your next journey, you will know that our love and support go with you.**

P Use your experiences as a beacon to guide you on your path. Don't look back; continue only forward, while using those memories to create a new path.

C **We pray that God will give you strength and determination to develop new relationships that will help to strengthen and sustain your faith.**

P Because we are made in the image of God we have been blessed with the power to make choices and decisions.

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. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to 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. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.

COMMUNION ANTHEM *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* William L. Dawson

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

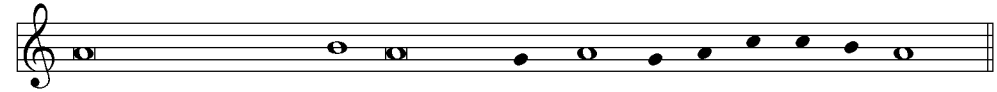
P Let us pray.

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would

THE KYRIE



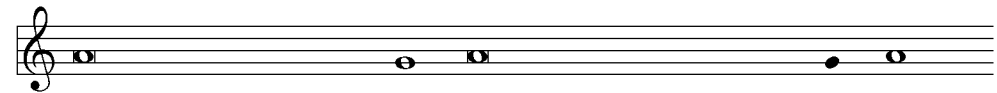
☪ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



☪ For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



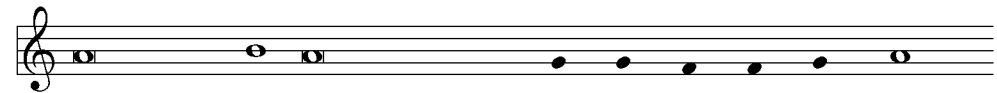
☪ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



☪ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



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



☪ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. ☩ A - men

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.

whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the 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.



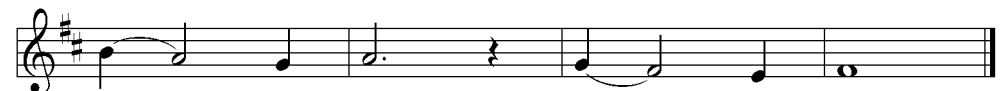
B Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

P Holy God, holy and mighty one, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus, who in the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

C Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

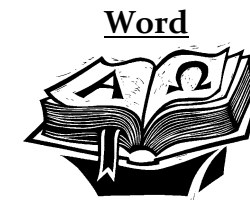
P Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as you sent upon the disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, look upon your Church and open our hearts to the power of the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of your love, and strengthen our lives for service in your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Please sit.



THE FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,

“What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: Romans 8:22-27

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Table



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

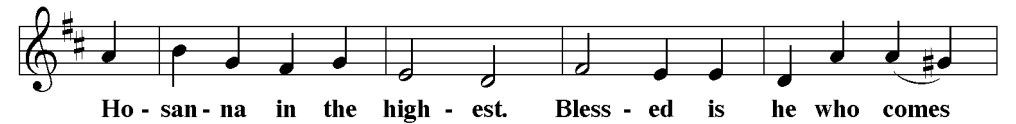
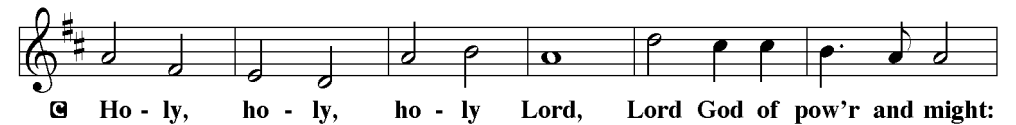
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

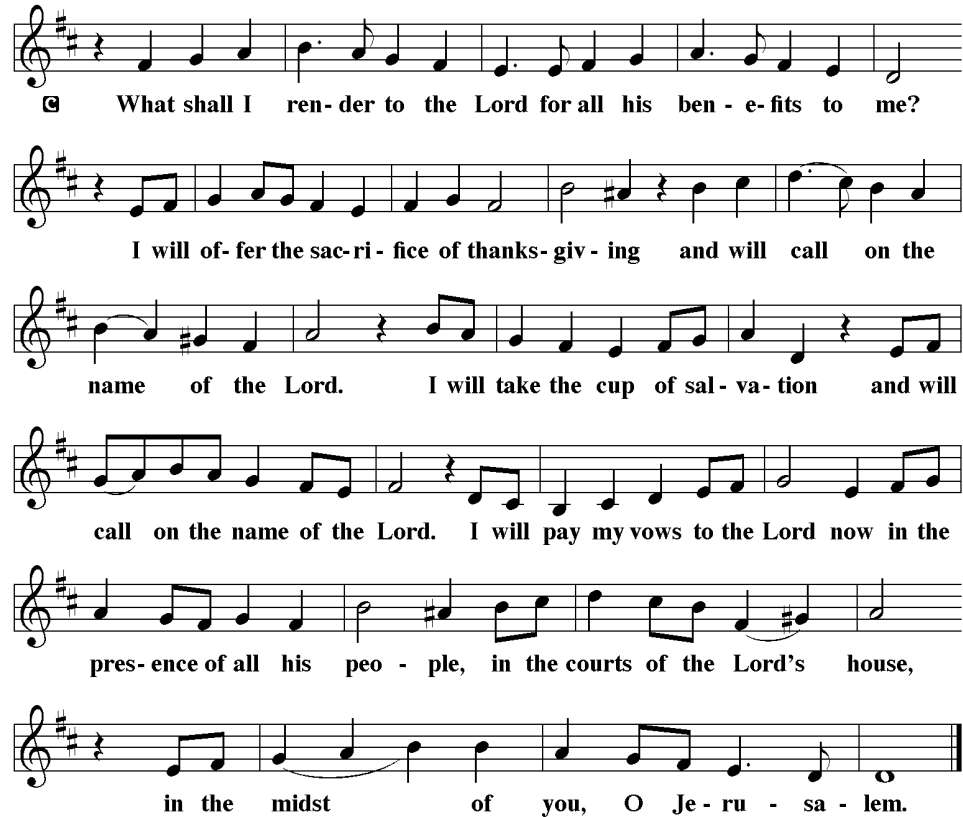
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, on this day, as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole exults in boundless joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your names and join their unending hymn:



THE OFFERTORY



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?

I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks- giv - ing and will call on the

name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will

call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the

pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,

in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray.
- A Blessed are you,
- C **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**

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

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

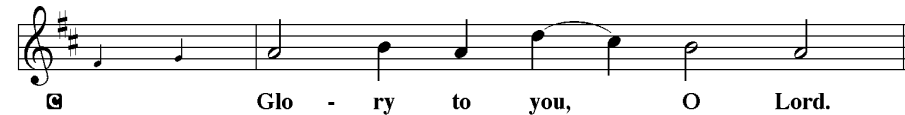


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th and 16th chapters.



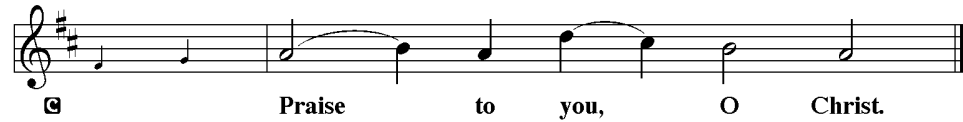
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b}“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

Come Down, O Love Divine

William H. Harris

*Come down, O Love divine, seek Thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with Thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.*

*O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let Thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.*

*And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till He become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling. Amen.*

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

Please kneel or sit, as able.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere:

A That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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

C Amen.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *Holy Spirit, Every Dwelling*

In Babilone

1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er dwell-ing in the ho - liest realms of light;
2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er liv - ing as the church's ver - y life;
3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er work-ing through the church's min - is - try;

Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing through us in a cease - less strife;
quick-'ning, strength-'ning, and ab - solv - ing, set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er rais - ing those of earth to thrones on high;
Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er form - ing in the church the mind of Christ:
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er bind - ing age to age and soul to soul

liv - ing, life - im - part - ing Spir - it, you we praise and mag - ni - fy.
you we praise with end - less wor - ship for your gifts and fruits un - priced.
in com - mu - nion nev - er end - ing, you we wor - ship and ex - tol.



THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Introduction

P Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION of FAITH

Renunciation of Evil

P Now, therefore, as you affirm your baptism, I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C **I renounce them.**

Apostles' Creed

P Do you turn to Christ as your Lord and Savior?

C **In faith I turn to Christ.**

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **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 to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

Affirmation

P People of God, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Blessing

P Let us pray.

P Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them