

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 ancient and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join as together us 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 iust exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

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"

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 7, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

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.

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.

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 stiames luther anconcord and subscribe.

RALEIGH RINGERS IN CONCERT: Sunday, May 7 at Christ Providence in Charlotte at 4:00 pm. Be sure not to miss this internationally acclaimed group in concert. Tickets are \$20. See Ring Out for more information

RITE OF CONFIRMATION: We will be celebrating the Rite of Confirmation for four of our youth on Sunday, May 14 at the 10:00 worship service.

GRADUATION SUNDAY: We will be recognizing our high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 4. If you have someone in your family graduation, please let the church office know.

HYMNS YOU LIKE TO SING: Our Music Department would like your help in letting us know what hymns you like to sing! In an effort to schedule more familiar Lutheran hymns, while keeping liturgically sound and honoring the seasons and themes of the church year, please send a note telling us what hymns you like and feel are most familiar and beloved to you. If you also have a favorite organ piece, appropriate to the liturgy, please let us know that as well. Thank you all for assisting us at making St. James even stronger as we sing praise to God!

-Scott scottfop@gmail.com



WELCOME

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Cantabile

César Franck

Congregational Responses in Bold

(Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

Silence is held for reflection and self-examination

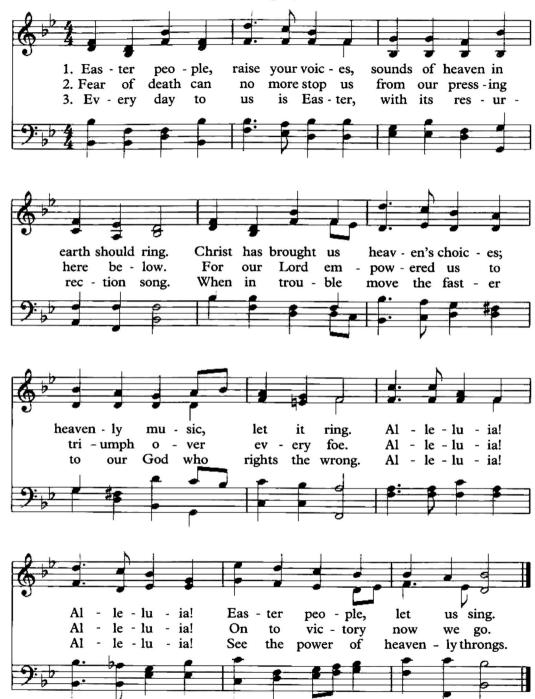
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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)



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







PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Sit)

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING ACTS 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

A reading from Acts, the seventh chapter.

Pilled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 (Chanted by Choir)

- ¹In Thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Thy righteousness.
- ² Bow down Thine ear to me, deliver me speedily; be Thou my strong rock, a house of defense to save me.
- ³ For Thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for the sake of Thy name, lead me and guide me.
- ⁴ Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me, for Thou art my strength.
- ⁵ Into Thine hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.
- ¹⁵ My times are in Thy hand; deliver me from the hand of mine enemies and from them that persecute me.
- ¹⁶ Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant; save me for Thy mercies' sake.

SECOND READING 1 PETER 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

A reading from 1st Peter, the second chapter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you

still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Craig

HYMN OF THE DAY

Next Page

NICENE CREED

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

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God.

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



(Kneel or sit, as able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Today, we especially pray for Rev. Ken Langsdorf and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Lutheran Church of the Holy Family in Highlands, NC. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us (*especially*). Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

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.

(Sit)

ANTHEM

Fairest Lord Jesus

Calvin Hampton

(Stand)

OFFERING

(Offering plates presented at the altar)

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through 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, 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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.

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.

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



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.



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, white grape juice is available. 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.

LAMB OF GOD

Choir and Congregation



POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen**.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen from "The Easter Song of Praise" R. Shepherd

SENDING HYMN

Next Page

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Allegro- Maestoso in A

Felix Mendelssohn



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 Scott F. Foppiano, Organist / Director of Music scottfop@gmail.com Mike Holt, Youth and Family mvholt1957@vahoo.com Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian tfh1990@vahoo.com Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator krad3700@gmail.com CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL Debbie Davis, President Jon Miller, Vice Pres., Mutual Ministry Chris Miller, Secretary, Social Ministry Kenny Propst, Treasurer Chip Blackwelder, Property Kim Haberman, Evangelism Samantha Hillegass, Parish Fellowship Elizabeth Hurley, Worship & Music Beth Huss, Stewardship Frank Irvin, Finance/Christian Ed Pat McDonough, Youth Wendell Overby, Property Dee Pieschel, Social Ministry OFFICE HOURS M-Th 8:30-4:00 F 8:30-1:00

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS Please email all information to the church office by Wednesday 10:00 am to keith@sinc.net BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK PRAYER LIST 07-May Malinda Allison Lutheran Church of the 07-May Anthony Wyatt Holy Family, Highlands, 08-May Pat McDonough NC 09-May Anne Readling · Patsy Black 10-May Joshua Rinker · Tom Grady 10-May Hollis Miller ◆ Tom Ridenhour ♦ Jim Weisel ASSISTING IN WORSHIP ♦ Marga Beville Lector/Intercessor: ♦ Betty Miller Gretchen Walker · Family of Jimmy Propst ♦ Family of Martha Communion Assistant: Summers Ann Blackwelder Acolyte/Crucifer: CALENDAR THIS WEEK Josh Rinker Sunday, May 7 9:00 am Sunday School Greeter: 9:15 am Parish Choir Maureen Hollmever 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Evangelism Ushers: Mike Downs, Al 4:00 pm Youth Gathering Brown, Sid Hughes, Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss Monday, May 8 10:20 am Quilting Group **Building Supervisor:** Robert and Debbie Davis Videographer: LeeAnn Miller

Tuesday, May 9 6:00 pm Church Council Wednesday, May 10 3:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Parish Choir

> Friday, May 12 Noon-7:00 pm Port-A-Pit Sunday, May 14 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship-Rite of Confirmation

5:00 pm Youth Cookout and Form Signing

9:30 pm College Online

Thursday, May 11 6:00 pm Handbells