



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"

104 Union Street South
Concord, North Carolina 28025

Office Phone: 704.786.0166
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FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 7, 2021



In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

WELCOME

PRELUDE *If You But Trust In God to Guide You*

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.

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.

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

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 40:21-31*

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

A reading from Isaiah, the fortieth chapter.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: *Psalms 147: 1-11, 20c*

A reading from Psalm One hundred forty-seven.

- ¹ Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!
- ² The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- ³ He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
- ⁴ He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.
- ⁵ Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.
- ⁶ The LORD sustains the humble
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- ⁷ Sing to the LORD with grateful praise;
make music to our God on the harp.
- ⁸ He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.
- ⁹ He provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they call.

continued...

¹⁰ His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;
¹¹ the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.
his laws and decrees to Israel. ²⁰ Praise the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the ninth chapter.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

SERMON

HYMN

Oh For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Beth Huss, vocalist

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!	3 The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease, sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.	6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

continued....

For this congregation, for our partnership ministries with Families First and Calvary Lutheran, for our bishops Elizabeth and Tim, for the congregations and ministries of the North Carolina Synod, for our companion synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea and the Lutheran Church in Costa Rica, and for the ministry and privilege we share of serving you by sharing the good news of Christ with others, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.

BLESSING

The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the ✙ Son,
and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Dale Wood

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at keith@sjnc.net

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PRAYER LIST

Alex Barnhardt

All health care professionals and first responders including:

Deb Bradshaw

Lauri Fowler

DeeDee Gilbert

Annette Propst

Meagan Lambert

Alison Monk

Debbie Davis

Jason and Stephanie Matthews

Dr Bradley Propst, son of

Kenny and Annette Propst

Sam Hurley, son of Elizabeth Hurley

Julie Greathouse, friend of Lois Marlow

Betsy Waselovich, sister of Golda Jay

Lauren, daughter of Angie Buchanan

Dr. Stephanie Garrison, daughter-in-law of Margaret Garrison

Dr. Kevin Burns, son-in-law of Margaret Garrison.

If you have someone you would like to add to the prayer list, please contact Keith. 704-786-0166 and leave a message or email at keith@sjnc.net

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

07-Feb. Mark Williams

08-Feb. Doris Smith

09-Feb. Jimmy Marlow

10-Feb. John King

11-Feb. Natalie Sheldon

12-Feb. Jean Beasley

13-Feb. Wade Bestler

13-Feb. Jeff Carpenter

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Mark Murphy

Vocalist: Beth Huss

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts

for January 31, 2021

\$4,281.00

(\$7,692.00 needed for weekly)

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH BISHOP SMITH

Back by popular demand! Bishop Tim Smith will lead a synod-wide Bible Study on the book of Isaiah on **Thursdays from February 11 to March 25** at 7:00 p.m. The class will be virtual via Zoom. **Register here** to receive an email with the Zoom link. If you miss a session, recordings will be available for watching at your convenience. All are welcome; spread the word!

[Register Now](#)

CONCORD MASTER PLAN SURVEY

Since the adoption of the 2016 Downtown Master Plan, over \$24 Million has been invested by the private sector in response to over \$15 Million invested by the public sector in downtown. The City is underway with the planning and design phase for a new streetscape for Union Street that will enhance the pedestrian experience and make room for additional outdoor dining and amenities. The Master Plan update aims to keep the momentum moving forward by building on the success of the 2016 plan and creating a strategic vision for downtown for the next five years. [Take the Survey](#)

DIRECTORY

Members of Saint James.....Ministers
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop
The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

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CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Joseph Beasley..... President

Golda Jay..... Vice President

Ann Blackwelder Secretary

Beth Huss Treasurer

Samantha Hillegass

Elizabeth Hurley

Hunter Huss

Nick Lovelace

Chris Miller

Jon Miller

Mac Mullins

Mark Murphy

Al Pieschel

Kenny Propst



[@stjamesnc](#)

OFFICE HOURS

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

Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00

Join Saint James Lutheran

Church Facebook and

Instagram groups—send Jeremy

Jay any pictures and/or articles you

would like to have posted at

jeremy@pbnjay.com

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