



104 Union Street South
Concord, North Carolina 28025

Office Phone: 704.786.0166
Website: www.sjnc.net

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"

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 21, 2021



On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross ✝ in remembrance of baptism:

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

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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

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.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: *Genesis 9:8-17*

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

A reading from Genesis, the ninth chapter.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: *Psalms 25:1-10*

A reading from Psalm Twenty-five.

- ¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
² O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: *1 Peter 3:18-22*

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

A reading from 1 Peter, the third chapter.

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:9-15*

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

LeeAnn Miller, vocalist

1	A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper frees us from the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe, forsworn to work us woe, with guile and dreadful might is armed to wage the fight: on earth there is no equal.
2	If we in our own strength confide, our striving turns to losing; the righteous one fights by our side, the one of God's own choosing. You ask who this may be: Christ Jesus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name. No other God we claim! None else can win the battle.
3	Though all the world with devils fill and threaten to devour us, we tremble not, we trust God's will: they cannot overpower us. Though Satan rant and rage, in fiercest war engage, this tyrant's doomed to fail; God's judgement must prevail! One little word shall triumph.
4	God's Word shall stand above the powers, shall end all their thanksgiving. The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for God with us is living. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; though all of these be gone, they yet have nothing won. The kingdom's our forever!

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

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. We pray for the ministries of this congregation, and the congregations of the North Carolina Synod, especially on this day, our brothers and sisters at Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church, as together, we embody and share your love and care for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
Bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Reprise on Even So Lord Jesus Quickly Come

arr. Manz

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

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
104 UNION STREET SOUTH
PO BOX 684
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28025
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166
WEBSITE www.sjnc.net

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

22-Feb. Nina Folino

22-Feb. Alexandra Green

22-Feb. Kelly Propst

23-Feb. Caroline Bestler

23-Feb. Jeff Crew

23-Feb. Connie Rezza

25-Feb. Margaret Garrison

25-Feb. Golda Jay

25-Feb. Martha Matthews

27-Feb. Cynthia Petrea

27-Feb. Mary Propst

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:

Kim Haberman

Vocalist: LeeAnn Miller

OUR STEWARDSHIP Contributions and Receipts for February 14, 2021

\$6,518.00

(\$7,692.00 needed for weekly)

Worship and Bible Study Opportunities during Lent

Ash Wednesday: February 17—Drive-in service @ 6:30 in the Garden lot; a worship service will also be available on YouTube and Facebook.

Wednesday's in Lent: St James has joined with other downtown churches to prepare an ecumenical Lenten devotional that will be posted on YouTube and Facebook each week starting February 24.

Bible Study: Beginning February 11, Bishop Tim Smith of the NC Synod is offering a Thursday evening Zoom Lenten Bible study on the Book of Isaiah. It begins at 7:00 pm. Please use the following link to register: [Register Now](#)

Daily Devotional: Once again this year Luther Seminary is providing a daily Lenten devotional. Copies are available in the church office or you may download the devotional using the following link: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/>

DIRECTORY

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

SAINT JAMES STAFF

The Rev. Tony Bradshaw.....Senior Pastor
tony@sjnc.net

Jill Irvin.....Finance Administrator
jill@sjnc.net

Keith Sutton.....Parish Administrator
keith@sjnc.net

Mike Holt.....Youth and Family
mvholt1957@yahoo.com

Cindy Cruse.....Hospitality Director
ccruse98@twc.com

Kathryn Radcliffe.....Nursery Coordinator
krad3700@gmail.com

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@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

St. James YouTube Channel
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