

Saint James Lutheran Church

X

A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

X

"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service"

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 27, 2022 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

We Welcome Everyone on this Lord's Day to the Liturgy of Holy Communion.

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. In keeping with CDC guidelines, and for the safety of our children, masks must be worn by nursery attendants and children two years old and older.

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.

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

Go to www.youtube.com and search for St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC and subscribe.



WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Adagio, K. 356

~Wolfgang A. Mozart

Congregational Responses in Bold

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

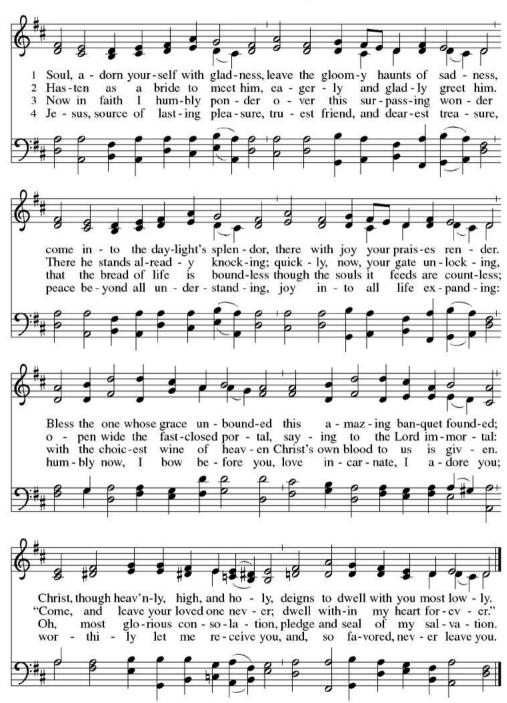
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

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.



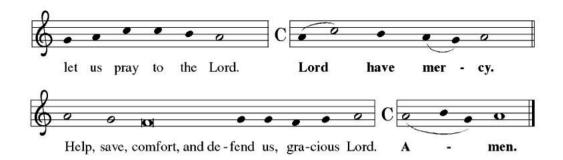
GREETING

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.

KYRIE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



FIRST READING JOSHUA 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

A reading from Joshua, the fifth chapter.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32 (Congregation chants bold verses, Choir chants others)



- ¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven, and whose sin is | put away!
- ²Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt, and in whose spirit there | is no guile!
- ³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away, because of my groaning | all day long.
- ⁴For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.
- ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.
- ⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.
- ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble; you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
- 8"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go; I will guide you | with my eye.
- ⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."
- ¹⁰Great are the tribulations | of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.
- ¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

SECOND READING 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

A reading from 2nd Corinthians, the fifth chapter.

Prom now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Choir sings once, then everyone repeats)



HOLY GOSPEL LUKE 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the fifteenth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons.

¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." 20So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Stand

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.

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. We especially pray for the Rev. John Mark Beam and our sisters and brothers at Low's Lutheran Church in Liberty, NC. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict especially Ukraine and Russia. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving especially those whom we now name before you with our lips and in the silence of our hearts. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Lord in your mercy.

hear our prayer.

Into your hands gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANTHEM AT THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

~Carl F. Mueller

HOLY COMMUNION

THE 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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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.

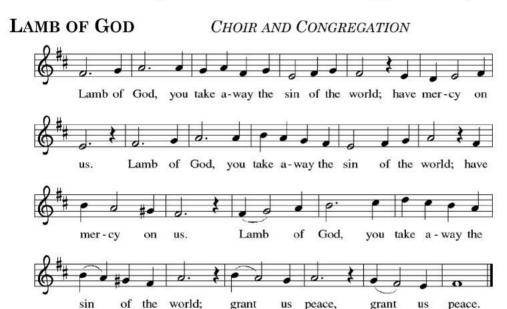
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion at Saint James. If you desire to receive Communion, please proceed toward the chancel steps by way of the center aisle. You will receive a wafer and a cup of wine. For those unable to partake of wine, grape juice is available in the center circle of the tray. 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. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so.



COMMUNION HYMN

Our Father, We Have Wandered

HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany us on our journey through these forty days of Lent. Renew in us the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

Next Page

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Turn Back, O Man, Foreswear Thy Foolish Ways

~Genevan Psalter

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN LENT

During the season of Lent we will gather for a meal each Wednesday at **6:00**, followed by a time of worship, song, prayer and a brief meditation on Jesus' final conversation with his disciples prior to his crucifixion. You may find it helpful to read the verses assigned for each week before worship. All services will be livestreamed. This week:

3/30 JOHN 16:4b-33

"THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH"

To sign up for the meal, go to https://forms.gle/nXCzvFyWLzKeTQvp8, scan this QR code or call the church office 704-786-0166.



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SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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. Tony Bradshaw, Senior Pastor

tony@sinc.net

Keith Sutton, Parish Administrator

keith@sinc.net

Jill Irvin. Finance Administrator jill@sinc.net

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist / Director of Music scott@sinc.net

Mike Holt, Youth and Family myholt1957@vahoo.com

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator

krad3700@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Ann Blackwelder, President Debbie Davis, Vice President Chris Miller, Secretary Kenny Propst, Treasurer

Joseph Beasley Samantha Hillegass

Elizabeth Hurley **Hunter Huss**

Frank Irvin Jon Miller

Mark Murphy Dee Pieschel

OFFICE HOURS M-Th 8:30-4:00 F 8:30-1:00

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email all information to the church office at keith@sinc.net

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

27-Mar Ann Gillon 28-Mar John Marlow

28-Mar Jimmy Propst

28-Mar Chip Blackwelder 29-Mar Tanner Poplin

30-Mar Landon Trott 30-Mar Elliott Horton

01-Apr Jeff Gilbert

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 27 9:00 am Adult Sunday Schl 10:00 am In-Person Worship

Commitment Sunday 4:00 pm Youth Gathering

Monday, March 28 10:30 am Quilting Group

Wednesday, March 29 6:00 pm Lenten Meal

6:30 pm Scouts

6:45 pm Lenten Service 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 3

9:00 am Adult Sunday Schl 10:00 am In-Person Worship

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP Lector/Intercessor:

Kim Haberman Communion Assistant:

Kenny Propst

Jacob Rinker Bookbearer:

Acolyte/Crucifer:

Isaac Jay

Ushers: David Cruse,

Chip Blackwelder, Joe Grady, Jay Cruse, Michael Rinker

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Contributions and Receipts for March 20, 2022 \$4,540.00

(\$7,371.00 needed for weekly)

PRAYER LIST

- Low's Lutheran Church. Liberty, NC Cynthia Petrea
- Jimmy Summers
- Noah Clifton
- Family of Sandra Faggart

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

EASTER LILIES: You have the opportunity again this year to place Easter Lilies in

the church for Easter. A list

with the names of donors and those that are being memorialized/honored will be in the bulletin on Easter

Sunday. Cost is \$12. Forms available in the narthex.

SUNDAY:

COMMITMENT

Commitments will be received this morning during worship. You may place your Estimated Giving Cards and Time and Talent sheets in the offering

plates as you enter or leave the sanctuary. Extra cards and sheets are available in the narthex. Thank you again for

your generosity and for the fellowship we share in the Gospel.