

## CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday, February 25</b>	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:15 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	9:50 am	Congregational Meeting
	10:00 am	Worship
<b>Monday, February 26</b>	10:30 am	Quilting Group
	6:30 pm	Scouts
	6:30 pm	Bible Study
<b>Wednesday, February 27</b>	5:30 pm	Wednesdays in Lent
	6:00 pm	Bella Voce Choir
	7:00 pm	Parish Choir
<b>Thursday, February 28</b>	6:00 pm	Handbells
<b>Sunday, March 3</b>	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:15 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship

### SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor

[prbill@sjnc.net](mailto:prbill@sjnc.net)

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator

[jill@sjnc.net](mailto:jill@sjnc.net)

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist and Director of Music

[scottfop@gmail.com](mailto:scottfop@gmail.com)

Debbie Wilkinson, Interim Parish Administrator

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Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator

[Krad3700@gmail.com](mailto:Krad3700@gmail.com)

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian

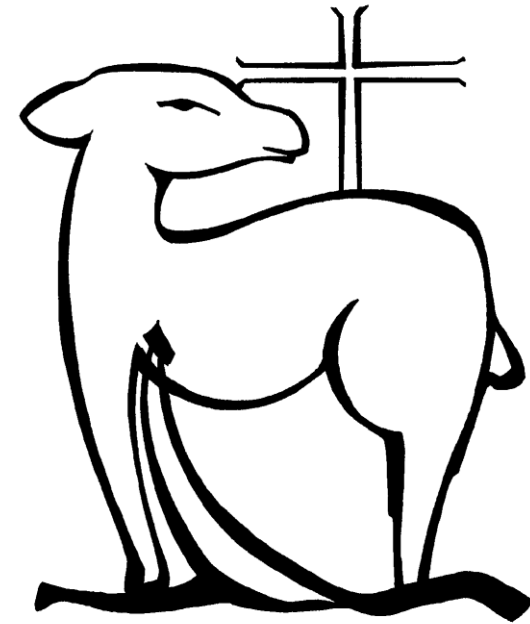
[Tfh1990@yahoo.com](mailto:Tfh1990@yahoo.com)

## THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 25, 2024

THE HOLY COMMUNION

TEN O'CLOCK



**ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**104 UNION STREET SOUTH**  
**PO BOX 684**  
**CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026**  
**704-786-0166**

## 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 St. James the beauty of ancient worship and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us as together we discover the sacred in the heart of our 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.*

**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 (ages 0-up to and including ages 5)

**First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)** are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. 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](mailto:joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com) @stjamesnc

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

<b>Feb 25</b>	Margaret Garrison Martha Matthews
<b>Feb 27</b>	Mary Propst
<b>Feb 28</b>	Robert Beasley Joseph Beasley Joel Crainshaw
<b>March 2</b>	Amy Splawn



## CHILDREN AND VOLUNTEERS...Vacation Bible School - 2024

Please save the dates July 28-30, 2024 for Vacation Bible School. All volunteers will be required to have a current Save Gatherings background check. More information on how to complete this online requirement will follow.

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### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:** Gretchen Walker

**Communion Assistant:** Margaret Garrison

**Acolyte/Crucifer:** Noah Pittard

**Ushers:** Mark Murphy, Jimmy Harris, Jeff Jones, Jeff Gilbert,  
Chip Popovici, Phil Tesh

**Videographer:** Annette Propst

**Greeter:** Gretchen Walker

**Building Supervisors:** Kenny and Annette Propst

### ANNUAL MEETING TODAY

**Sunday, February 25, 2024 @ 9:50am**

**Reception of Annual Report and Election of Nominating Committee**

### WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

**February 28 - 5:30ish - 7ish**

**Light meal / Study / Prayer Office**

**Please sign up on pew pads, e-mail or call church office...**

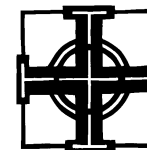
**[info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net) / 704-786-0166 (to have #'s for meal prep)**

### ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers today are given by Fuller and Jean Beasley to the Glory of God and in honor of Margaret Garrison and Martha Matthews as they celebrate their birthdays today.

### PRAYER LIST

Tom Grady; Tom Ridenhour; Noah Clifton; Linda and Paul Jones (family members of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Susan Tadlock (friend of Deb Black); and Jason and Stephanie Matthews upon the death of Stephanie's mother (Vicky Skinner).



### THE SEASON IN LENT THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### Gathering



**Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome**

**Opening Voluntary**

*Chorale: O Sacred Head Now Wounded* Johann Seb. Bach

*Please stand.*

#### **THE INVOCATION**

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

**C** Amen.

#### **THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your

forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

P 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.

*Please kneel or sit, as able.*

*Silence for self-examination*

P Most merciful God,  
C **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**

P In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. In his living water God makes us his children and bestows on us his Holy Spirit. Refreshed and renewed we rest in his peace and rise to serve him.

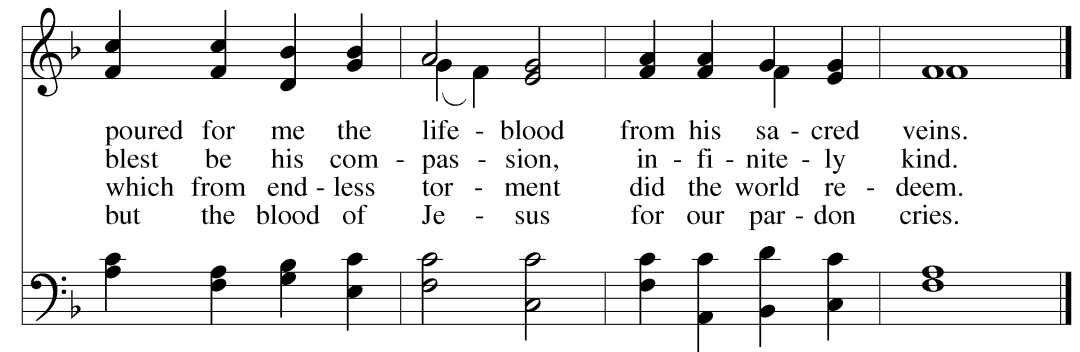
C **Amen**

## THE SENDING HYMN: *Glory Be to Jesus*

Wem in Liedenstagen



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, who, in bit - ter pains,  
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal in that blood I find;  
3 Blest through end - less a - ges be the pre - cious stream  
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance plead - ed to the skies;



poured for me the life - blood from his sa - cred veins.  
blest be his com - pas - sion, in - fi - nite - ly kind.  
which from end - less tor - ment did the world re - deem.  
but the blood of Je - sus for our par - don cries.

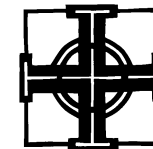
5 Oft as earth exulting  
wafts its praise on high,  
angel hosts rejoicing  
make their glad reply.

6 Lift we then our voices,  
swell the mighty flood;  
louder still and louder  
praise the precious blood.

## THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



*Please stand.*

### 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

A Let us pray.

A Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his through the same Jesus Christ our Lord

C **Amen**

*Silence for reflection.*

### Sending



### THE BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen**

### THE ENTRANCE HYMN *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*


Rathbun



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



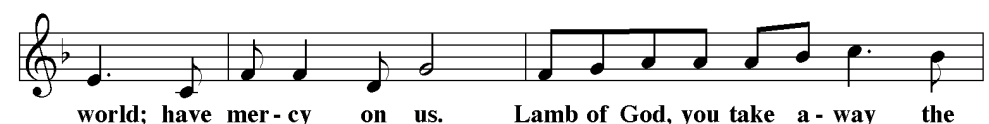
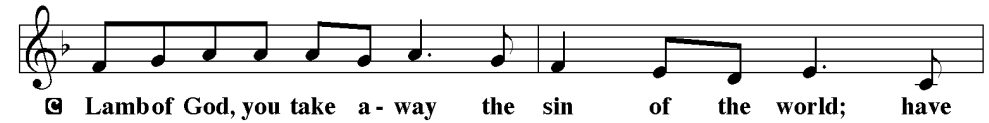
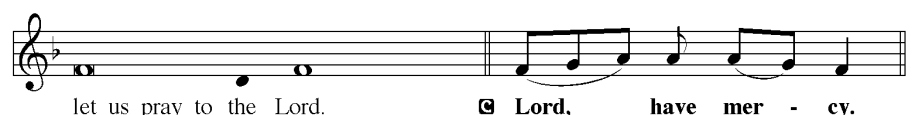
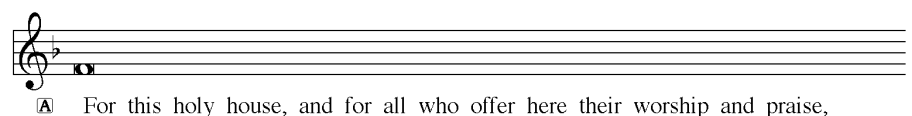
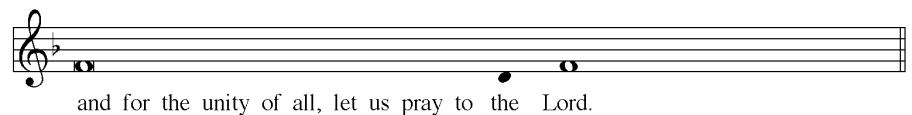
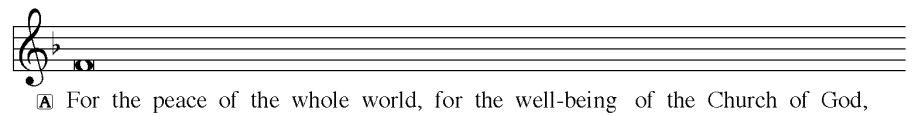
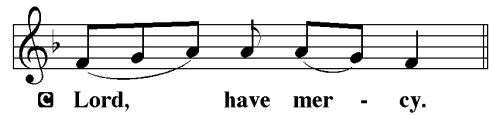
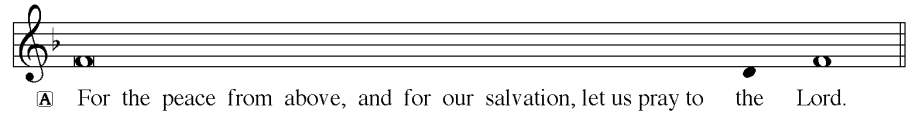
sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.



## 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.

## THE KYRIE



*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.*

we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore 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; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and 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.**

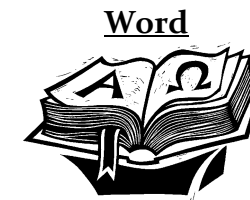
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray ... Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Please sit.*



## **THE FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

**A The Word of the Lord.**

**C Thanks be to God.**

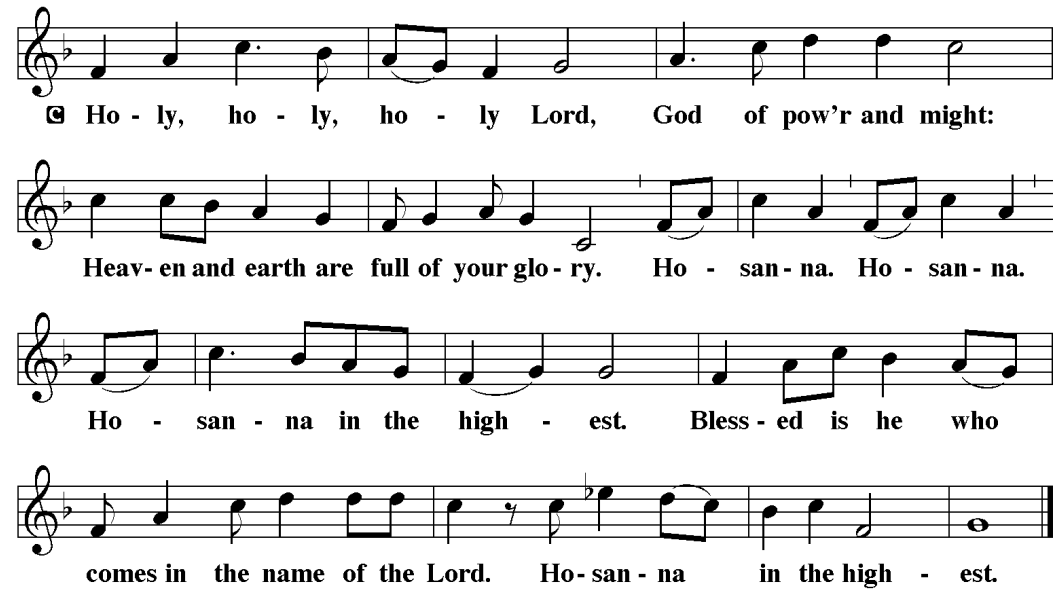
**THE SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25**

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

*Please stand.*



♩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

P 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, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

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.

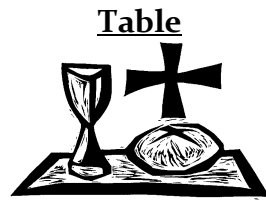
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,



## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.  
A Merciful Father,  
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

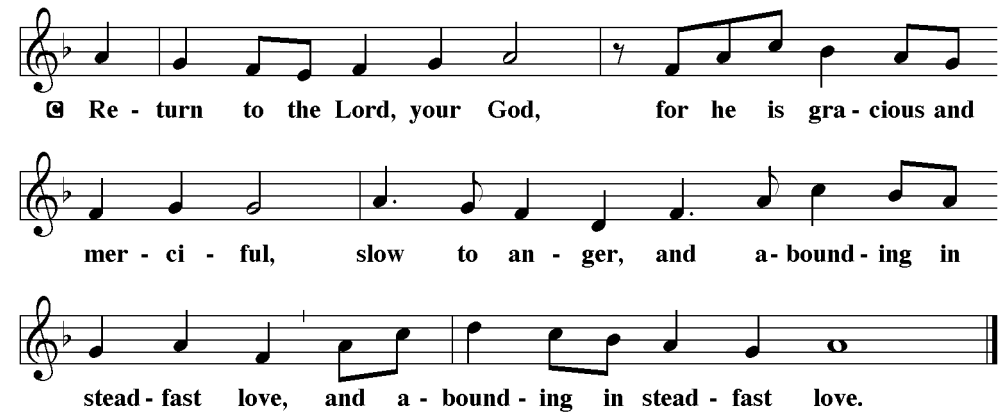
P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

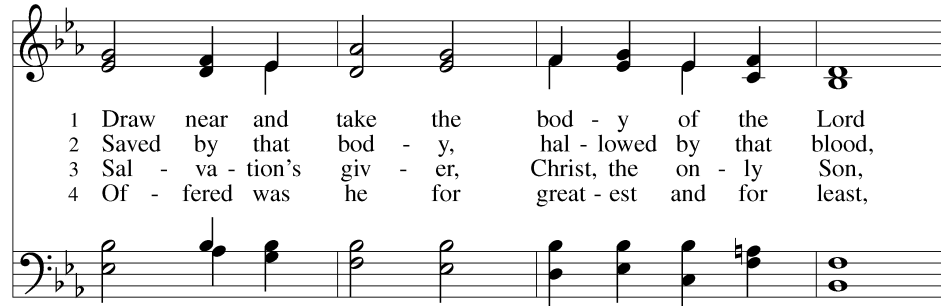
P The Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

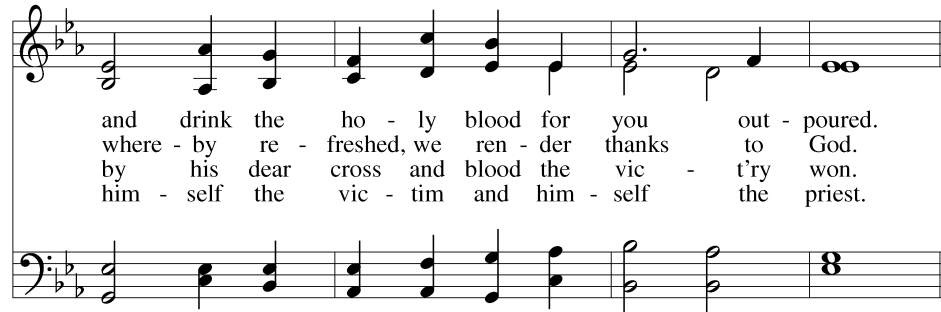
## THE SERMON

*Please stand.*

## THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord* Coena Domini



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord  
2 Saved by that bod - y, hal - lowed by that blood,  
3 Sal - va - tion's giv - er, Christ, the on - ly Son,  
4 Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,



and drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured.  
where - by re - freshed, we ren - der thanks to God.  
by his dear cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.  
him - self the vic - tim and him - self the priest.

5 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
and take the pledges of salvation here.

6 He who his saints in this world rules and shields,  
to all believers life eternal yields,

7 With heav'nly bread makes those who hunger whole,  
gives living waters to the thirsty soul.

8 The judge eternal, unto whom shall bow  
all nations at the last, is with us now.

*Behold the outstretched hands of Christ, our Lord, who came to save,  
Whose love and grace redeem our souls and lift us from the grave.  
Though bruised and battered as we stray His guiding hands caress.  
He washes and anoints with oil; then in His arms we rest.*

*Behold the wounds in Jesus' hands, look to your Lord and live.  
He yearns to bless you with His love and all your sins forgive.  
Oh, empty is the heart of man when it is filled with sin.  
Come, open wide your broken heart and let your Savior in!*

*Behold His wounded hands and feet! Come touch, and see, and feel  
the wounds and marks that you may know His love for you is real.  
Then as you fall to worship Him and wash His feet in tears,  
Your Savior takes you in his arms and quiets all your fears.*

## THE OFFERING

*Please stand.*

## THE OFFERTORY



**Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir -  
it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.**

to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows;  
to watch over our loved ones in need; especially . . .  
and to have mercy on all your people:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,  
and to reconcile us to them;  
to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures  
of the earth, the sea, and the air;  
and graciously to hear our prayers:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn from their evil way and live: Graciously turn us from those punishments which we by our sins have deserved, and grant us grace evermore to serve you in holiness and pureness of living; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

#### THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*Please sit.*

THE ANTHEM     *Behold the Wounds in Jesus' Hands*     J. Pearson and D. Naylor

*Behold the wounds in Jesus' Hands, the marks upon His side.  
Then ponder whom He meant to save when on the cross He died.  
We cannot see the love of God which saves us from the Fall,  
Yet know that Christ from wood and nails built mansions for us all.*

#### THE NICENE CREED

**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,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
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,  
With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.**

*Please kneel or sit, as able.*

### THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

From all sin, from all error, from all evil;  
from the cunning assaults of the devil;  
from an unprepared and evil death:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From war, bloodshed, and violence;  
from corrupt and unjust government;  
from sedition and treason:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From epidemic, drought, and famine,  
from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning and storm;  
and from everlasting death:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your incarnation; by your holy birth:  
**Help us, good Lord.**

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;  
by your agony and bloody sweat;  
by your cross and suffering;  
by your precious death and burial:  
**Help us, good Lord.**

By your glorious resurrection and ascension;  
by the gift of the Holy Spirit:  
**Help us, good Lord.**

In all time of our tribulation;

in all time of our prosperity;  
in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:  
**Save us, good Lord.**

Though unworthy, we implore you  
**to hear us, Lord our God.**

To rule and govern your holy catholic Church;  
to guide all servants of your Church in the true knowledge  
and understanding of your Word and in holiness of life;  
to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense to those who  
would believe;  
and to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and gone astray:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To beat down Satan under our feet;  
to send faithful workers into your harvest;  
to accompany your Word with your Spirit and power;  
to raise up those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and  
to comfort and help the fainthearted and the distressed:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To give to all nations justice and peace;  
to preserve our country from discord and strife;  
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;  
and to bless and guide all our people:  
**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;  
to protect and guide all who travel;  
to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;  
to watch over children and to guide the young;  
to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;  
to bring reconciliation to families in discord;  
to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;  
to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;