

BLESSING BOX – ROTARY SQUARE

What is the Blessing Box? It's a box that is located in Rotary Square that is stocked with food and other necessities available to those in the community. St. James has agreed to stock the Blessing Box during the month of March. You can place items in the box yourself or you can drop them off at the church. Mark Murphy will be the contact person (704-301-2816) for any questions. Types of items needed: Canned goods / Crackers / Cereal; Bags of Rice / Ramen / Pasta; Peanut Butter / Jelly; Granola Bars / Raisins; Fruit Snacks / Pudding Cups / Fruit Cups; Baby Food / Bottled Water; Other non-perishable items; Shampoo / Soap / Deodorant; Toothbrush & Toothpaste.

Questions – please see or call Mark Murphy (704-301-2816)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross event this year is being coordinated by Teresa Hillie of Grace Lutheran Church. As one way to honor Jesus Christ, on Good Friday, March 29, we will plan to gather at 3:15 p.m. and begin the service at 3:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Grace Lutheran Church. The church is located at 58 Chestnut Drive, SW in Concord. The walk will take place in the Logan Community. If we experience inclement weather, we will hold the event in the Sanctuary at Grace Lutheran. We hope you will plan to participate.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Children and Volunteers...*Please save the dates July 28-30, 2024 for Vacation Bible School.* All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Please contact Debbie in the Church Office to receive instructions as to how to complete this process. She will then give you written instructions as to how to fill out information online.

SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor

prbill@sjnc.net

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator

jill@sjnc.net

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist and Director of Music

scottfop@gmail.com

Debbie Wilkinson, Interim Parish Administrator

info@sjnc.net

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator

Krad3700@gmail.com

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian

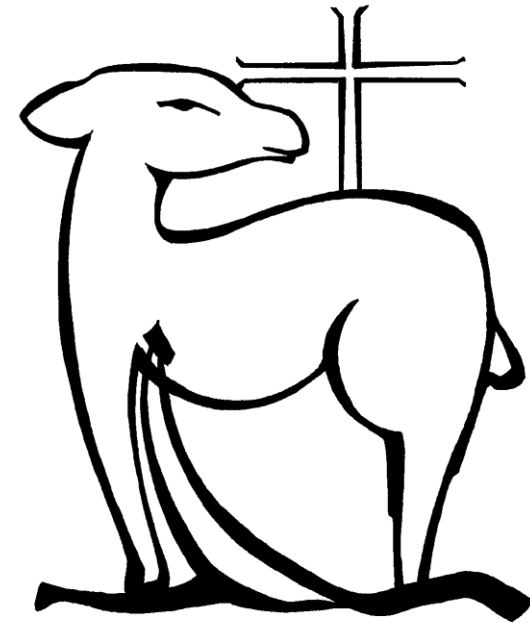
Tfh1990@yahoo.com

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 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 @stjamesnc

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Blessings Box – Rotary Square this month

Sunday, March 10

Daylight Saving Time begins

9:00 am Adult Sunday School
9:00 am Parish Choir
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:00 am Worship

Monday, March 11

10:30 am Quilting Group
6:30 pm Scouts

Tuesday, March 12

12:00 noon Lively Leisures
6:00 pm Congregation Council

Wednesday, March 13

5:30 pm Wednesdays in Lent
6:00 pm Bella Voce Choir

Thursday, March 14

7:00 pm Parish Choir

Saturday, March 16

6:00 pm Handbells

Sunday, March 17

8:30 am Leah's Hope Trailer
9:00 am Adult Sunday School
9:00 am Parish Choir
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:00 am Worship

MY FATHER'S HOUSE MINISTRY

St. James/St. Johns Lutheran will be hosting My Father's House Ministry March 18-19. There are 21 people in the ministry. If you can help by providing items for the dinner meals on Monday, March 18 or Tuesday, March 19, please let Sylvia Corl know (Cell: 704-425-8621). Thanks, *Sylvia*

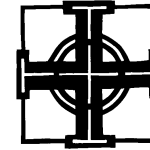
EASTER EGG HUNT

Bring your baskets and join us for crafts, stories, snacks and Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m. We will gather on the St. James Playground to begin the Easter rotations.

We are collecting plastic eggs filled with individually wrapped candy for our Easter Egg Hunt. Please make donations by Friday, March 29. There is a container by the portico door to collect your donations!

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Christine Ruff
Communion Assistant: Malinda Allison
Acolyte/Crucifer: Joshua Rinker
Ushers: Mike Downs, Al Brown, Jr., Sid Hughes,
 Bill Hardister, and Hunter Huss
Videographer: Chris Miller
Greeter: Barbara Albright
Building Supervisors: Robert and Debbie Davis



**THE SEASON IN LENT
 THE HOLY COMMUNION**

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

March 13, 2024 - 5:30ish - 7ish
 Light meal / Study / Prayer Office

Menu: Chicken Salad on Croissants, Deviled Eggs, Pasta Salad, Dessert & Ice Tea
Please sign up on pew pads, e-mail or call church office...
info@sjnc.net / 704-786-0166 (to have #'s for meal prep)

National Women's Composer Sunday

Gathering



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers today are given by Jo Eng to the Glory of God and
 in honor of the Staff at St. James Lutheran.

PRAYER LIST

Tom Grady; Tom Ridenhour; Noah Clifton; Linda and Paul Jones (family members of
 Barbara & Dale Merrell); Susan Tadlock (friend of Deb Black).

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

March 10 Jay Clemmer
March 11 Jeff Miller
March 13 Wendell Overby
 Anne Michelle Swayney
March 16 Tony Eury
 Dee Pieschel

Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome

Opening Voluntary

Adoration

Florence Price

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.

C **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**

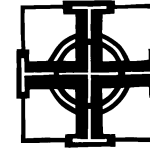
P In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. In his living water God makes us his children and bestows on us his Holy Spirit. Refreshed and renewed we rest in his peace and rise to serve him.

C **Amen**

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



COPYRIGHT

MUSIC: Used with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002 All rights reserved.

LITURGY: From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS002140

THE SENDING HYMN:

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

St. Christopher

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN

#88 *Oh, Love, How Deep*

Deo Gratias

1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,
 2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught;

be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
 of high - er or of low - er place,
 his ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
 for us his dai - ly works he wrought,

that God, the Son of God, should take
 but wore the robe of hu - man frame,
 for us temp - ta - tion and sharp he knew;
 by words and signs and ac - tions thus

our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 and to this world him - self he came.
 for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

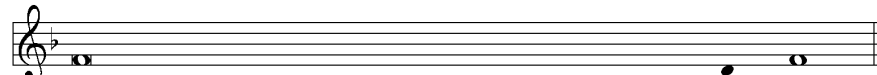
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

THE KYRIE



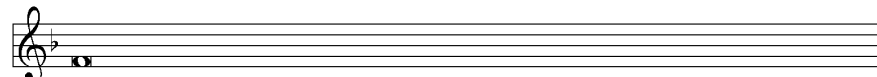
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



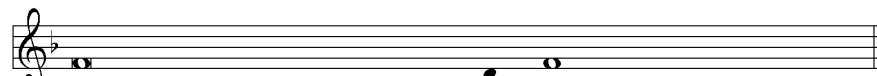
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



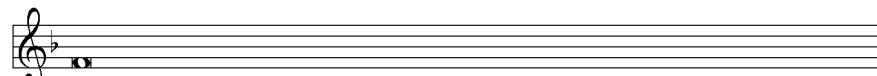
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



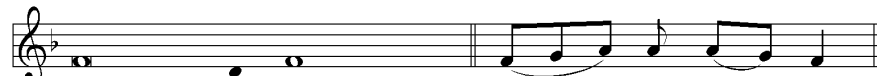
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



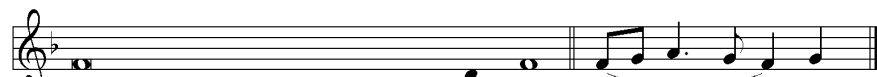
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

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.

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

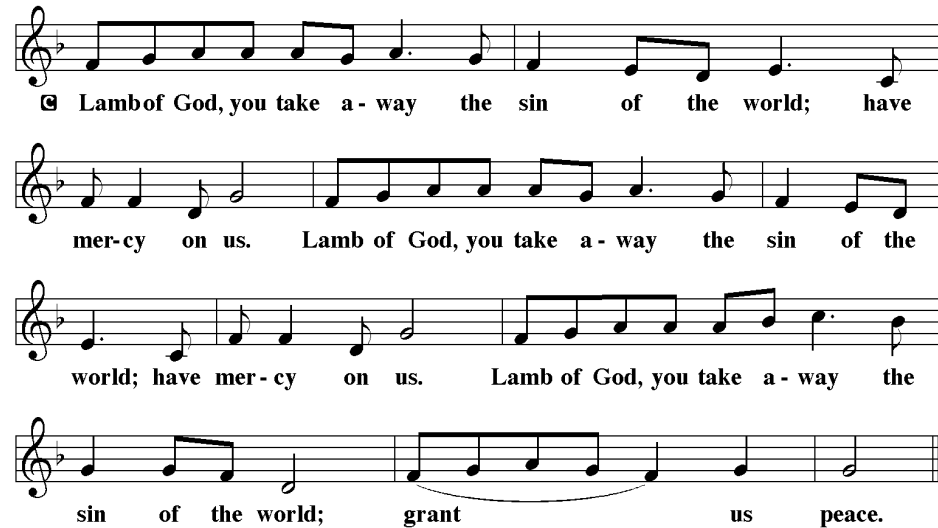


THE BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen**

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray ... God of all mercy, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please sit.

Word



THE FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision

Dan Forest, arr.

Bella Voce Ensemble

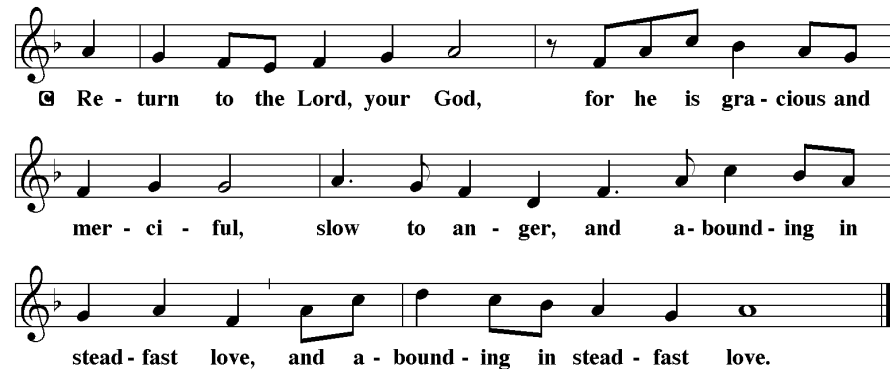
THE SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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, 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:

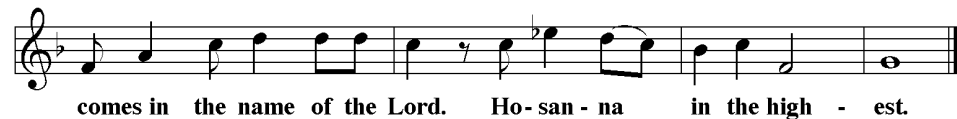
C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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,**

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:



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.

THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #292 *God Loved the World* Die Helle Sonn Leucht



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are sick, if death is near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all



Son, the lost to save, that all who would in him be -
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in Christ a -
 trou - bled heart can cheer; Christ Je - sus saves your soul from
 sins which you have done, and jus - ti - fied by Je - sus'



lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.

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,

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.

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.

Table



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

My Eternal King

Jane Marshall

*My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heav'n thereby,
Nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally.*

*Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me Upon the cross embrace;
For me didst bear the nails, the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace.*

*Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love Thee well?
Not for the hope of winning heav'n, Or of escaping hell;*

*Not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward;
But as Thyself hast loved me, O ever-loving Lord!*

*E'en so I love Thee, and will love, And in Thy praise will sing;
Solely because Thou art my God, and my Eternal King.*

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

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;
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