

HEY! DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE?

St. James has begun a search for a part-time Office Assistant. The Office Assistant is the first point of contact for St. James Lutheran Church members and its guests. This position is a crucial one, providing exceptional customer service and ensuring smooth operations in our front office. This position will work no more than 12 hours per week.

If you know someone, please send them to our website for more information.

UPDATE: ORGANIST /DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The search for a new Organist/Director of Music began on July 12th. We have several inquiries. An initial interview was conducted this week. Please know there is little in the way of specifics that can or will be shared while the search is active. General updates will be shared as circumstances permit.

St. James Staff

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor; prbill@sjnc.net
Vacant, Director of Music

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator; jill@sjnc.net

Holly Sloop, Communications Coordinator; holly@sjnc.net
Vacant, Part-Time Office Assistant

Church Office: 704-786-0166; info@sjnc.net

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator; krad3700@gmail.com

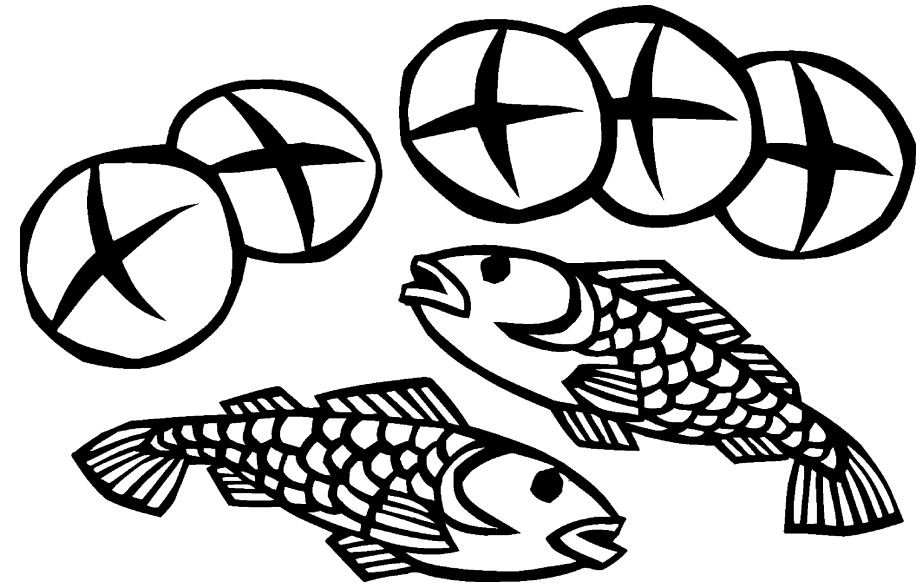
Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

July 28, 2024

The Holy Communion

10:00am



St James Lutheran Church

104 Union Street South

PO Box 684

Concord, North Carolina 28026

704-786-0166

www.sjnc.net

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next to you or to an usher.

Restrooms are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A nursery is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

July 29 Luke Baker, Noah Clifton, Julianna Popovici, Jim Steel
July 30 Jay Cruse, Hudson Davis, Kyle Moran
July 31 Amy Clifton, Jo Ann Fowler, Jill Irvin
Aug 1 Hillary Pruette
Aug 2 Maureen Hollmeyer, Callie MacFarlane

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 28	9:00 am	Parish Summertime Choir
	10:00 am	Worship
	5:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
Monday, July 29	10:30 am	Quilting
	5:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
Tuesday, July 30	5:30 pm	Vacation Bible School <i>CVAN Ministry Meal</i>
Sunday, Aug. 4	9:00 am	Parish Summertime Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship

FALL EVENTS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES (that means 0-99+)

Put them in your calendar.

August 11: Blessing of Backpacks AND lunch after worship.
September 20: Kids Night; movie and pizza
October 27: Trunk or Treat
November 24: *Short* Thanksgiving Worship followed by a Pie Party
December 1: Advent Tree Lighting (Well, technically it is a Christmas Tree)
December 8: Bethlehem at the Farm

*Bethlehem at the Farm requires many volunteers.
Be on the lookout for more information.*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Margaret Garrison
Communion Assistant: Ann Blackwelder
Acolyte: Noah Pittard
Ushers: Dale Merrell, Gretchen Walker, Robert Davis, Lex Patterson, Samantha Hillegass
Videographer: Ann Blackwelder
Greeter: Barbara Albright
Building Supervisor: Chip Blackwelder

PRAYER LIST

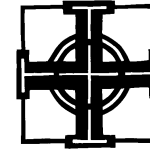
Tom Grady; Tom Ridenhour; Noah Clifton; Angie Buchanan; Jo Eng; Sheril Rominger (friend of the Marlow's); Linda Jones (family members of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Mary Dorothy White (friend of Patsy Black); Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy).

WELCA Save-the-Date

Save the date for **Saturday, October 5, 2024**, for the NC Women of the ELCA Cabarrus/Stantly Fall Conference gathering! Program will include food, fellowship, offerings, and special program. Registration is \$10. Contact Gretchen Walker for more information.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Join us for worship and lunch on Sunday, August 11 for the annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Children will receive a blessing and backpack tag and **there will be a lunch immediately after worship. Everyone is welcome to lunch, please RSVP for planning purposes (info@sjnc.net).**



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering



Welcome / Prelude

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and 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**

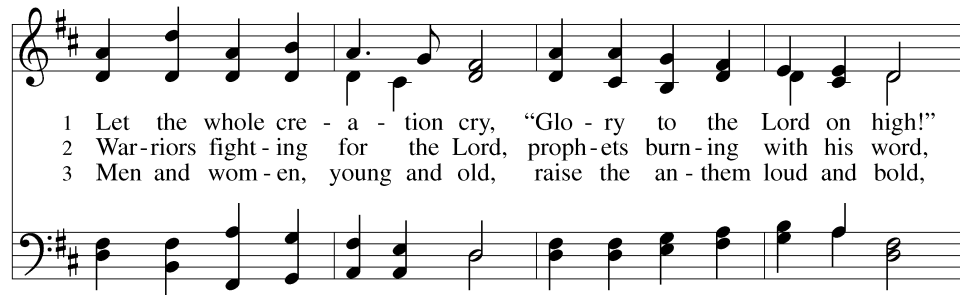
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

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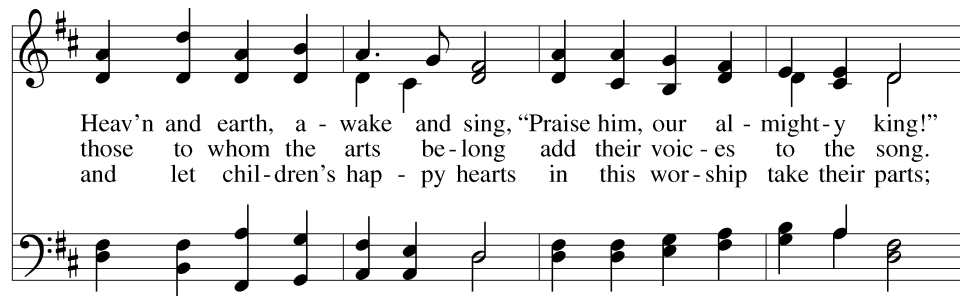
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THE ENTRANCE HYMN: Let the Whole Creation Cry

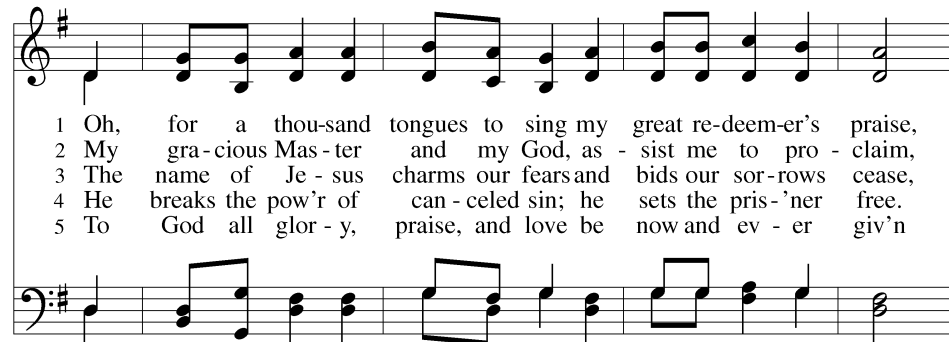


1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
2 War-riors fight - ing for the Lord, proph-ets burn - ing with his word,
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,

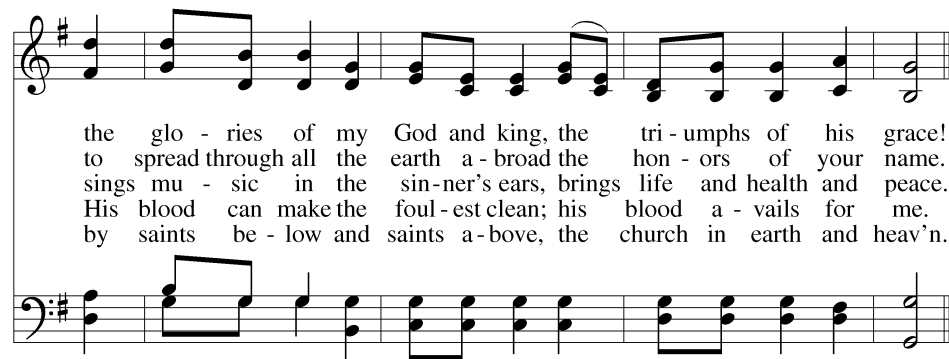


Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise him, our al - might - y king!"
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song,
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;

THE SENDING HYMN: Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He breaks the pow'r of can-celed sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
5 To God all glor-y, praise, and love be now and ev-er giv'n

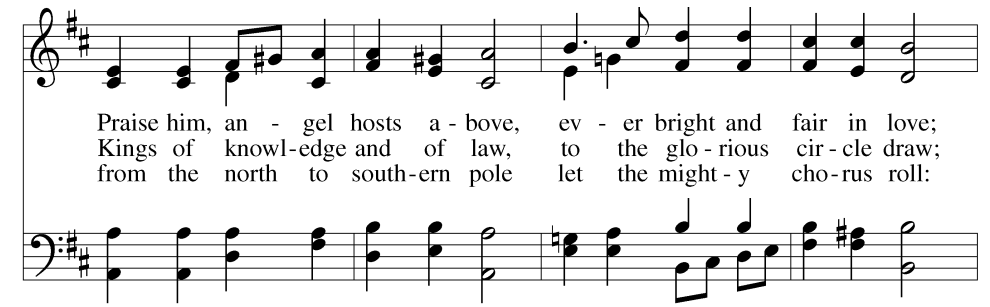
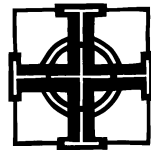


the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a-vails for me,
by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

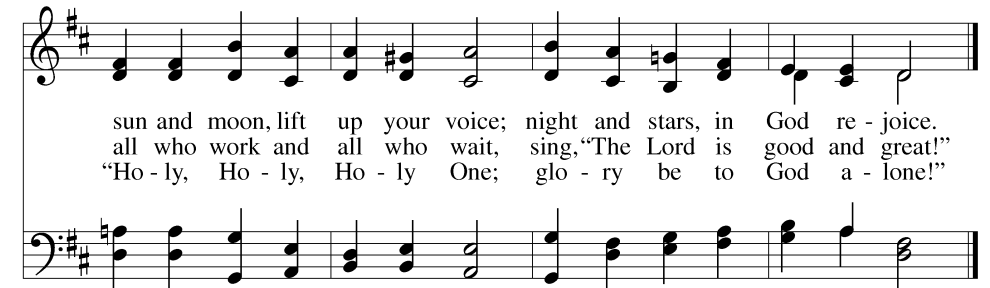
THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Praise him, an-gel hosts a-bove, ev-er bright and fair in love;
Kings of knowl-edge and of law, to the glo-rious cir-cle draw;
from the north to south-ern pole let the might-y cho-rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re-joice.
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
"Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly One; glo-ry be to God a-lone!"

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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, your ears are open always to the prayers of your servants. Open our hearts and minds to you, that we may live in harmony with your will and receive the gifts of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴² A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” ⁴³ But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, “They shall eat and have some left.’” ⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

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

P Let us pray.

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

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, 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 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☩ Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹ “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰ Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to

them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: What Feast of Love

A harmony graphic is not available. But it's a familiar tune, we think, hope.



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what ho-ly drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.

P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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,**

made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

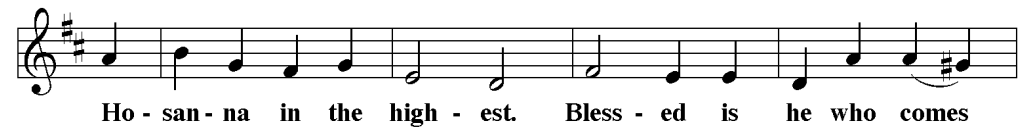
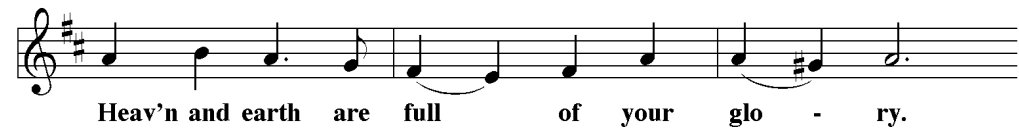
P Lift up your hearts.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C **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 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.**

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.

A Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

C **That we all may be one.**

A Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

C **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

A We pray for all bishops, pastors, and deacons;

C **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

A We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

C **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

A Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

C **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

A Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

C **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

A Give to the departed eternal rest.

C **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

A We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

C **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

A Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

A brief silence for reflection.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

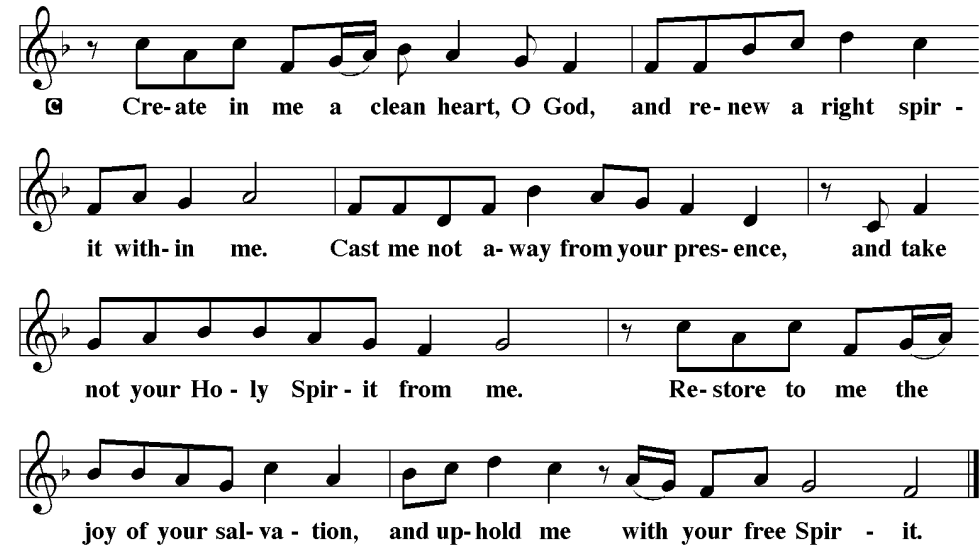
Please sit.

THE OFFERING

THE ANTHEM

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.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Blessed are you,

C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have**