

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.

MISSION FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS

The 2024 Mission Fund grants have been awarded and this year's recipients are AYA House, The Open Door House, Present Age Ministries, and SJLC Property Fund. Learn more in this week's newsletter!

FALL FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Join us for the St. James Lutheran Church Fall Fellowship Gathering at our all-congregation picnic on Sunday, Sept. 8 at the home of Kenny & Annette Propst. Inspired by the first service in the "new" building (our current building) on September 2, 1928, our fall gathering celebrates this continued fellowship!

Fall Gathering starts at 12:30pm; Smoke House BBQ Lunch at 1:00pm.

Rain location - St. James Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP to help us plan: info@sjnc.net.

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 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 4, 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

Aug. 6 Ellen Mitchener
Aug. 7 Teresa Klauss
Aug. 8 Sylvia Corl
Aug. 10 Connie King

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday, Aug. 4 | 9:00 am | Parish Summertime Choir |
| | 9:30 am | Children's Sunday School |
| | 10:00 am | Worship |
| Monday, Aug. 5 | 10:30 am | Quilting |
| Tuesday, Aug. 6 | 5:00 pm | Executive Committee |
| Sunday, Aug. 11 | 9:00 am | Parish Summertime Choir |
| | 9:30 am | Children's Sunday School |
| | 10:00 am | Worship |
| | 11:15 am | Blessing of the Backpacks Lunch |

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

August 11: Blessing of Backpacks AND lunch after worship.
September 8: Fall Fellowship Gathering – Picnic Lunch
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.*

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Kim Haberman
Communion Assistant: Elizabeth Hurley
Ushers: Mark Murphy, Jimmy Harris,
Jeff Jones, Jeff Gilbert, Chip Popovici, Phil Tesh
Videographer: John Patterson
Greeter: Theresa Steele
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).

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the glory of God and Christine Lovelace, LeeAnn Miller and Mike Holt for their VBS leadership by Cheryl Webb.

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).**

WELCA Save-the-Date

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



St James Lutheran Church:
Growing in Christ through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome / Prelude

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me with your
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es,

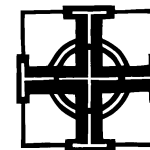
he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed you for his own a - bode.
 well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.
 for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in your name.

On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake your sure re - pose?
 Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Fad - ing are the world - lings' plea - sures, all their boast - ed pomp and show;

With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, you may smile at all your foes.
 Grace which, like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them on their way.
 sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sures none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

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

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

THE SENDING HYMN: Glories of Your Name Are Spoken



1 Glo - ries of your name are spo-ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring-ing from e - ter - nal love,
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov'-ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi-on's cit - y I through grace a mem-ber am,



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

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 Gracious Father, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world. Give us this bread, that he may live in us and we in him, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory

of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-16

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the



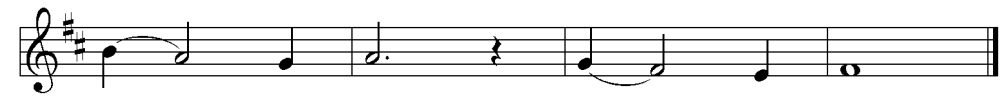
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

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.

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

whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

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.

²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you

the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

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

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho-liest realms of light;
2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er liv-ing as the church's ver-y life;
3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing through the church's min-is-try;

Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing through us in a cease - less strife;
quick - ning, strength - ning, and ab - solv - ing, set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free;

THE COMMUNION RITE

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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 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.

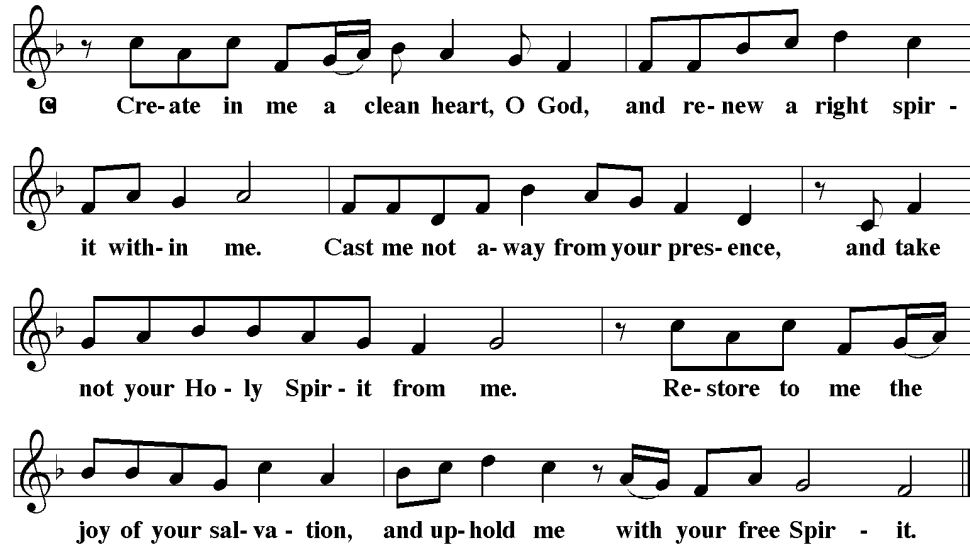
Please sit.

THE OFFERING

THE ANTHEM

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



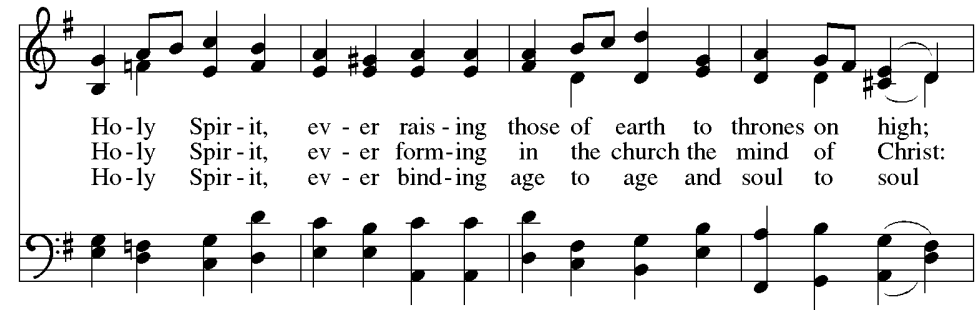
☩ Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

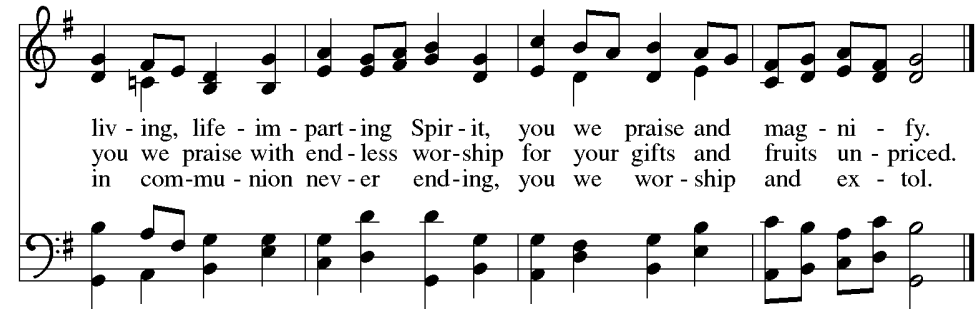
A Let us pray.

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



Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er rais - ing those of earth to thrones on high;
Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er form - ing in the church the mind of Christ:
Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er bind - ing age to age and soul to soul



liv - ing, life - im - part - ing Spir - it, you we praise and mag - ni - fy.
you we praise with end - less wor - ship for your gifts and fruits un - priced.
in com - mu - nion nev - er end - ing, you we wor - ship and ex - tol.

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.**

Please sit or kneel, as able.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

A For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For all bishops, pastors and deacons that they may speak the good news of Jesus Christ, and for all the holy people that may hear and live it willingly, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples. For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For all who live and work in this community. For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

C To you, O Lord our God.

P For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.