

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:** Gretchen Walker

**Communion Assistant:** Christine Ruff

**Acolyte/Crucifer:** Noah Pittard

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

**Videographer:** John Meadows

**Greeter:** Gretchen Walker

**Building Supervisor:** Kim Haberman

### 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 in celebration of Robert and Debbie Davis for their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

### 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.

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](mailto:info@sjnc.net).

### WELCA Save-the-Date

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

### HEY! DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE?

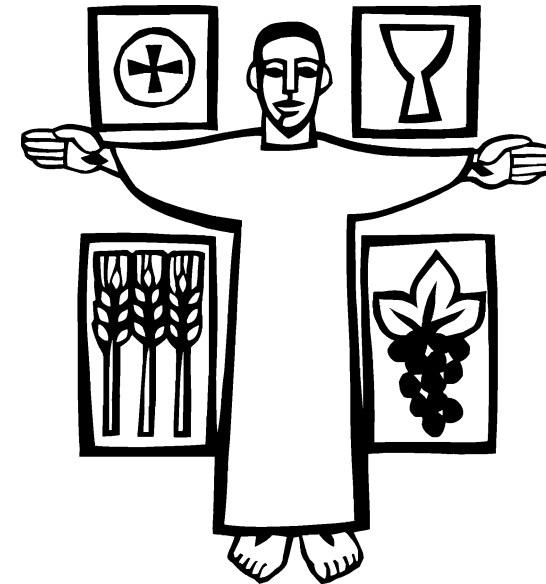
St. James has begun a search for a part-time Office Assistant. The Office Assistant is the first point of contact for St. James Lutheran Church members and its guests. This position is a crucial one, providing exceptional customer service and ensuring smooth operations in our front office. This position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

## The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 11, 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](http://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. 12 Robert Davis, Jr., Wayne Williams  
Aug. 14 Mike Downs, Bill Grady, Ethan Wickliff  
Aug. 15 Charlotte Davis  
Aug. 16 Patty Propst  
Aug. 17 Michael Bestler

### CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

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
Monday, Aug. 12	10:30 am	Quilting
Tuesday, Aug. 13	6:00 pm	Congregation Council
Saturday, Aug. 17		<i>Leah's Hope Trailer</i>
Sunday Aug. 18	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+)

**September 8:** Fall Fellowship Gathering – Picnic Lunch  
**September 20:** Kids Night; movie and pizza  
**October 13:** CROP Walk  
**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

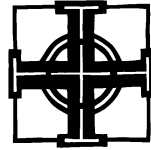
*Bethlehem at the Farm requires many volunteers.*

*Be on the lookout for more information.*

## THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



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***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.*

*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.

**THE ENTRANCE HYMN: O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts**

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
 2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; you plead with  
 3 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to  
 4 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our  
 5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
 all to call on you; to those who seek you, you are  
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you  
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

**THE BENEDICTION**

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

**C** Amen

**THE SENDING HYMN: Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness**

*A harmony graphic is not available.  
 Please Hymn #224 in the green LBW hymnal.*

1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad-ness,  
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad - ly greet him.  
 3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur-pass-ing won - der  
 4 Je - sus, source of last-ing plea-sure, tru - est friend, and dear-est trea-sure,

come in - to the day-light's splen-dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der.  
 There he stands al-read - y knock-ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un-lock - ing,  
 that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less;  
 peace be-yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex-pand - ing:

Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed;  
 o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal:  
 with the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en,  
 hum-bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;

he, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
 "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for - ev - er."  
 Oh, most glo - rious con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
 wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

your blessing for students and teachers, helpers and school administrators, and coaches and staff.

Bless these children whom we have promised to love and nurture at their baptism. Send your angels to watch over them and keep them safe from all danger. Grant that through their study, they may gain the tools to grow in love, faith, and service all their days. We give you thanks O God,  
**for you are with us wherever we go.**

Bless parents as they decide how best to provide for, educate, nurture, and protect their children. Grant them peace as they seek to maneuver masks, shut-downs, virtual learning, and work and family responsibilities. Help them to remember they too are your precious children. We give you thanks O God,  
**for you are with us wherever we go.**

Bless teachers and teacher's assistants. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love and patience that will make their work a blessing to those they teach. We give you thanks O God,  
**for you are with us wherever we go.**

Bless school administrators and staffs that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care. Make them fair and merciful, and able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion. We give you thanks O God,  
**for you are with us wherever we go.**

Bless the teachers, helpers and staff of Families First who will be serving at St. James this year and the children and families who will be part of our pre-school, that the ministry we share may open hearts to your presence, bring you glory and enrichen lives. We give you thanks O God,  
**for you are with us wherever we go.**

And bless these backpacks and lunch boxes that in seeing them, we will remember that in your strength and power we are never alone, for you are with us wherever we go. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
good; to those who find you, life is new.  
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.  
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

### 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** Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merit of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** **Amen**

*Please sit.*

### THE FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:4-8

<sup>4</sup> [Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."<sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat."<sup>6</sup> He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much

for you.”<sup>8</sup> He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### THE SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:25—5:2

<sup>25</sup> So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup> Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup> Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup> and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. <sup>5:1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup> and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### 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.*

*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 BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

*“Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” - Joshua 1:9*

Let us pray. As a new school year begins, it is in trusting that you are with us wherever we go, that we gather before you Almighty God, giving thanks and seeking

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.**



☞ 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 GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

<sup>41</sup> Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup> They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup> Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

*Please stand.*

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: O Living Bread from Heaven

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!  
 2 My Lord, you here have led me with - in your ho - liest place,  
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.  
 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength-ened with heav'n-ly food, while here

The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.  
 and here your-self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;  
 And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.  
 my course on earth is length - ened, to serve with ho - ly fear.

Oh, won-drous food of bless - ing, oh, cup that heals our woes!  
 for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,  
 My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,  
 And when you call my spir - it to leave this world be - low,

My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, with prais - es o - ver - flows!  
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.  
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.  
 I en - ter, through your mer - it, where joys un - min-gled flow.

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.

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.



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**

### 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:

### 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.**

*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