



Saint James Lutheran Church



A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



*“Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning,
Fellowship and Service”*

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 Saint 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 the 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.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022
10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life”—to choose life in God as our own.

We Welcome Everyone on this Lord's Day to the Liturgy of Holy Communion.

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 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. In keeping with CDC guidelines, and for the safety of our children, masks must be worn by nursery attendants and children two years old and older.

The First Aid Kit and the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

If you are interested in membership to this parish, please indicate this to an usher or call the church office.

Restrooms are available on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

Join Saint James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

Send Jeremy Jay any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at jeremy@pbnjay.com



@stjamesnc

St. James YouTube Channel

Go to www.youtube.com and search for [St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC](#) and subscribe.

GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Imperial March
*Congregational Responses in **Bold***

~Edward Elgar

(Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Silence is held for reflection and self-examination

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

(Stand)



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
 2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
 its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
 but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown-
 and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with-out end:
 though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
 we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
 to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

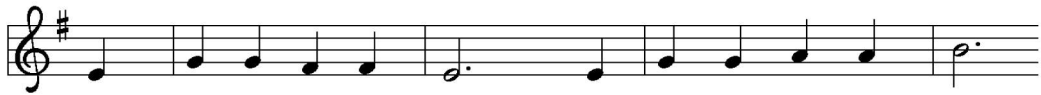


we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
 and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

GREETING

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

KYRIE

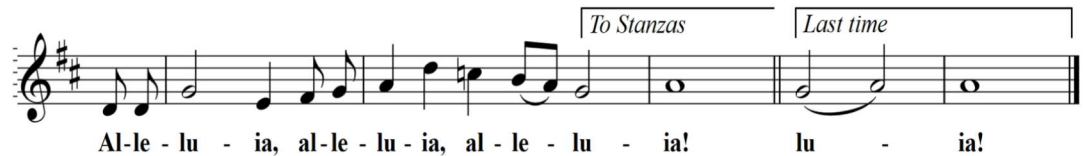


- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, _____ and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For _____ the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, _____ bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - - tion. *To Verse 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - - men. *Refrain*
 gun his _____ reign _____ Al - le - lu - - - ia! *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Sit)

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME

~Mike Holt

WORD

FIRST READING *DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20*

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

A reading from Deuteronomy, the thirtieth chapter.

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 1 (Lector odd verses, Congregation even bold verses)

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

² **but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

**⁴The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**
**⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**
**⁶for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING PHILEMON 1-21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

A reading from Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

HOLY GOSPEL LUKE 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus:] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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

SERMON

~Daniel Gleason, Seminarian

(Kneel or sit, as able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. We especially pray for the Rev. Kimberly Carlson and our sisters and brothers in Christ at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Fuquay Varina, NC. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care especially those whom we now name before you with our lips and in the silence of our hearts. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors. Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us; we are bold to pray,
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.

SENDING

(Stand)

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to life,
both now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* *(Next Page)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

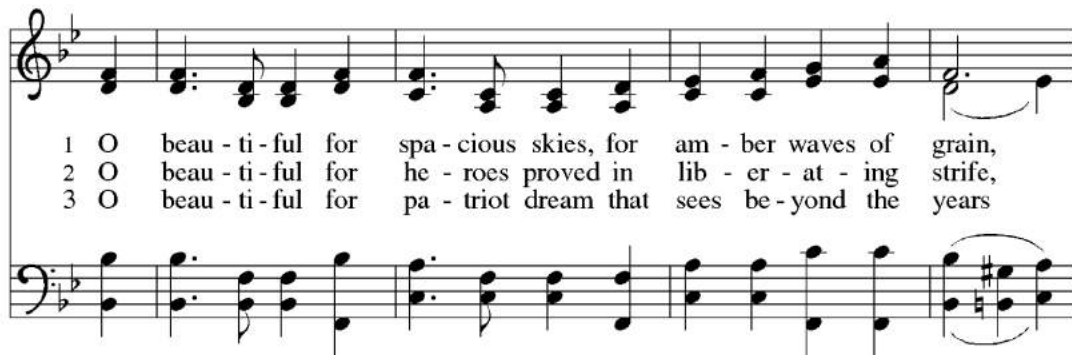
CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Grand Choeur from Douze Pièces ~Théodore DuBois*

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

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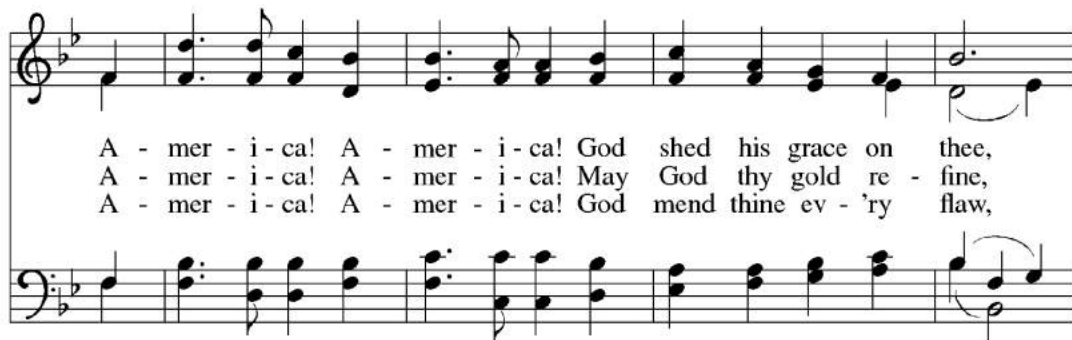
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1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain:
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
 thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,



and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 684
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166
WEBSITE www.sjnc.net

DIRECTORY

Members of Saint James.....Ministers
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop
The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

SAINT JAMES STAFF

Today's Worship Leader
Seminarian, Daniel Gleason

Keith Sutton, Parish Administrator
keith@sjnc.net

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator
jill@sjnc.net

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist /
Director of Music scott@sjnc.net

Mike Holt, Youth and Family
mvholt1957@yahoo.com

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator
krad3700@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Ann Blackwelder, President
Debbie Davis, Vice President
Chris Miller, Secretary
Kenny Propst, Treasurer

Joseph Beasley
Samantha Hillegass
Elizabeth Hurley
Hunter Huss
Frank Irvin
Jon Miller
Mark Murphy
Dee Pieschel

OFFICE HOURS
M-Th 8:30-4:00
F 8:30-1:00

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please email all information to the church office at
keith@sjnc.net*

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

04-Sep Kim Haberman
04-Sep Patrick Propst
05-Sep Simon Lovelace
05-Sep Ashleigh Matthews
06-Sep Sophie Horton
06-Sep Trey Horton
06-Sep Dylan Urso
06-Sep Paul Winterhalter
08-Sep Laura Overby
08-Sep Edith Propst
09-Sep Dianne Lambert
10-Sep Ryan Patterson
10-Sep Alisa Wickliff
10-Sep Libby Williams

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 4
10:00 am Worship

Monday, September 5
Labor Day-Office Closed

Tuesday, September 6
10:30 am Mary Magdalene
Circle

Wednesday, September 7
7:00 pm Parish Choir

Sunday, September 11
9:00 am Children's Sun. Sch
9:15 am Parish Choir
10:00 am Worship
4:00 pm Youth Kickoff

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:

Barbara Albright

Building Supervisor:

Chip and Ann Blackwelder

Ushers:

Chip Blackwelder, Ashley
Cline, Jay Cruse, Jeff
Koenig, Michael Rinker

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given
by Dale and Barbara Merrell
to the Glory of God and in
memory of those who lost
their lives on 9-11.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

**Contributions and Receipts
for August 28, 2022**
\$5,341.44
(\$7,371.00 needed for weekly)

PRAYER LIST

- ♦ Abiding Presence
Lutheran Church,
Fuquay Varina, NC
- ♦ Jimmy Summers
- ♦ Patsy Black
- ♦ Martha Summers
- ♦ Mike and Debbie Cagle,
*friends of Robert and
Debbie Davis*

*If you have someone you would like
to add to the prayer list, please
contact Keith at 704-786-0166 and
leave a message or email at
keith@sjnc.net*

BLESSING BOX: For the
month of **September**, St
James has the opportunity to
stock the blessing box at Rotary
Square. Items can be put
directly into the box or left in
the red Blessing Box bin that is
just inside the rear door of the
church. A list of needed items
is in the Ring Out.