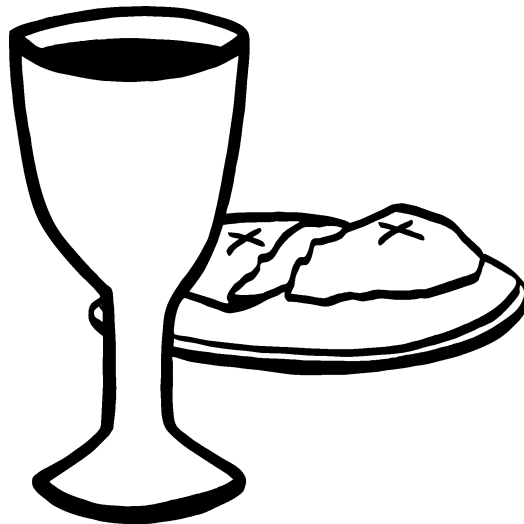


The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 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 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.



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**

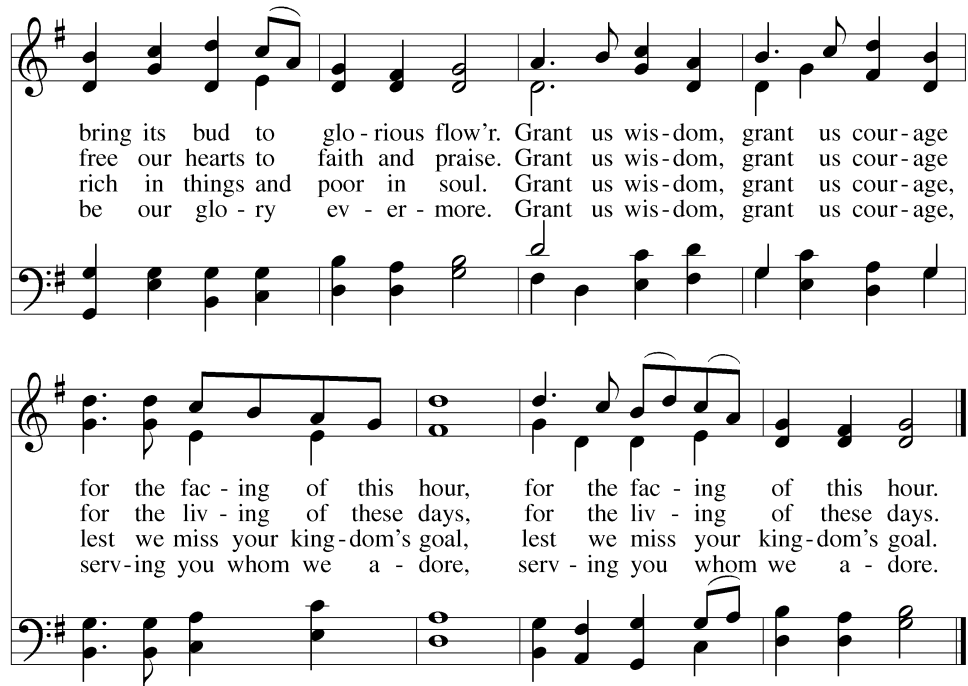
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,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

C **Amen.**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo-rious flow'r. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,
 be our glo-ry ev-er-more. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,
 for the fac-ing of this hour, for the fac-ing of this hour.
 for the liv-ing of these days, for the liv-ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king-dom's goal, lest we miss your king-dom's goal.
 serv-ing you whom we a-dore, serv-ing you whom we a-dore.

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 ever-living God, you have given great and precious promises to those who believe. Grant us the perfect faith which overcomes all doubts, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

- ¹ Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- ² She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
- ³ She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
- ⁴ "You that are simple, turn in here!"
To those without sense she says,
- ⁵ "Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
- ⁶ Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

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

THE SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 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.**

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹“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.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

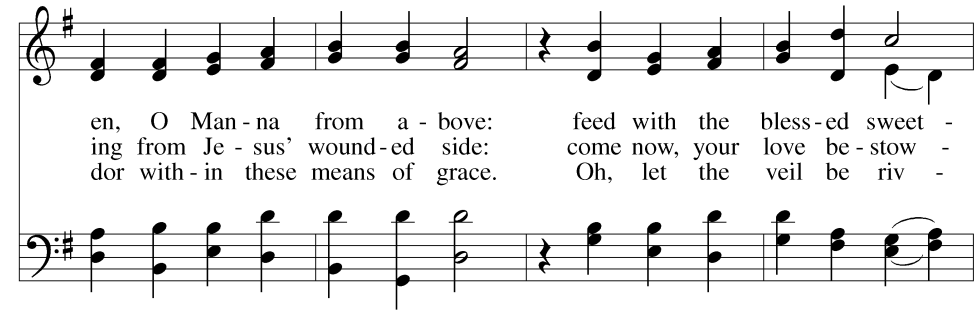
THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: O Bread of Life from Heaven



1 O Bread of life from heav - en, O Food to pil-grims giv -
2 O Fount of grace re - deem - ing, O Riv - er ev - er stream -
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den splen -



en, O Man - na from a - bove: feed with the bless - ed sweet -
ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come now, your love be - stow -
dor with - in these means of grace. Oh, let the veil be riv -



ness of your di - vine com - plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
ing on thirst - ing souls, and flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
en, and our clear eye in heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

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
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:
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.

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.

C 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.

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: Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 His law he en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, his light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

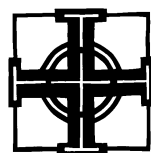


till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: “To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**



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FALL FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Join us for the St. James Lutheran Church Fall Fellowship Gathering at our all-congregation picnic on **Sunday, September 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. Scan code below or email info@sjnc.net.



Picnic RSVP

KID'S NIGHT OUT!

All kid's ages 4+ are invited to join us for Kid's Night Out on **Friday, September 20 at 6:00pm!** We'll have Pizza, popcorn, a movie and craft! Be sure to register to help with planning. If you can volunteer, please let us know! info@sjnc.net



Kid's Night RSVP

WELCA Save-the-Date

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

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Aug. 18 Helen Fincher, Sam Jones
Aug. 19 Jim Harris, Jr.
Aug. 21 Meagan Lambert
Aug. 23 Brittany Eaton
Aug. 24 Lisa Burke

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Aug. 18 9:00 am Parish Summertime Choir
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Handbells Meeting (Parlor)

Monday, Aug. 19 10:30 am Quilting

Sunday Aug. 25 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.*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright
Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass
Ushers: Mark Murphy, Jimmy Harris,
Jeff Jones, Jeff Gilbert, Chip Popovici, Phil Tesh
Videographer: Chris Miller
Greeter: Laura Overby
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 honor of Pastor Bill and the St. James Congregation by Mark & Amy Murphy.

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.

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