

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 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.

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome

Prelude Prelude in G major J. S. Bach

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: Your Kingdom Come!

A harmony graphic is not available. Please see #376 in the green hymnal (LBW).



1 Your king - dom come! O Fa - ther, hear our prayer;
 2 Stum - bling and blind, we strive to do your will,
 3 Come through the faith where - by the church must live;
 4 Your king - dom come; come too, God's glo - rious Son!



shine through the clouds that threat - en ev - 'ry - where;
 trust - ing the word you sure - ly will ful - fill,
 come through the word and sac - ra - ments you give;
 Oh, may our task for you be no - bly done!



light from a - bove, our on - ly life and joy,
 that all are yours, how - ev - er far they roam,
 come through your teach - ing, and your heal - ing too;
 Faith - ful let all your ser - vants be, and true,



show us the hope that noth - ing can de - stroy;
 that love shall tri - umph, and your king - dom come;
 come through the work en - light - ened hearts can do;
 un - til they bring all na - tions home to you;



show us the hope that noth - ing can de - stroy.
 that love shall tri - umph, and your king - dom come.
 come through the work en - light - ened hearts can do.
 un - til they bring all na - tions home to you.

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 eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
 “Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
 with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
 and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
 and the thirsty ground springs of water.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Alleluia! O Praise the Lord Most Holy

J. S. Bach

Alleluia! O praise the Lord most holy!

Alleluia, Lord most high.

He is worthy to receive power, wealth, and glory,

Wisdom, might and honor, blessing now and evermore.

For He is the true and righteous Lord of all in heav'n and earth.

King of kings and Lord of lords, we do worship at your throne.

THE SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made

distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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. Mark, the 7th chapter.

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

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in
 2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole and
 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, my
 4 By thee my prayers ac - cep - tance gain al -

a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
 calms the heart's un - rest; 'tis man - na to the
 shield and hid - ing place; my nev - er - fail - ing
 though with sin de - filed. The dev - il charg - es

heals our wounds, and drives a - way all fear.
 hun - gry soul and to the wea - ry, rest.
 trea - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace.
 me in vain, and I am owned a child.

5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
 my prophet, priest, and king,
 my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
 accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,
 how cold my warmest thought;
 but when I see thee as thou art,
 I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would thy love proclaim
 with every fleeting breath;
 and may the music of thy name
 refresh my soul in death!

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 Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

**A Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your
 truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in
 your mercy.**

C Hear our prayer.

**A Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and
 peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in**

your mercy
C Hear our prayer.

A Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

A Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

A Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

A We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

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

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please sit.

THE OFFERING

ANTHEM

And the Father Will Dance

Mark Hayes

*And the Father will dance over you in joy!
He will take delight in whom He loves.
Is that a choir I hear, singing the praises of God?
No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o'er you in song!
And He will joy over you in song.*

*My soul will make its boast in God,
For He has answered all my cries,
His faithfulness in me is as sure as the dawn of a new day.*

*Awake, my soul, and sing!
Let my spirit rejoice in God!*

*Sing, O daughter of Zion, with all of your heart!
Cast away fear for you have been restored!
Put on the garment of praise as on a festival day.
Join with the Father in glorious, jubilant song!*

*And He will joy over you in song.
And the Father will dance over you in joy!
He will take delight in whom He loves.
Is that a choir I hear, singing the praises of God?
No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o'er you in song!*

God rejoices over you in song!

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



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.**



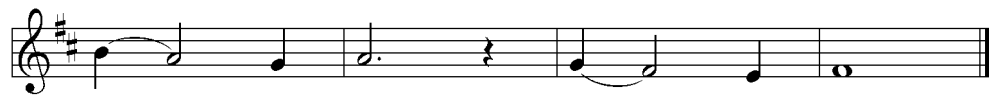
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 RITE OF FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

THE BENEDICTION

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

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: God, Whose Almighty Word

A harmony graphic is not available. Please see #376 in the green hymnal (LBW).



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Lord, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight; hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray,
in - ly blind: oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light!
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide,

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Toccata

Théodore Dubois

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright

Communion Assistant: Kim Haberman

Acolyte/Crucifer: Noah Pittard

Ushers: Chip Blackwelder, Michael Rinker,
Ashley Cline, Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright

Videographer: John Patterson

Greeter: Samantha Hillegass

Building Supervisor: Mike Rinker

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); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit).

MY FATHER'S HOUSE MINISTRY

St. James and St. Johns will host My Father's House Ministry Sept. 16 - 18. If you can help by providing items for the dinner meal **Sept. 16 or 17**, please let

Sylvia Corl know: 704-425-8621.

FALL BIBLE STUDY

Save the date! – Bible Study returns **Monday, September 16 at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

The 11th Annual God's Work, Our Hands will be held **Sunday, September 22 after worship**. Please plan to donate a couple of hours of your time by signing up to volunteer: <https://bit.ly/GWOH>.

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

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

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator; krad3700@gmail.com

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian

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!



Kid's Night RSVP

COTTAGE MEETINGS

St. James is excited to announce the start of Cottage Meetings. These meetings are meant to bring members together in small groups with Pastor Bill. Scan the QR Code to see upcoming meeting dates and to sign up! If you are interested in hosting a Cottage Meeting, please email LeeAnn Miller, lbmiller1@carolina.rr.com.



Cottage Meetings

BLESSING BOX

St. James is sponsoring the Blessing Box for **the month of September**. Please consider donating items throughout the month to be placed at the box in Rotary Square. Requested items include nonperishable food items, baby food, bottled water, shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Items may be placed in the Blessing Box or in the collection bin in the portico. Contact Chris Miller with questions.

NC WELCA CABARRUS/STANLY CONFERENCE – REGISTER NOW!

Join us on **Saturday, October 5, 2024**, for the NC Women of the ELCA Cabarrus/Stanny Fall Conference gathering! Program will include food, fellowship, offerings, and special program. Registration is \$10. Register at:

<https://bit.ly/NCWELCAFALLCONFERENCE>

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Sept. 8** Laura Overby, Edith Propst
- Sept. 9** Dianne Lambert
- Sept. 10** Ryan Patterson, Alisa Wickliff, Libby Williams
- Sept. 11** Riece Pittard
- Sept. 12** Terri Fleck
- Sept. 13** Will Gillon, Hoke Hoekstra, Ward Hoekstra

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

- Sunday, Sept. 8**
 - 9:00 am Adult Sunday School
 - 9:00 am Parish Choir
 - 9:30 am Children's Sunday School
 - 10:00 am Worship
 - 12:30 pm Fall Fellowship Gathering**
*Home of Annette & Kenny Propst
900 Wilhelm Pl. NE Concord, NC 28025*
- Monday, Sept. 9** 10:30 am Quilting
- Tuesday, Sept. 10**
 - Noon Lively Leisures
 - 6:00 pm Congregation Council
- Wednesday, Sept. 11** 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday, Sept. 15**
 - 9:00 am Adult Sunday School
 - 9:00 am Parish Choir
 - 9:30 am Children's Sunday School
 - 10:00 am Worship

FALL EVENTS

- September 20:** Kid's Night Out
- September 22:** God's Work. Our Hands.
- October 5:** NC WELCA Cabarrus/Stanny Conference
- October 13:** CROP Walk
- October 27:** Trunk or Treat
- November 24:** Thanksgiving Worship followed by Pie Party
- December 1:** Advent Tree Lighting
- December 8:** Bethlehem at the Farm – *Volunteers Needed!*