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# 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"

## NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 11, 2020



In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

### WELCOME

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

**Amen.**

#### 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.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: *Isaiah 25:1-9***

*After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.*

A reading from Isaiah, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**O** LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. <sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. <sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. <sup>4</sup>For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, <sup>5</sup>the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. <sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. <sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; <sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

**PSALM: *Psalms 23***

<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. (*Ps. 23:5*)

A reading from Psalm Twenty-three.

**T**he LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
<sup>2</sup>he makes me lie down in green pastures.  
 He leads me beside still waters;  
<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness  
 for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
 I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff,  
 they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
 thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
 all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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

## **SECOND READING: *Philippians 4:1-9***

*Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.*

A reading from Philippians, the fourth chapter.

**M**y brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. <sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 22:1-14***

*Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**O**nce more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

# HYMN

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*  
*Glenda Poole, Organist / Beth Huss, vocalist*



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.

5 O Master, from the mountainside  
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
among these restless throngs abide;  
oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
and follow where your feet have trod;  
till glorious from your heav'n above  
shall come the city of our God.

## APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

**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 again 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious host, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others to your table of boundless grace. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As creation waits with eager longing for redemption, protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, international peace workers, and world leaders who navigate conflict. May they proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevails. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill. We pray for healing for President Trump, the first lady, and all those who have tested positive for COVID-19. Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

When we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community including Opportunity House, Cabarrus Partnership for Children, CCM, and the Cabarrus County virtual CROP walk. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, comfort us with your presence. Assure us of your peace at all times. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

God in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at [keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)

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## PRAYER LIST

**Amanda (Tesh) and Jose Villa**, live in Cancun, Mexico  
**Pat Merriott**, at the death of Hal Merriott  
**Mike Downs**, at the death of his father, Pat Downs  
All health care professionals and first responders including:  
**Deb Bradshaw**  
**Lauri Fowler**  
**DeeDee Gilbert**  
**Annette Propst**  
**Meagan Lambert**  
**Alison Monk**  
**Jason and Stephanie Matthews**  
**Dr Bradley Propst**, son of *Kenny and Annette Propst*  
**Sam Hurley**, son of *Elizabeth Hurley*  
**Julie Greathouse**, friend of *Lois Marlow*  
**Betsy Waselovich**, sister of *Golda Jay*  
**Lauren**, daughter of *Angie Buchanan*  
**Dr. Stephanie Garrison**, daughter-in-law of Margaret Garrison  
**Dr. Kevin Burns**, son-in-law of Margaret Garrison.

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

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**11-Oct** Susan Miller  
**12-Oct** Patsy Black  
**15-Oct** Erin Everett  
**15-Oct** Morgan Trott  
**17-Oct** Isla Glatz

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:** Golda Jay  
**Vocalist:** Beth Huss

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

**Contributions and Receipts for October 4, 2020**  
**\$4,970.00**  
*(\$8,414.00 needed for weekly)*

## 2020 CROP "Virtual" Walk

Sunday, October 11

It's an actual walking activity, but for reasons of safety and social distancing, participants will commit to walking on their own or in small groups in their neighborhoods, parks, or trails on walk day. We won't be gathering in one large group this year and the time and length of the walk is flexible. See the website or Ring Out to register.

## DRIVE-IN WORSHIP/ COMMUNION

Mark you calendars now for our October Drive-In Worship/ Communion services on October 14 and 28. They will be held on the top of the parking deck beside the church at 7:00 pm.

**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](mailto:jeremy@pbnjay.com)

**St. James YouTube Channel**  
Search for St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC and subscribe.

## DIRECTORY

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

## SAINT JAMES STAFF

The Rev. Tony Bradshaw.....Senior Pastor  
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[krad3700@gmail.com](mailto:krad3700@gmail.com)

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

**Kenny Propst**.....President  
**Joseph Beasley**..... Vice President  
**Golda Jay**..... Secretary  
**Beth Huss**..... Treasurer

Ann Blackwelder  
Samantha Hillegass  
Elizabeth Hurley  
Hunter Huss  
Nick Lovelace  
Mac Mullins  
Mark Murphy  
Al Pieschel  
Jodi Ramirez



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## OFFICE HOURS

**M-Th 8:30-4:00, F 8:30-1:00**  
*Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00*