

**SAINT JAMES  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PO Box 684  
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026  
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166  
WEBSITE [www.sjnc.net](http://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**

**Rev. Bill Ridenhour**, Senior Pastor  
[prbill@sjnc.net](mailto:prbill@sjnc.net)

**Jill Irvin**, Finance Administrator  
[jill@sjnc.net](mailto:jill@sjnc.net)

**Scott F. Foppiano**, Organist /  
Director of Music  
[scottfop@gmail.com](mailto:scottfop@gmail.com)

**Teresa Honeycutt**, Custodian  
[tfh1990@yahoo.com](mailto:tfh1990@yahoo.com)

**Kathryn Radcliffe**, Nursery Coordinator  
[krad3700@gmail.com](mailto:krad3700@gmail.com)

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm.

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Contributions and Receipts for  
October 1, 2023

**\$7,715.85**

(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

**In-Person Attendance:**  
94

**Stewardship Sunday October 22**

Join us for a Time and Talent Fair  
and Luncheon following worship.  
Please make reservations for lunch by  
Tuesday, October 17—on pew pads or  
call the church office.

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please email all information to the church office by  
Wednesday 10:00 am to [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net)

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

**09-Oct** Elizabeth Thompson  
**10-Oct** Hayden Burroughs  
**11-Oct** Ann Holt  
Susan Miller  
**12-Oct** Patsy Miller  
**14-Oct** Anna Barbara  
Fisher

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:**  
Jodi Ramirez

**Communion Assistant:**  
Jodi Ramirez

**Acolyte/Crucifer:**

**Ushers:** Brad Baker, Chip  
Harward, Taylor Pruette, Al  
Pieschel, Jon Miller`

**Building Supervisor:**

**Greeters:** Esther Circle

**Videographer:**  
Chris Miller

**Lively Leisures**  
Will meet October 10 at  
noon. Rev. David Sloop will  
have the program

**Christian Education  
Meeting** with Parents,  
Grandparents and  
Caregivers of children ages  
0—5th grade—please plan to  
attend a meeting with CE  
Committee and Pastor Bill to  
discuss Nursery, Sunday  
School and other  
opportunities for our  
children

**FLOWERS**

The flowers today are given  
by Robert and Debbie Davis  
to the Glory of God and in  
honor of Elizabeth Leigh  
upon her baptism.

**PRAYER LIST**

- ◆ Patsy Black
- ◆ Tom Grady
- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
- ◆ Deb Black & Family

**CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

**Monday, October 9**  
10:30 am Quilting Group  
6:30 pm Scouts  
**Tuesday, October 10**  
12:00 noon Lively Leisures  
6:00 pm Congregation Council  
**Wednesday, October 11**  
7:00 pm Parish Choir  
**Thursday, October 12**  
6:00 pm Handbells  
**Friday, October 14**  
9 am—1 pm Scout Pumpkin  
Sale—Rotary Square  
**Sunday, October 15**  
9:15 am Parish Choir  
10:00 am Worship—Blessing  
of the Quilts  
11:15 am CE Mtg w/ Parents/  
G'Parents/Caregivers (F. Hall)

**SJLC Trunk or Treat**

Candy, Popcorn, Music and  
Bounce House  
**Sunday, October 29**  
**4:30 pm—6:00 pm**  
Parking Lot



**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.

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST**

**OCTOBER 8, 2023  
10:00 A.M.**

*Introduction to Today's Worship*

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a  
vineyard parable, which serves as an  
image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and  
Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard  
also speaks of God's love poured out in the  
blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness  
of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism,  
we are nourished with wine and bread so that  
we may share Christ's sufferings and know the  
power of his resurrection.

## Welcome!

**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 the Pastor or 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.

**First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)** are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

**If you are interested in membership** to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

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

**Pew Pads** are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

### **St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups**

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at [joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com) @stjamesnc

**St. James YouTube Channel** Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

### **UPCOMING DATES:**

- Oct. 9** Quilting Group 10:30 am  
Scouts 6:30 pm
- Oct 10** Lively Leisures 12 noon  
Congregation Council 6 pm
- Oct 11** Parish Choir 7 pm
- Oct 12** Handbells 6 pm
- Oct 14** Scout Pumpkin Sale 9 am—1 pm  
Rotary Square

**BLESSING BOX:** Thank you to all the Saints of St. James who helped keep the Rotary Square Blessing Box stocked with food and hygiene items for the month of September. Your gift of sharing is much appreciated. Thank you too for praying for those who utilize the Blessing Box.  
Thanks be to God.

*The Social Ministry Committee*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*



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**WELCOME****OPENING VOLUNTARY***Congregational Responses in **Bold****(Stand)***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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.

*(Kneel or sit, as able)**Silence is held for reflection and self-examination*

Most Merciful God,

**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**

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. **Amen.**

*(Stand)*

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed  
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

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.

# GATHERING HYMN

*How Firm a Foundation*

Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply;  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

## APOSTOLIC 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.**

*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 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. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.*

## LAMB OF GOD

*Choir and Congregation*



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.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that 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.  
**Amen.**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

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.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 for 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 upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**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.**

### DISTRIBUTION

*(Sit)*

**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, give 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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Our Lord Jesus, you have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over you, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge you as Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Sit)*

### YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

#### FIRST READING *ISAIAH 5:1-7*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. <sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. <sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:7-15** (Read Responsively, congregation in bold)

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
 let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.  
<sup>8</sup>**You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**  
**you cast out the nations and | planted it.**  
<sup>9</sup>You cleared the | ground for it;  
 it took root and | filled the land.  
<sup>10</sup>**The mountains were covered | by its shadow**  
**and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.**  
<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea  
 and its branches | to the river.  
<sup>12</sup>**Why have you broken | down its wall,**  
**so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**  
<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,  
 and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.  
<sup>14</sup>**Turn now, O | God of hosts,**  
**look | down from heaven;**  
<sup>15</sup>behold and | tend this vine;  
 preserve what your right | hand has planted.

**SECOND READING PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14**

A reading from Philippians, the third chapter.

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Blessed are you,  
**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.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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; won 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, God of pow'r and might,  
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

For the unbaptized and for those who have ceased to worship, for our lips to be willing to invite them. Form us to be a people ready to welcome, listen and change. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For a Spirit of healthy discourse and disagreement, for the power of the Spirit to raise up among us a common vision for your church in this place. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression and disgrace; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

That we may end of our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For all the saints now resting from their labors; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

*The Pastor concludes the prayers.*

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

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*(This can be done verbally with no physical contact, if desired)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(Sit)*

**ANTHEM** *The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*

*Benedetto Marcello*

**OFFERING** *(Offering plates presented at the altar)*

**(Stand)**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Stand)*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 21:33-46*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Sit)*

SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

HYMN OF THE DAY *Faith of our Fathers*

St. Catherine



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,  
2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and  
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate  
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

*Refrain*



when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word.  
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,  
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.



ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

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.**

*(Kneel or sit, as able)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition concludes, "Lord, in your mercy" and the congregation responds "hear our prayer."*

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy church of God, and for the unity of all peoples; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the civil authorities, for leaders of nations that their leadership may serve and protect all people and foster compassion and justice. For our city of Concord, for every city and community and for those who live in them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For seasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and the will to conserve it; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**