

# 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"

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 8, 2020



104 Union Street South  
Concord, North Carolina 28025

Office Phone: 704.786.0166  
Website: [www.sjnc.net](http://www.sjnc.net)



**T**oday the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

### 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.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: *Amos 5:18-24***

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

A reading from Amos, the fifth chapter.

**A**las for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. <sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? <sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. <sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. <sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

**PSALM: *Psalms 70***

*You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)*

A reading from Psalm Seventy.

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.  
O LORD, make haste to help me!  
<sup>2</sup>Let those be put to shame and confusion  
who seek my life. Let those be turned back  
and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.  
<sup>3</sup>Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"  
turn back because of their shame.  
<sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.  
Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"  
<sup>5</sup>But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!  
You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

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

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

A reading from 1 Thessalonians, the fourth chapter.

**W**e do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13**

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**esus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

# HYMN

*O God Our Help in Ages Past*  
*Glenda Poole, Organist / LeeAnn Miller, vocalist*



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home.

## 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

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. During this time of social distancing sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who creatively lead us in prayer and praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Bless the courts and magistrates of our land. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may perceive the truth and administer the law impartially as instruments of your divine will. Guide our newly elected officials and all who hold office in the governing of our nation, state, city and county that they may lead with compassion and justice for all people. Hear us O God

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**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**

Go 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

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
104 UNION STREET SOUTH  
PO BOX 684  
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28025  
CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166  
WEBSITE www.sjnc.net

## PRAYER LIST

Carey Conrad, friend of Al Pieschel  
Nancy Faggart  
Betsy Ballard

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

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

08-Nov. Deb Bradshaw  
09-Nov. Chip Harward  
10-Nov. Edith Gonyor  
10-Nov. Orietta Grady  
10-Nov. Bradley Propst  
11-Nov. Jazmin Harward  
11-Nov. Ben Kuly  
11-Nov. Erin Kuly  
11-Nov. Tom Ridenhour  
14-Nov. Kim Johnson

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:  
Margaret Garrison  
Vocalist: LeeAnn Miller

## OUR STEWARDSHIP Contributions and Receipts for November 01, 2020 \$5,526.00

(\$8,414.00 needed for weekly)

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP

In-person worship will resume on **November 15** at St. James. Social distancing, distanced seating, masks, and temperature checks will be required. Congregational singing will not be an option indoors, but we will have music and other means of congregational participation. We understand that not everyone will be comfortable returning to the building so the recorded service will still be available on-line.

## COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

A reminder that all nominations for Congregation Council must be received in the church office by **November 8**. If you are nominating someone, please be sure that they are willing to serve. Please contact the church office with any nominations.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting to adopt the Spending Plan for 2021 and to elect Congregation Council members will be on Sunday, November 22. Ballots will be sent to those who are unable to attend the meeting in person.

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@pbniay.com](mailto:jeremy@pbniay.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  
[tony@sjnc.net](mailto:tony@sjnc.net)  
Jill Irvin.....Finance Administrator  
[jill@sjnc.net](mailto:jill@sjnc.net)  
Mike Holt.....Youth and Family  
[mvholt1957@yahoo.com](mailto:mvholt1957@yahoo.com)  
Keith Sutton.....Parish Administrator  
[keith@sjnc.net](mailto:keith@sjnc.net)  
Cindy Cruse.....Hospitality Director  
[ccruse98@twc.com](mailto:ccruse98@twc.com)  
Kathryn Radcliffe.....Nursery Coordinator  
[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



@stjamesnc

## OFFICE HOURS

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