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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"

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 21, 2020



God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE**     *Gospel Prelude: Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult*  
William Bolcom (b. 1938)

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our sin.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**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.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING *Jeremiah 20:7-13*

*Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.*

A reading from Jeremiah, the twentieth chapter.

**O** LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. <sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. <sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. <sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." <sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. <sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. <sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING *Romans 6:1b-11*

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.*

A reading from Romans, the sixth chapter.

**S**hould we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 10:24-39*

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the tenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the twelve: <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! <sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. <sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; <sup>36</sup>and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## HYMN

### *Lift High the Cross*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## 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 all of our heart and all of our mind, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious Father, in our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin, and call and empower us to live new life in him. Increase the faith of your Church to desire and work for salvation of all people, that they might be freed from sin and that hope may be renewed in many hearts to the increase of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You love the sparrows and shower your whole creation with abundance. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been ill for too long. Give us the wisdom and reverence to be faithful stewards of all you have made that future generations may continue to praise you for your bounty. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world. Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You tell us not to fear, but we do. Give courage to everyone who faces oppression and bigotry, hunger and homelessness. Protect health care workers, first responders, peace officers and people whose jobs put them at risk and those who gather in peaceful protest against injustice. Bring healing and hope to all your people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Thank you for the gift of this community of faith. Teach us how to welcome one another. Shine through our common life. Unite us as we proclaim your love, particularly as we care for and serve our vulnerable neighbor by wearing masks, social distancing, limiting our public gatherings by worshipping on-line, and seek to slow down the spread of the coronavirus.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do. Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bless us with guides and caretakers in the faith. As we give thanks for those who have died, increase our care for one another until we walk with them in newness of life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words, through 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 now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Herzlich tut mich erfreuen*, Op. posth. 122, No. 4

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at keith@sjnc.net

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## PRAYER LIST

All health care professionals and first responders including:

- Deb Bradshaw
- Lauri Fowler
- DeeDee Gilbert
- Annette Propst
- Meagan Lambert
- Jason and Stephanie Matthews
- Dr Bradley Propst, son of  
Kenny and Annette Propst
- Sam Hurley, son of Elizabeth  
Hurley
- Lisa Snyder, friend of Debbie  
Wilkinson
- 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

- 21-Jun Joann Bratton
- 22-Jun Fuller Beasley
- 23-Jun Samuel Haberman
- 25-Jun Bill Hardister
- 26-Jun Tony Mosley
- 26-Jun Bailey Peterman
- 26-Jun Wilson Propst, Jr.
- 27-Jun Phyllis Freeman
- 27-Jun Phyllis Harward

**OUR STEWARDSHIP  
Contributions and Receipts  
for June 14, 2020  
\$4,752.00  
(\$8,414.00 needed for weekly)**

## ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lector: Ann Gillon  
Intercessor: Frank Irvin

**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.

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

## DIRECTORY

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

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