

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Kim Haberman
Acolyte/Crucifer: Joshua Rinker
Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass
Ushers: Brad Baker, Chip Howard,
Taylor Pruette, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller
Videographer: Chris Miller
Greeter: Esther Circle
Building Supervisors: Ashley Cline

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); Susan Tadlock (friend of Deb Black); Mary Dorothy White (friend of Patsy Black).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration is now available for Vacation Bible School July 28-30! VBS is free to members and visitors but requires registration. Register early to secure a spot and preferred t-shirt size. Registration is available on the home page of the website, sjnc.net. Reminder: All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Please contact the church office to complete this process.

St. James Staff

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor; prbill@sjnc.net
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

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 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.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

June 18	James Radcliffe
June 19	Campbell Overby, Katherine Weisel
June 20	Jim Miller, Jeremy Monk
June 21	Joann Bratton
June 22	Fuller Beasley

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 16	9:00 am	Parish Summertime Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
Monday, June 17	10:30 am	Quilting

Monday June 17 – Wednesday June 19
My Father's House Ministry

Sunday, June 23	9:00 am	Parish Summertime Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship

Save-the-Date!

Save the date for 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. Contact Gretchen Walker for more information.

After the bulletin was formatted, the preacher decided he needed more of the II Corinthians text. Instead of reformatting, we stuck it here.

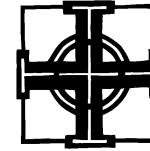
THE SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, 14-17

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²Here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³so that by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we sigh with anxiety; not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage; we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering



Welcome / Prelude

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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.

His grace did in - vite us, his love shall u - nite us to
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing give
 work for God's king - dom and an - swer his call.
 hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

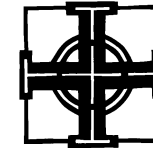
THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 C Thanks be to God.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.
 For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



COPYRIGHT:

Fruit of All Creation Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002. All Rights Reserved.
 Sent Forth by God's Blessing © World Library Publications, a division of GIA Publications, Inc.
 Sent Forth by God's Blessing Arrangement © Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under licenses #SAS-002140, #SB177826. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002. All Rights Reserved.
 Lutheran Book of Worship © 1978. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Licenses SAS-002140, SB177826.

THE BENEDICTION

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

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: Sent Forth By God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks-giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing, the



peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave.
tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed the
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em -



fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of his teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.



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 God, our maker and redeemer, you have made us a new company of priests to bear witness to the Gospel. Enable us to be faithful to our calling to make known your promises to all the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig

from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.
²³On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.
²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

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

THE SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

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**

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.



☩ 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.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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 4th chapter.

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

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to

hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, your quick - 'ning grace be - stow,

now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

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,

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.

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please sit or kneel, as able.

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

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

A For all the holy people of God, for the clergy and all leaders; Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

A For our president, for the leaders of nations, for all in authority that their leadership may foster compassion and justice, Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

A For this city of Concord, for every city and community, and for those who live in them; Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

A For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth; Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

A For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it; Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

A For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air; Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

A For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, for the sick and suffering and for all who we remember silently in our hearts; Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

A 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,
C **Hear our prayer.**

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

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

A That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach; Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

A For all the saints now resting from their labors; 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.
C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE OFFERING

THE ANTHEM *Lift Thine Eyes* Mendelssohn
Bella Voce

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



☒ Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take