

# Saint James Lutheran Church



A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



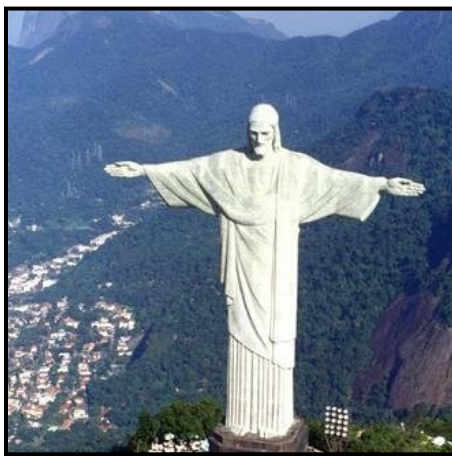
"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service"

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 5, 2020



104 Union Street South  
Concord, North Carolina 28025

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



**T**he mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

SLANE: Prelude for Organ Healey Willan (1880 - 1968)

### 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.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING *Zechariah 9:9-12*

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

A reading from Zechariah, the ninth chapter.

**R**ejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING *Romans 7:15-25a*

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

A reading from Romans, the seventh chapter.

**I** do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup>“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ <sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” <sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## HYMN

### *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

## 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

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations especially the United States and Canada celebrating their nationhood. Guide our leaders; grant them wisdom and hearts for justice. Lead us to expansive love of neighbor that all people flourish. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this congregation and our sister congregations in the North Carolina Synod. Bless pastors, deacons, congregational leaders, volunteers, church administrators and those who maintain facilities. Guide our mission. Give us generous hearts to support your ministry. Shine in our shared life that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new 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

SALZBURG

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

*The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!*

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SALZBURG - Gerald Near (b. 1942) "Choraleworks, Set I" Copyright 1995 Aureole Editions. MorningStar Music/Birnamwood. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #735002 All rights reserved.

# 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

Family of Tommy Fitts, son of  
Conrad Fitts

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

- 05-Jul Chase Crainshaw
- 08-Jul Judy King
- 10-Jul Casey Gale
- 10-Jul Jim Weisel
- 11-Jul Margaret Fink
- 11-Jul Jeremy Jay
- 11-Jul George Patterson
- 11-Jul Thomas Propst, Jr.

**OUR STEWARDSHIP  
Contributions and Receipts  
for June 28, 2020**

**\$5,867.00**  
(*\$8,414.00 needed for weekly*)

## ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

**Lector:** Christine Lovelace  
**Intercessor:** Gretchen Walker

## FOOD BACKPACKS

We are in need of a group of seven  
people to meet at Esther's Heart  
campus (4139 Zebulon Ave SW  
Concord 28027) on July 14 to pack  
backpacks for the upcoming two  
weekends. We will meet there at  
6:00 p.m. and pack until done which  
will be approximately 8:00 p.m. We  
will be working outside under  
canopies so consider the weather  
this time of year. If interested,  
please contact Juanita Fitts  
[jwilson1152@outlook.com](mailto:jwilson1152@outlook.com) or 704-  
784-2265).

## MY FATHER'S HOUSE

St. James/St. Johns Lutheran will  
be hosting My Father's House  
Ministry July 20-22. St. James will  
provide the dinner meals on Mon,  
July 20 and Tues, July 21. St.  
Johns is responsible for the night  
meal on Wed. July 22. The meals  
will be dropped off at the kitchen  
door of My Father's House Ministry  
around 5:30 those days. There are  
presently 14 people in the Ministry,  
6 adults and 8 children. If you can  
provide an item for the meal on  
July 20 or 21, please let me know  
and I'll be glad to pick it up from  
your home. Thanks so much for  
your help with this needed  
Ministry. Sylvia (H)704-786-0296  
(C) 704-425-8621

**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.



@stjamesnc

**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  
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)

Mike Holt.....Youth and Family  
[mvholt1957@yahoo.com](mailto:mvholt1957@yahoo.com)

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

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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**Joseph Beasley, Vice President**  
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**Beth Huss, Treasurer**  
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