

Saint James Lutheran Church



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



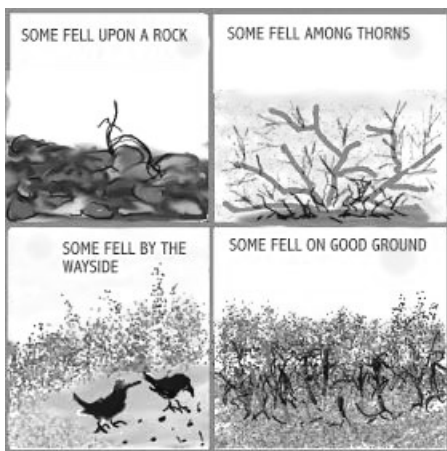
"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service"

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 12, 2020



104 Union Street South
Concord, North Carolina 28025

Office Phone: 704.786.0166
Website: www.sjnc.net



God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Eventide" C. Hubert H. Parry (1848 - 1918)

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.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 55:10-13*

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Romans 8:1-11*

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!" ¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

SERMON

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.



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.

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.

Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what you have given. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reigning God, we pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for justice and equality. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms that divide us and guide authorities to a deep and lasting peace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, care for all who are in need. For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Renewing God, revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries and deepen relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died. Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. 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.

DISSMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball (1896 - 1987)

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

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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

Carole Grady
Family of Ellie Murphy,
mother of Mark Murphy

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

15-Jul Margaret Ford
15-Jul Mark Weisel
16-Jul James Hughes, Jr.
16-Jul Beth Huss
16-Jul Janice Klauss
16-Jul Ann Ridenhour
16-Jul James Weisel
17-Jul Merrick Larkin
18-Jul Chris DeVille
18-Jul Keith Fink
18-Jul Reggie Hardister
18-Jul Sid Hughes, Sr.

OUR STEWARDSHIP
Contributions and Receipts
for July 5, 2020
\$4,460.00
(\$8,414.00 needed for weekly)

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lector: Elizabeth Hurley
Intercessor: Golda Jay

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 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

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

Mike Holt.....Youth and Family
mvholt1957@yahoo.com

Keith Sutton.....Parish Administrator
keith@sjnc.net

Jill Irvin.....Finance Administrator
jill@sjnc.net

Rob Keene.....Director of Music Ministries
rob@sjnc.net

Cindy Cruse.....Hospitality Director
ccruse98@twc.com

Kathryn Radcliffe.....Nursery Coordinator
krad3700@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Kenny Propst, President
fcpsc@vnet.net

Joseph Beasley, Vice President
joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com

Golda Jay, Secretary
waselovich@gmail.com

Beth Huss, Treasurer
bethahuss82@gmail.com

Ann Blackwelder..... ablackwe89@aol.com
Al Brown, Jr. 1973yellowbug@gmail.com
Samantha Hillegass.....Hillegass4@aol.com
Elizabeth Hurley....elizabeth_hurley@us.afiac.com
Hunter Husshunter@hunterhuss.com
Nick Lovelace.....nick.lovelace@gmail.com
Mac Mullins.....mciver.mullins@gmail.com
Mark Murphy... marknccgolf@carolina.rr.com
Al Pieschel.....apieschel@ctc.net
Jodi Ramirez.....jramirez@kannapolisnc.gov