

WELCA 2024 Spring Conference Gathering "Called to be Political"

April 13 - St. John's Lutheran, Concord.

To register, please call the church office or contact  
Jean Beasley or Gretchen Walker.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Children and Volunteers...***Please save the dates July 28-30, 2024 for Vacation Bible School.* All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Please contact the Church Office to receive instructions as to how to complete this process. She will then give you written instructions as to how to fill out information online.

SAINT JAMES STAFF

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**The RESURRECTION of our LORD  
THE HOLY COMMUNION  
Easter Sunrise**



**ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
104 UNION STREET SOUTH  
PO BOX 684  
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026  
704-786-0166**

## Welcome!

*St. James is a house of prayer where all people can come to know the compassionate heart of Jesus. We are a community of Christians where you can belong before you believe. At St. James the beauty of ancient worship and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us as together we discover the sacred in the heart of our city. Our worship includes ancient and contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home or just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.*

**Newcomers and visitors**, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

**Although there are customary postures** (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

**Children are most welcome in worship** at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building (ages 0-up to and including ages 5)

**First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)** are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

**If you are interested in membership** to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

**Restrooms are available** on the first and second floors of the Education Building.  
**Pew Pads** are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

### **St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups**

Send Holly Sloop any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted to [holly@sjnc.net](mailto:holly@sjnc.net).

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

**April 1** Jeff Gilbert  
**April 4** Kathryn Craver, Austin Hoadley  
**April 5** Holly Sloop  
**April 6** David Clary, Mark Murphy

## CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday, March 31</b>	6:30 am	Easter Sunrise Service
	8:00 am	Breakfast (following Sunrise Service)
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	10:00 am	Easter Service <i>The Resurrection of our Lord</i>
<b>Monday, April 1</b>		Easter Monday – Church Offices Closed
<b>Tuesday, April 2</b>	10:30 am	Mary Magdalene Circle
	5:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
	6:30 pm	Property Committee Meeting
<b>Wednesday, April 3</b>	6:00 pm	Bella Voce Choir
	7:00 pm	Parish Choir
<b>Thursday, April 4</b>	6:00 pm	Handbells
<b>Sunday, April 7</b>	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children’s Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>
	11:15 am	Evangelism Committee (after worship)

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Elizabeth Hurley

**Communion Assistant:** Ann Blackwelder

**Ushers:** Mike Downs, Al Brown, Jr., Sid Hughes,  
Bill Hardister, and Hunter Huss

**Videographer:** Wendell Overby

**Greeter:** Samantha Hillegass

**Building Supervisor:** Wendell Overby

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The Altar Flowers are given by Dale and Barbara Merrell to the Glory of God and in loving honor of David Clary and Gretchen Hoelscher birthdays.

**PRAYER LIST**

Tom Grady; Tom Ridenhour; Noah Clifton; Linda and Paul Jones (family members of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Susan Tadlock (friend of Deb Black);  
Mary Dorothy White (friend of Patsy Black).

**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

**EASTER SUNRISE**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*The People, as able, gather outside the church door.*

*The minister, standing among the people, says:*

**THE INVOCATION**

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

**C** **Amen.**

**THE INVITATION**

**P** Dear friends in Christ: as this Easter morning dawns, we remember the most holy night in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

**THE PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray.

**P** O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*The Minister lights the Paschal Candle.*

*The Assisting Minister holds the candle and leads the procession to the chancel,  
pausing three times and singing,*

♪ The light of Christ.
   
 ♫ Thanks be to God.

*At the church door, the Assisting Minister lifts the candle high and sings a second time,*

♪ The light of Christ.
   
 ♫ Thanks be to God.

*When the Assisting Minister arrives before the altar, he turns to face the congregation.  
When all have reached their place, he lifts the Paschal Candle high and sings a third time,*

♪ The light of Christ.
   
 ♫ Thanks be to God.

## THE EASTER PROCLAMTION

*The cantor chants the Easter Proclamation.*

## THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Closing Voluntary

*Toccata from Symphonie V*

Charles-Marie Widor

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THE SENDING HYMN:

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Easter Hymn

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Re - joice, now, all heav - en - ly choirs of an - gels,  
 and cel - e - brate the divine mysteries with ex - ul - ta - tion;  
 and, for the vic - to - ry of so great a King, sound the  
 trum - pet of sal - va - tion. Ex - ult, al - so,  
 O earth, en - light - ened with such ra - diance; and, made bril - liant by  
 the splen - dor of the e - ter - nal King, know that the  
 an - cient dark - ness has been ban - ished from all the world.  
 Be glad al - so, O moth - er Church, clothed with the  
 bright - ness of such a light, and let this house  
 resound with the triumphant voic - es of the peo - ples.

**A** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

**A** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**A** It is indeed right and sal - u - tar - y

that we should with full devotion of heart and mind and voice

praise the invisible God, the Father Al - mighty - y,

and his on - ly Son, our Lord, Je - sus Christ;

who paid for us the debt of Adam to the e - ter - nal Fa - ther,

and who by his precious blood re - deemed us from the bond -

*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**

**A** Let us pray.

**A** 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**


*Silence for reflection.*



**THE BENEDICTION**

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

**C** **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.*

### 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.*

age to the an - cient sin. For this in - deed  
 is the pas - chal feast in which the true Lamb is slain,  
 by whose blood the door-posts of the faith - ful are made ho - ly.  
 This is the night in which, in an - cient times,  
 you de - liv - ered our forebears, the chil - dren of Is - ra - el,  
 from the land of E - gypt; and led them,  
 dry - shod, through the Red Sea. This is the night  
 in which all who be - lieve in Christ are rescued from evil and the  
 gloom of sin, are renewed in grace and ho - li - ness,  
 by the ris - ing bright - ness. This is the night

in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell  
in tri - umph. O night tru - ly blessed  
which a - lone was worthy to know the time and the hour  
where - in Christ a - rose a - gain from hell!  
O night tru - ly blessed in which heav - en and earth are  
joined— things hu - man and things di - vine. We, there - fore,  
pray to you, O Lord, that he, in whose honor this candle burns,  
will continue to vanquish the dark - ness of this night  
and faithfully shed light on all the hu - man race;

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

☞ Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty  
of the Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is  
yours, al - might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

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.**



P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

through the same Lord, Je - sus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
one God, now and for - ev - er. **A - men**

#### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, who made this most holy morn to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

#### THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,

and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

### THE SECOND READING: Romans 6:3-11

<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.

*Please stand.*

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The Choirs sing the verse first. The people join after.*

*Please repeat after the reading of the Gospel.*



**C And also with you.**

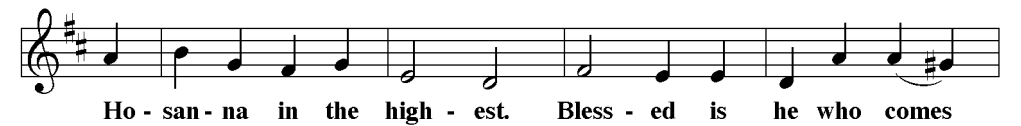
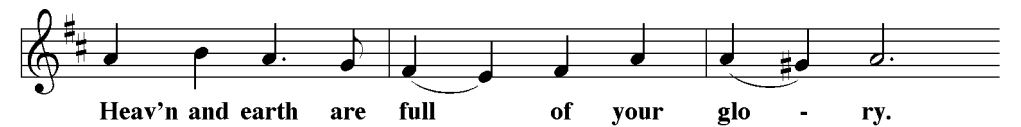
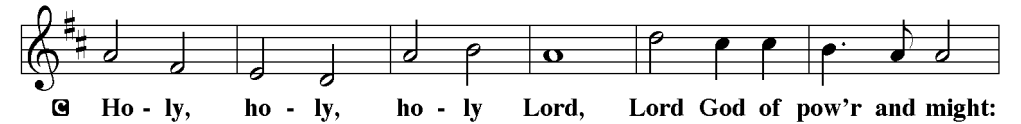
**P Lift up your hearts.**

**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, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## THE OFFERTORY



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?



I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks- giv - ing and will call on the



name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the



pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,



in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**A** Merciful Father,

**C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** The Lord be with you.

## THE GOSPEL

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’’ <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**



*Please sit.*

## THE HOMILY

A All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen**

*Please stand.*

## THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*Please sit.*

## THE OFFERING

### THE ANTHEM:

Sing Ye to the Lord

*Edward C. Bairstow*

*Sing Ye to the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously!  
Pharoah's chariots and his host hath He cast into the sea.  
Mighty victim from the sky, hell's fierce powers beneath Thee lie.  
Thou hast conquered in the fight, Thou hast brought us life and light.  
Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall.  
Thou hast opened Paradise and in Thee Thy saints shall rise.  
Alleluia! Amen!*

*Please stand.*

of the world, that mutual understanding and common endeavor may be increased among all peoples.

**C** Hear us, good Lord.

**A** Bless the schools of the Church and all colleges, universities, and centers of research and those who teach in them. Bestow your wisdom in such measure that people may serve you in Church and state and that our common life may be conformed to the rule of your truth and justice.

**C** Hear us, good Lord.

**A** Sanctify our homes with your presence and joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their baptism and enable their parents to rear them in a life of faith and devotion. By the spirit of affection and service unite the members of all families, that they may show your praise in our land and in all the world.

**C** Hear us, good Lord.

**A** Let your blessing rest upon the seedtime and harvest, the commerce and industry, the leisure and rest, the arts and culture of our people. Take under your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and be with all who lay their hands to any useful task. Give them just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is good in your sight.

**C** Hear us, good Lord.

**A** Comfort with the grace of your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all grant a measure of your love, taking them into your tender care.

**C** Hear us, good Lord.

**A** We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you in your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors [especially those most dear to us, whom we name in our hearts before you]. Keep us in fellowship with all your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of your heavenly kingdom.

**C** Hear us, good Lord.

## THE HYMN OF THE DAY

### *The Day of Resurrection*

Ellecombe

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right  
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,  
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,

the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.  
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,  
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.  
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;  
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.  
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!  
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

*Please stand.*

### 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,  
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.**

*Please sit or kneel, as able.*

### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**A Almighty God, giver of all things, with gladness we give thanks for all your goodness. We bless you for the love which has created and which sustains us from day to day. We praise you for the gift of your Son our Savior, through whom you have made known your will and grace. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, the comforter; for your holy Church; for the means of grace; for the lives of all faithful and good people; and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to**

treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness by lives that are wholly given to your service.

**C Hear us, good Lord.**

**A Save and defend your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Give it pastors and ministers filled with your Spirit, and strengthen it through the Word and the holy sacraments. Make it perfect in love and in all good works, and establish it in the faith delivered to the saints. Sanctify and unite your people in all the world, that one holy Church may bear witness to you, the creator and redeemer of all.**

**C Hear us, good Lord.**

**A Give your wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold office in your Church, that, by their faithful service, faith may abound and your kingdom increase.**

**C Hear us, good Lord.**

**A Send the light of your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to labor in the Gospel both at home and in distant lands.**

**C Hear us, good Lord.**

**A In your mercy strengthen the younger churches and support them in times of trial. Make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord, and let their faith and zeal for the Gospel refresh and renew the witness of your people everywhere.**

**C Hear us, good Lord.**

**A Preserve our nation in justice and honor, that we may lead a peaceable life of integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws and help them to serve this people according to your holy will.**

**C Hear us, good Lord.**

**A Take from us all hatred and prejudice, give us the spirit of love, and dispose our days in your peace. Prosper the labors of those who take counsel for the nations**