

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. They will then give you written instructions as to how to fill out information online.

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.

Guest Musicians

Rachel Leonard and Tanner Morrison, Trumpets
Kenneth Schechter and Layla Bouis, Trombones
Graham Johnson, Tympani

SAINT 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

Receptionist - Church Office

info@sjnc.net

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist and Director of Music

scottfop@gmail.com

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator

Krad3700@gmail.com

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian

Tfh1990@yahoo.com

The RESURRECTION of our LORD THE HOLY COMMUNION TEN O'CLOCK



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

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

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

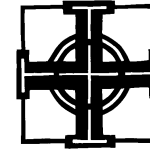
CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 31	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>
Monday, April 1		Easter Monday – Church Offices Closed
Tuesday, April 2	10:30 am	Mary Magdalene Circle
	5:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
	6:30 pm	Property Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 3	6:00 pm	Bella Voce Choir
	7:00 pm	Parish Choir
Thursday, April 4	6:00 pm	Handbells
Sunday, April 7	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)

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

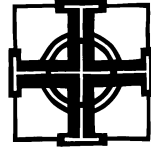
C Thanks be to God.



Closing Voluntary

Toccata from Symphonie V

Charles-Marie Widor



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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Margaret Garrison

Communion Assistant: Mark Murphy

Acolyte/Crucifer: Jason Pittard, Noah Pittard, Jacob Rinker, Joshua Rinker

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

Videographer: Debbie Davis

Greeter: Samantha Hillegass

Building Supervisor: Joseph Beasley

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers today 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 THE HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering



Fanfare for Easter *Grand Choeur Dialogue*

Eugene Gigout

Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome

Handbell Overture *Resurrection Fanfare*

Brian Childers

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN:

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

THE SENDING HYMN:

The Day of Resurrection

Ellecombe

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!

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!

Sending



THE BENEDICTION

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

C Amen

BENEDICTION RESPONSE: *Amen (from The Easter Song of Praise)* Richard Shepherd

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 KYRIE

☩ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. ☩ A - men

THE HYMN OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



C Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray ... O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



C Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal-va-tion which you have pre-



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo-ple: A light to re-veal you to the



na-tions and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it,



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now,



and will be for-ev-er. A-men

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

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.

CHORAL ORISON

The Hallelujah Chorus

George F. Handel

*Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ.
And He shall reign for ever and ever,
King of kings, and Lord of lords, and He shall reign for ever and ever. Hallelujah!*

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**

power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please sit.

Word



THE FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

The Psalm is read responsively.

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

THE SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to

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.

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?

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.

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,**

you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

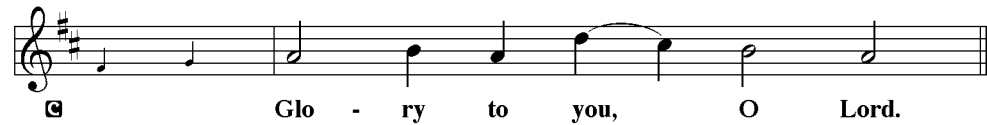
THE GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL: *The Head That Once Was Crowned*

St. Magnus

1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo-ry now;
2 The high-est place that heav'n af-fords is his by sov-erign right,
a roy-al di-a-dem a-dorns the might-y vic-tor's brow,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav'n's e-ter-nal light.

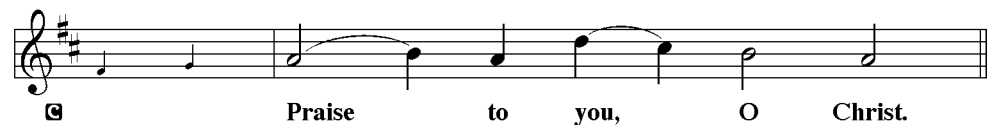
THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark, the 16th Chapter.



When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE GOSPEL RECESSIONAL: *The Head That Once Was Crowned*

St. Magnus

3 The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low;
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is giv'n;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
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 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.



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, 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:



Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #143 *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

Lasst Uns Erfreuen



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set heart and will on
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n - ly



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;
bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,**

THE OFFERTORY



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 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**

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.

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 ANTHEM

Sing Ye to the Lord

Edward C. Bairstow

*Sing Ye to the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously!
Pharaoh'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!*

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

**eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his
kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel or sit, 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 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