

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Kim Miller
Communion Assistant: Christine Ruff
Acolyte/Crucifer: Joshua Rinker
Ushers: Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin,
Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard
Videographer: Laura Patterson
Greeter: Maureen Hollmeyer
Building Supervisors: Pat McDonough

PRAYER LIST

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God by Joyce Smith in honor of her granddaughter Dr. Lilly Smith on receiving her Ph. D. in Veterinary Medicine at LSU.

FINAL CALL - DEADLINE APPROACHING!

John & Alma Cook Memorial Scholarship

In 1968, John M. Cook, Jr. established an endowment to assist college and graduate students who are members of St. James Lutheran Church by helping with their tuition expenses. The Cook Trust Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the 2024/2025 academic school year. Interested applicants can email holly@sjnc.net for an application. Please confirm if you are a first-time or returning applicant so you will receive the appropriate forms. **The deadline to return application is June 1, 2024.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

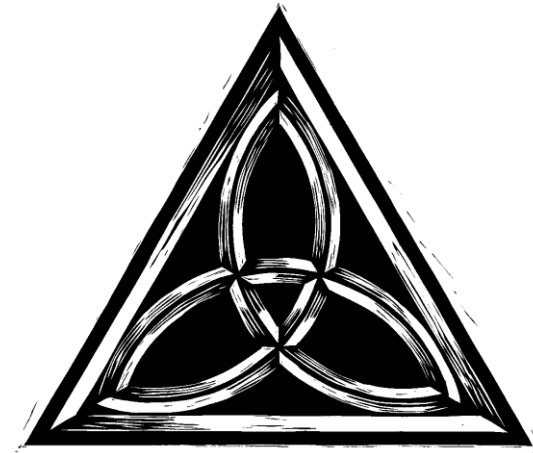
Children and Volunteers...*Please save the dates July 28-30, 2024, for Vacation Bible School.* All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Please contact the Church Office to complete this process.

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 First Sunday after Pentecost
The Holy Trinity
May 26, 2024

The Holy Communion
and
The Rite of Holy Baptism
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 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

May 27 Brad Baker, Brett Benson
May 29 Dylan Rutenmiller
May 31 Joe Grady, Samantha Hillegass
June 1 Jason Kartheiser

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 26	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
Monday, May 27		<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Wednesday, May 29		<i>No Choir; First Wednesday of Summer Hiatus</i>
Thursday, May 30		<i>No Handbells; Summer Hiatus</i>
Sunday, June 2	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Summertime Parish Choir Warm Up
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship

May 12, 2024, Council Meeting Summary

Property Committee: bell-tower re-roofing to take place in June. **Communication committee** has completed the technical audits that included network software, WIFI system, and equipment needs, etc. This project is an effort to upgrade and improve the delivery of communications to variety of staff and members. Thank you to Holly for the improved efficiency and upgrades for the current communication media. **Human Resource committee** greatly appreciates the volunteers who have been serving as office receptionists. The receptionist job description has been completed, but the need for an employed receptionist is still under evaluation. **HR** also has completed the St. James Personnel Handbook. **Executive Committee** is working with council to define their roles and parameters. **Stewardship Committee:** Introduction of the program "Stewardship for all Seasons" to a volunteer team in May with the beginning steps for the program taking place in June. Pastor Bill took opportunity to meet with "Legacy for Giving" Coordinator to go through that process. It was time well spent and good information. Crop Walk announced for October. **Finances** are trending upward.

Free Cabarrus County Pre-K

See if your family qualifies for a preschool program.

Visit www.cabarruspartnership.org or call 704-933-8278 for information.

THE DISMISSAL

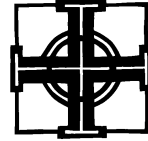
P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary

The Rejoicing

George F. Handel



Baptisms

This morning, we give thanks for God's initiative to join Matthew Bradley Hoekstra Jr., Winthrop Ward Hoekstra, Catherine Collier Hoekstra and Georgia Gaynell Hoekstra to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as God adopts them as his children through the waters of baptism. Their parents are Matt and Judy Hoekstra.

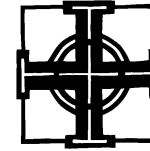
Youth Meeting II

Middle and High School youth are invited to join Mike Holt and Pastor Bill immediately after worship on June 9th in the fellowship hall. This is a time for you to help us, help you. Is youth group a priority for you? What activates would excite you? If you (or your parents) are interested in confirmation in the fall, please join us.

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THE HOLY COMMUNION and THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Gathering



Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome

Opening Voluntary

The Peace

George F. Handel

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: *Come, Thou Almighty King* Italian Hymn

Please see hymn #522 in the green LBW hymnal for the harmony.



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword;
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
in this glad hour! Thou, who al - might - y art, now rule in
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
ev - 'ry heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

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.**

Sending



THE BENEDICTION

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

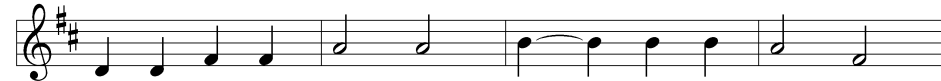
C **Amen**

THE SENDING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

Nicaea

Please see hymn #165 in the green LBW hymnal for the harmony.



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

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.

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**

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.



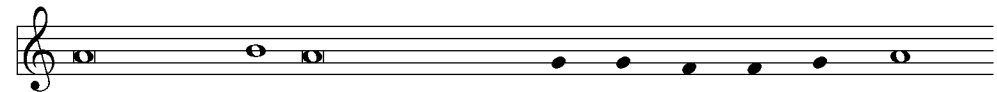
☪ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever.

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.



B 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.

P Holy God, holy and mighty one, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus, who in the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

P With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

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

P Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

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

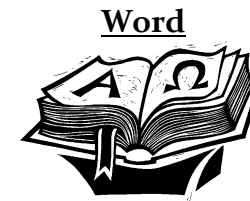
P Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God our Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, renewing and fulfilling creation by your eternal Spirit, and revealing your glory through our Lord, Jesus Christ: Cleanse us from doubt and fear, and enable us to worship you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, living and reigning, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Please sit.



THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.'⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

THE SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

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

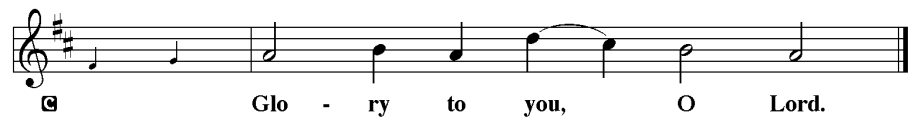
Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.



Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ³He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’

Table



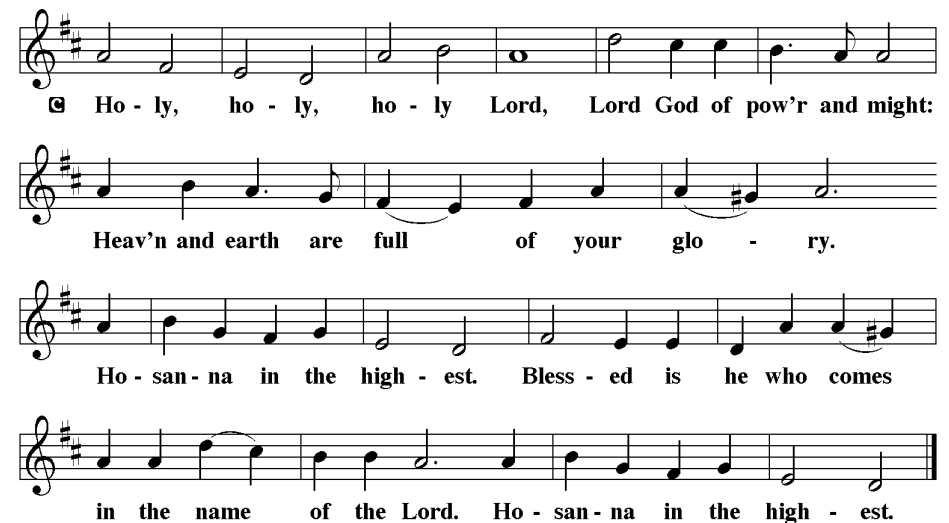
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 everliving God.

You have revealed your glory as the glory also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit: three persons, equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory.

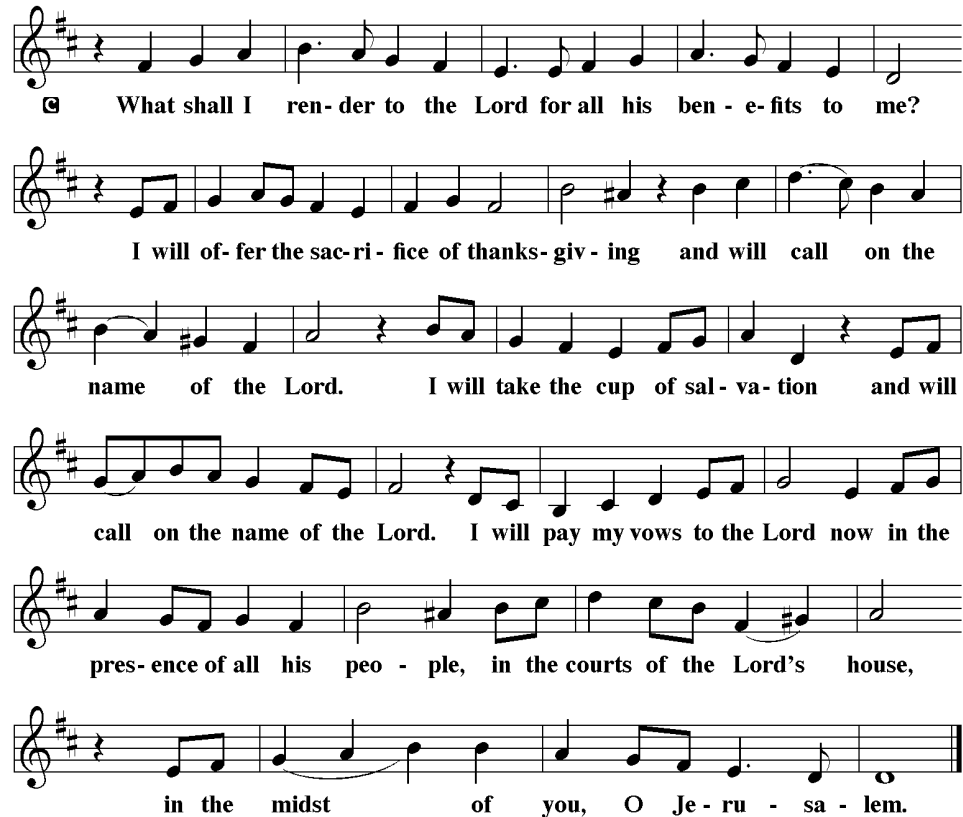
And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THE OFFERING

Please stand.

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**

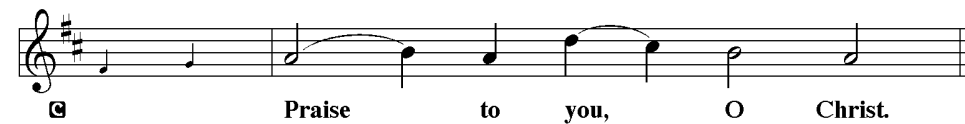
³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *Father, Most Holy* Christe Sanctoum

Please see hymn #169 in the green LBW hymnal for the harmony.



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our
2 Trin - i - ty bless - ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en; good - ness un -
3 Mak - er of all things, all thy crea - tures praise thee; all for thy
4 Lord God Al - might - y, un - to thee be glo - ry, one in three



Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,
bound - ed, ver - y God of heav - en, light of the an - gels,
wor - ship were and are cre - at - ed; now, as we al - so
per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,



ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, light nev - er wan - ing.
joy of those for - sak - en, hope of all liv - ing.
wor - ship thee de - vout - ly, hear thou our voic - es.
praise thee and a - dore thee, now and for - ev - er.

Water



This morning, we give thanks for God's initiative to join Matthew Bradley Hoekstra Jr., Winthrop Ward Hoekstra, Catherine Collier Hoekstra and Georgia Gaynell Hoekstra to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as God adopts them as his children through the waters of baptism. Their parents are Matt and Judy Hoekstra.

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

R Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of these children. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Please stand.

P Through Baptism God has made these brothers and sisters a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

**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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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 minister baptizes the candidate.

P _____ is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please stand.

The Prayer for the Holy Spirit (Confirmation).

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon _____: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C **Amen**

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized.

P _____, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C **Amen**

A lighted candle may be given to the baptized

P In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a sinful humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

A sponsor presents the candidates.

P Whom do you present to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism?

S I/We present ...

The minister addresses the sponsors and parents.

P In Christian love you have presented these children for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring them to the services of God's house, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As they grow in years, you should place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R I do.

Please stand.

The prayers are said.

A Let us pray for all who are about to be baptized and for all the baptized everywhere:

A That Hoke, Ward, Coco and Nell may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That your Spirit may continually remind us of our own baptisms and help us to breath together in service to our neighbors. 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

The minister begins the thanksgiving.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that they who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of they who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R I do.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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.**