

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Christine Ruff
Communion Assistant: Kim Haberman
Ushers: Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin,
Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard
Greeter: Jean Beasley
Building Supervisor: Wendell Overby

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; Caroline Bost; Patrick Bryn (son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Jennifer Cook (friend of Fonda Shumate); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tom Grady; Harriett Huss Hodge; Maureen Hollmeyer; Mary Frances Johnson (cousin of Francie Davis); Karen Johnston (friend of Judy Benz); Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); John Ledford (brother of Deb Black); Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Becky Phillips; Al Pieschel; Lori Pittard; Tom Ridenhour.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God by Ashley Cline in honor of St. James' continued service as stewards for our church and community.

REGISTER TO RING!

St. James is partnering again with the Salvation Army to ring bells on December 4 and 11. One-hour time slots are available at: sjnc.net/special-event-sign-ups.

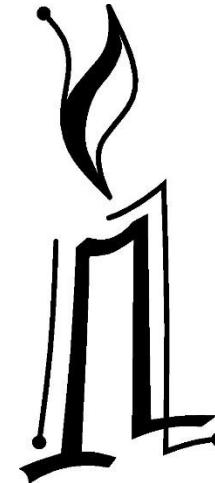
To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



Open Camera – Scan QR Code
Thank you for supporting St. James!

The First Sunday in Advent
November 30, 2025

The Holy Communion
10:00am



St. James Lutheran Church
104 Union Street South
PO Box 684
Concord, North Carolina 28026
704-786-0166
www.sjnc.net
Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Pastor

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 to 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.

Let us know you visited!



Scan to connect!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Nov. 30 – Patrick Matthews
- Dec. 2 – Betsy Ballard, Al Brown, Jr., Jaxon Yow
- Dec. 3 – Christine Ruff
- Dec. 4 – Lauren Hoadley, Margaret Prutte
- Dec. 6 – Marshall Cromer

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

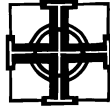
Sunday, Nov. 30	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Advent Family Celebration
Monday, Dec. 1	10:30am	Quilting
	6:30pm	Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Dec. 2	11:30am	Mary Magdalene Lunch
	6:00pm	Executive Committee
Thursday, Dec. 4	Salvation Army Bell Ringing Day	
	6:30pm	Choir
Sunday, Dec. 7	Poinsettia Order Deadline 🌸	
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

COCOA, COFFEE, & COOKIES WITH ST. JAMES CHILDREN - DEC. 21

Join us after worship December 21 for cocoa, coffee and cookies in the Fellowship Hall as the children of St. James tell us the Christmas story.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Carols by Candlelight	Dec. 13 – 7PM
Cocoa, Coffee, & Cookies	Dec. 21 – 11AM (after worship)
Christmas Eve Family Service	Dec. 24 – 5:30PM
Candlelight Service	Dec. 24 – 10:00PM (9:30PM Prelude)



St James Lutheran Church:
Growing in Christ through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service.

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Welcome

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Karg-Elert

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,
C **we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P Our indifference toward your coming,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our desire to control time and seasons,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our failure to be alert to signs of your presence in our midst,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our injustices toward people you came to save,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #22 The Advent of our God

1 The ad - vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son in - car - nate stoops to be,
3 Come, Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly king,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain,

come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre - pare.
him - self the ser - vant's form puts on to set his peo - ple free.
nor let your faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
and all his scat - tered saints u - nite with him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
let sin be put to flight;
no longer let the law hold sway,
but walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
through all eternity.

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

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

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. C A - men

PRAYER AT THE ADVENT WREATH

P Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he

comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen.

The Advent Wreath is lit.

The congregation sings, "Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel."

The number of verses sung equals the numbered Sunday in Advent.

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em-man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa-tan's
4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re - joice!
and death's dark shad-ows put to flight.
Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

P Let us Pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Judgement Pronounced on Arrogance

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

9 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; 13 let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Please stand.
THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

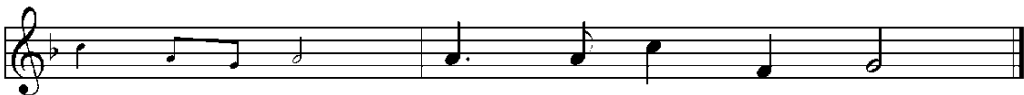
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be

left. 42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.




Praise to you, O Christ.


Please sit.
THE SERMON Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.
THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #25 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers


When not printed, hymn harmonies may be found in the green LBW hymnal.



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!



The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

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 parent/sponsor presents the candidate:

R I present Brayden Andrew Thayer to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The minister addresses the sponsors and parents.

P In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life 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 he who is about to be baptized, and for all the baptized everywhere:

That Brayden may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the Holy Spirit may open his heart to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That he may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That he may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That he may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy, **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. **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 he who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of he who is cleansed by this water and bring him forth as an inheritor 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.
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 each candidate.

P Brayden Andrew Thayer is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please Sit.

*The minister lays both hands on the newly baptized
and prays for the Holy Spirit (Confirmation).*

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

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 Brayden Andrew Thayer: 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 Brayden Andrew Thayer, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A lighted candle may be given to each of the baptized:

A 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 this child. 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.

A Through Baptism God has made this new brother 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 fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.**

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps

arr. André Thomas

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary,
Til your work is done.
Christian, journey soon be over,
The time is drawing nigh.*

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE DOXOLOGY

*Throughout the Season in Advent,
the Doxology is sung to the familiar carol tune, The First Noel.*

D Bm A A⁷ D/F# G D A⁷ D A⁷

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all

7 D G A⁷ D A⁷ D A⁷ Bm A A⁷

crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye

12 D/F# G D A⁷ D A⁷ D G A⁷ D A⁷ D

heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

18 A⁷ D Bm F#m D G A⁷ D A

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A⁷/E D/F# D/A A⁷ D

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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 COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

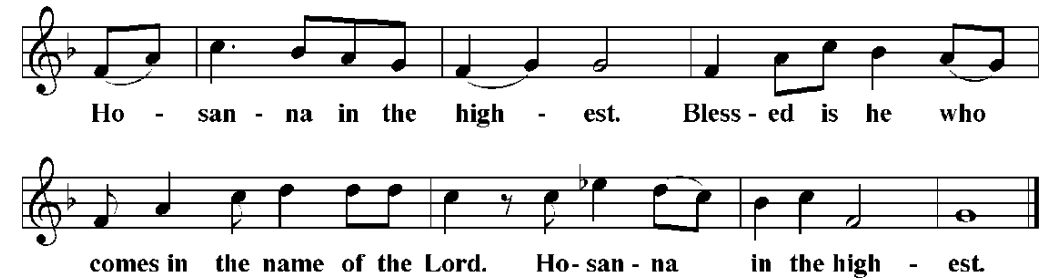
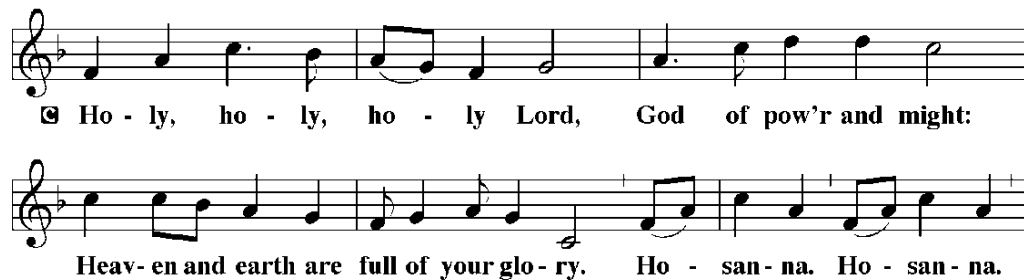
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness.

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



P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is my blood poured out for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we lift this bread and cup before you,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:
Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church both now and forever.

C **Amen**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.**

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G-clef, treble clef, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating where a note spans two words. The lyrics are: "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." The final note of the fourth staff is a whole note, and the piece ends with a double bar line.

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. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you wish for the pastor to bring communion to you. 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

A Let us pray,
A O God, in this meal we have been given a foretaste of the feast that is to come.
 Help us always to be alert to your gifts in our midst; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

Silence for reflection.



THE BENEDICTION

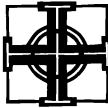
P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: Savior of the Nations Come (See next page.)

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude Prepare the Way, O Zion Lowry



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1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; show the glo - ry of the Son!
2 Not of hu - man seed or worth, but from God's own mys - tic breath,
3 Won-drous birth! Oh, won-drous child of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
4 God the Fa - ther is his source, back to God he runs his course;



Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; praise the per - fect Son of God.
fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun when God breathed the Word, his Son.
Might-y God and man in one, ea - ger now his race to run!
down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

5 He leaves heaven to return;
trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;
riding out, returning home
as the Savior who has come.

6 God the Father's precious Son
girds himself in flesh to run
for the trophies of our souls,
longer than this round earth rolls.

7 Shining stable in the night,
breathing vict'ry with your light;
darkness cannot hide your flame,
shining bright as Jesus' name.

POINSETTIA GIFTS DUE – Dec. 7 🌸

Help adorn our worship space this Christmas with a 6½" red poinsettia given in honor or memory of loved ones. Each poinsettia is \$25, and donor/honoree names will be included in our Christmas gift list. Order online(tinyurl.com/stjamespoinsettias) or return the order form. **Deadline: Dec. 7.**

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – DEC. 13

Join us for Carols by Candlelight on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7pm for the story of Christmas told through scripture and song. Featuring full orchestra, organ, and the Parish & Bell Choirs of St. James Lutheran Church.

MY FATHER'S HOUSE MEAL SUPPORT (Dec. 15 & 16)

St. James will provide meals for My Father's House on Monday, Dec. 15, and Tuesday, Dec. 16, and we're seeking volunteers to provide side dishes (ham meal Monday, chicken strip meal Tuesday). If you can help, please contact Martha Matthews at 704-787-2180. Suggested sides include mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, veggies, casseroles, rolls, desserts, and snacks for after-school tutoring (crackers, fruit cups, juice boxes).