

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Kim Haberman

Communion Assistant: Elizabeth Hurley

Ushers: Al Brown, Jr., Bill Hardister

Ushers Needed! - Contact Gretchen Walker if you can assist (gwalk64@ctc.net)

Videographer: Jason Pittard

Building Supervisors: Kim Haberman, Hunter Huss

PRAYER LIST

Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; Patrick Bryn (son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Jay Clemmer; Noah Clifton; Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Phyllis Freeman (Mother of Fonda Shumate); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Jeff Gilbert; Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); Maureen Hollmeyer; Hunter Huss; Mary Frances Johnson (cousin of Francie Davis); Karen Johnston (friend of Judy Benz); Mary Anne Lanahan (Aunt of Francie Davis); Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); John Ledford (brother of Deb Black); Leonard "Buddy" McEachern; Jason Matthews; Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Mason Overby; Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Becky Phillips; Al Pieschel; Corinne Robbins; Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend); John Walker.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God in honor of the youth that helped with the Salvation Army food distribution this summer and the VBS volunteers.

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



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

**The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 2026**

**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

Aug. 2 – Maureen Hollmeyer, Callie MacFarlane
Aug. 6 – Ellen Mitchner
Aug. 7 – Teresa Klauss
Aug. 8 – Sylvia Corl

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 2	9:00am	Choir
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, August 3	10:30am	Quilting
Thursday, August 6	6:30pm	Choir
Sunday, August 9	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Blessing of the Backpacks Luncheon
	2:00pm	Carols by Candlelight Choir Interest Preview

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT CHOIR INTEREST PREVIEW

Have interest in singing for *Carols by Candlelight*? The St. James Parish Choir invites anyone interested in participating in this year's performance to attend a special preview on **Sunday, August 9, at 2:00 p.m.**

If you are interested in participating, please complete the interest form and join us for the preview.

Scan to complete interest form:

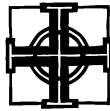


BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Join us during worship on **Sunday, August 9** for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks as we pray for students, teachers, and school staff as they begin a new school year. After worship, stay for a congregational lunch. All are welcome!

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON

Save the date and join us for a special Stewardship Luncheon after worship on **Sunday, August 23**. Enjoy a catered lunch and fellowship as we discuss the mission of St. James.



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Please silence your phones. Thank you.

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

Welcome

Prelude

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR 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,

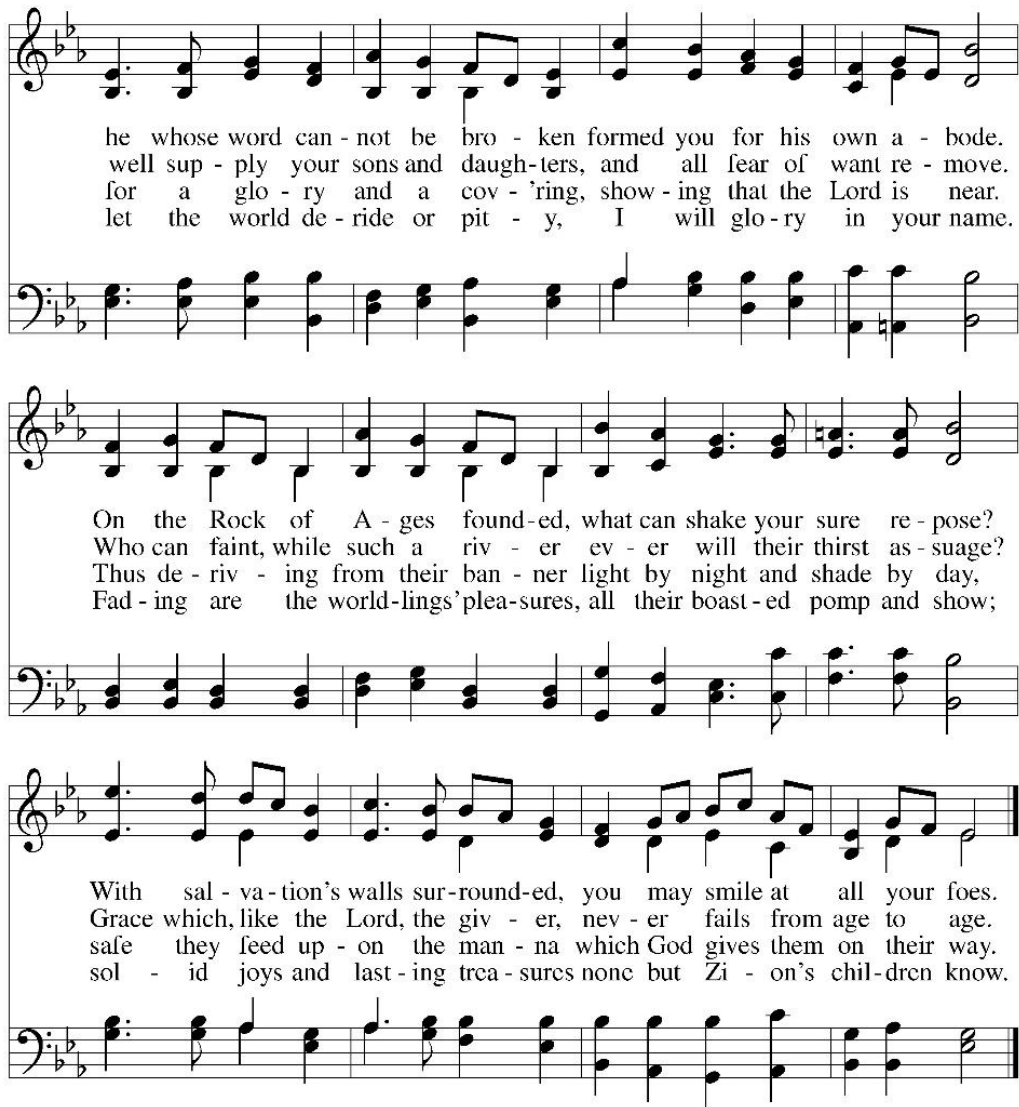
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #358 Glories of Your Name are Spoken

1 Glo - ries of your name are spo-ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring-ing from e - ter - nal love,
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov'-ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a mem-ber am,



he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed you for his own a - bode.
well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.
for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, show - ing that the Lord is near.
let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in your name.

On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake your sure re - pose?
Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage?
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
Fad - ing are the world - lings' plea - sures, all their boast - ed pomp and show;

With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, you may smile at all your foes.
Grace which, like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them on their way.
sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sures none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Gracious Father, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world. Give us this bread, that he may live in us and we in him, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

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

Songs Sung by Vacation Bible School

THE SECOND READING: Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— ²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

- AThe Word of the Lord.
- CThanks 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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

- PThe Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 14th chapter.
- CGlory to you, O Lord

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.’ ¹⁶Jesus said to them, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ ¹⁷They replied, ‘We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.’ ¹⁸And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and

they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

- PThe Gospel of the Lord.
- C**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #197 O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
2 My Lord, you here have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve with ho - ly fear.

Oh, won-drous food of bless-ing, oh, cup that heals our woes!
 for you have free-ly giv-en what earth could nev-er buy,
 My Lord, I do not mer-it the fa-vor you have shown,
 And when you call my spir-it to leave this world be-low,

My heart, this gift pos-sess-ing, with prais-es o-ver-flows!
 the bread of life from heav-en, that now I shall not die.
 and all my soul and spir-it bow down be-fore your throne.
 I en-ter, through your mer-it, where joys un-min-gled flow.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

A Let us lift our hearts, hands, and voices in prayer to God on behalf of all people.

Heavenly Father, thank you for daily bread that nourishes soul and body.
 Thank you for the Bread of Life, Jesus your Son. Give us this bread always. Help
 us share with those who are famished. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Feed your Church with the Bread of Heaven. Refresh it with living water. Heal
 it with the wine of forgiveness. Nourish it with the milk of your kindness. Then,
 send the Church into the world. May it invite those who do not know you to
 drink from the waters of salvation and feast on the bread of life. Lord, in your
 mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Make the people of this congregation hungry for your truth and thirsty for your
 mercy. Let us feast upon Jesus in Word and Sacrament. And then, make us
 overflow with holy love, so we eagerly share him with those who need it most.
 Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

There are so many hungry people! Bless every food pantry, community garden,
 meal program, and aid organization that feeds the hungry. Lord, in your
 mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Teach the leaders of the nations to incline their ears to you; to rightly lead their
 people; and to seek that good which endures. Give them the desire and the
 means to provide food, jobs, education, and safety for those entrusted to their
 care. And grant to all people those good things which sustain life and hope.
 Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Jesus’ disciples learned his power by obeying his command to feed the people.
 We are his disciples, too. We’re sometimes overwhelmed by the size of the

task, or daunted by our puny resources. Give us the obedient hearts of the first disciples. Help to follow Jesus by little steps. Remind us that Jesus will take, break, and bless our small gifts, and use them to feed a world starved for him. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Grant refreshment, strength, and healing to everyone who suffers. Give compassion and competence to all who care for them. Hasten the day when they may joyfully say, “You remembered us in our low estate, for your mercy endures forever; and delivered us from our enemies, for your mercy endures forever.” Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Heavenly Father, keep in your care all who have died trusting in your promises. Turn our sorrow into joy, and our tears to laughter. Have compassion on us. Nourish, sustain, guide, and protect us. Teach us to care for each other. Gather us around your Son. Let him lead us, and all your people, to the banquet you have prepared. 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.
C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

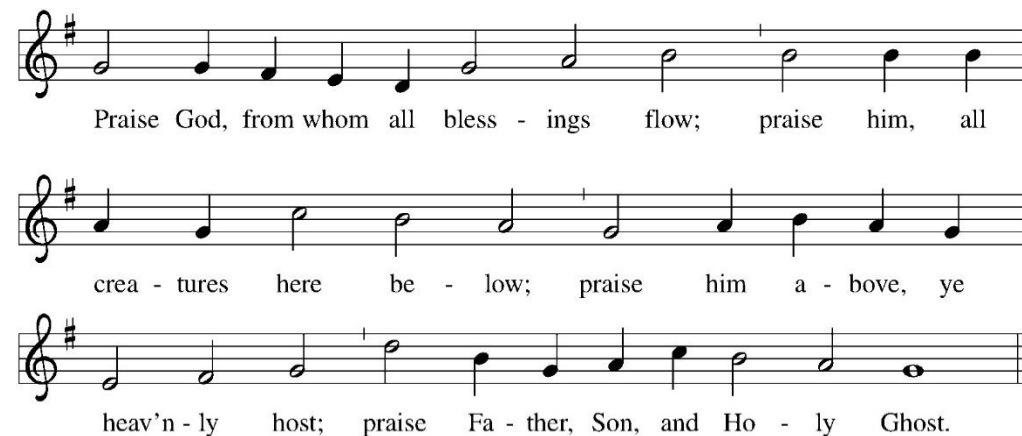
Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY #564 “The Doxology”



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

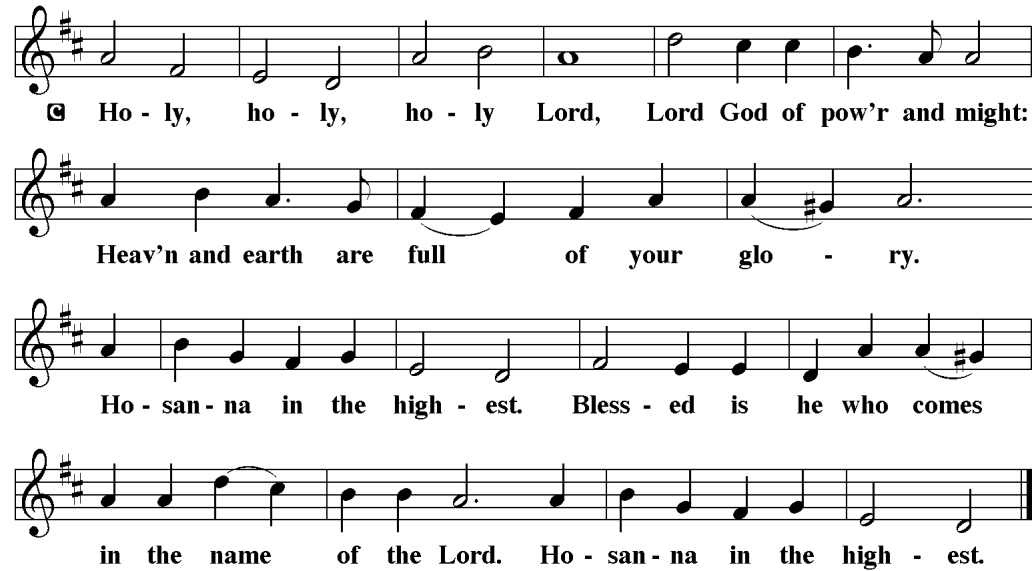
A Let us pray.
A Blessed are you,
C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



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, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;
you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will
and accomplished our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving Passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,
we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought, but as we are able;
and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving,
and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine;
that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son
may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body,
and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, now and forever.

C Amen

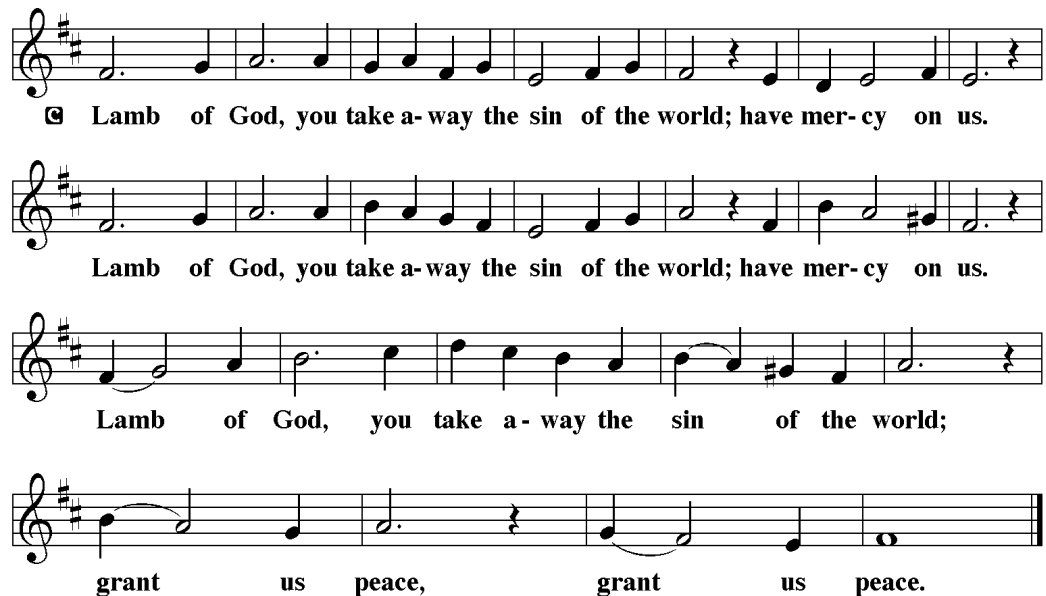
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**



C 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. 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

- P Let us pray,
- A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord
- C Amen**

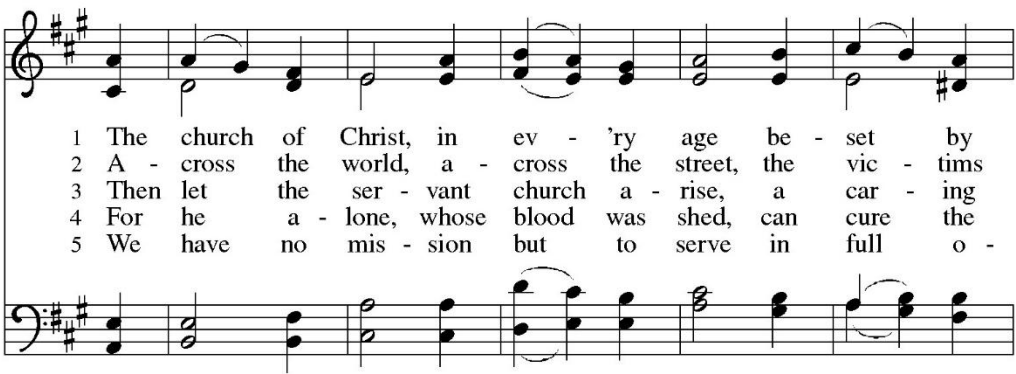
Silence for reflection.



THE BENEDICTION

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

THE SENDING HYMN: #433 The Church of Christ, In Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by

2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims

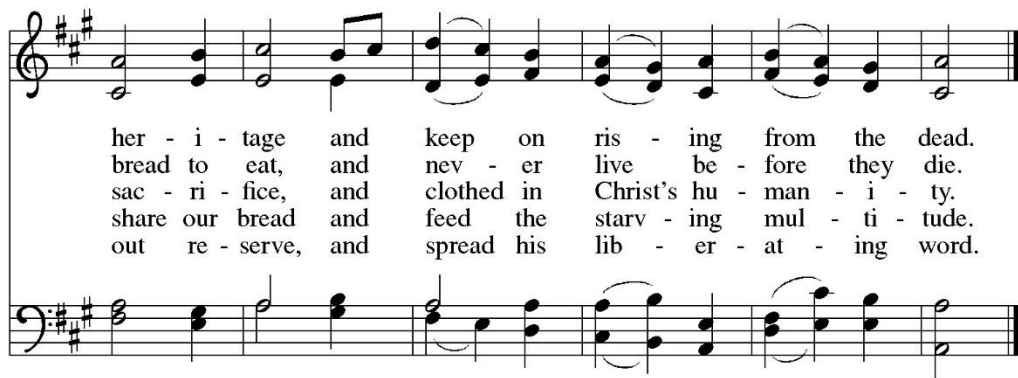
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing

4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the

5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL – BEGINS AUG. 9

Join us as Sunday School returns on Sunday, August 9, at 9:30 a.m.! We have classes for children of all ages, and we're excited to introduce a new class for middle and high school students called "Youtherans," led by Christine Lovelace and Judy Hoekstra.

On the first day, all children and youth will gather briefly in the Flex Room before heading to their individual classrooms.

Class Groups:

- Little Lambs: Infants–4 years
- Kingdom Kids: Kindergarten–2nd Grade
- Faith Followers: 3rd–5th Grade
- Youtherans: Middle & High School

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Help us prepare for *God's Work. Our Hands.* by donating supplies for Lutheran World Relief Kits that will support people in need around the world.

Social Ministry Committee is collecting supplies for:

- School Kits
- Personal Care Kits
- Baby Care Kits
- Fabric Kits

The Christian Education Committee is partnering with Social Ministry by focusing its annual collection on School Kit supplies in place of their traditional pencil drive.

Collection Dates: August 2 – September 6

Assembly Day: Sunday, September 13, following worship

Donations:

Please place school kit items in the "SCHOOL SUPPLIES" collection box located at the Portico Entrance.

Watch for additional collection boxes for Personal Care, Baby Care, and Fabric Kit supplies.

Please consider donating supplies, packing kits, or both to help serve our neighbors around the world.

Scan for supply list:

