ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Christine Ruff
Communion Assistant: Margaret Garrison
Ushers: Brad Baker, Chip Harward, Taylor Pruette, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller
Videographer: Kim Haberman
Building Supervisor: Tommy Propst

PRAYER LIST

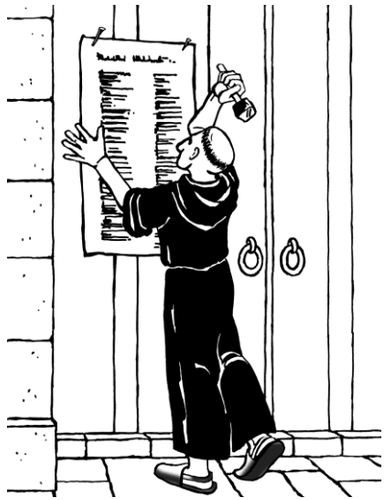
Chip Allman (friend of the Marlow family); Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Patsy Black; Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Jay Clemmer; Noah Clifton; Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Phyllis Freeman (mother of Fonda Shumate); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlows); Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); Linda Hartsell; 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); Ron Lee (neighbor of Kathryn Radcliffe); Leonard "Buddy" McEachern; Jimmy Clark Marlow, Jr. (son of Lois Marlow); Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Ruthie O'Brien (friend of the Marlow Family); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Mason Overby; Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Al Pieschel; Elizabeth Whittecar Roloff (niece of Margaret Garrison); Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Robert Shinn; Doris Smith; Glenda Steel (friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Bobbi Talbert (friend of Dale & Barbara Merrell); Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend); John Walker; Mr. & Mrs. Jim Weisel.

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving

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

The Festival of the Reformation
October 25, 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

Oct. 27 – Michael Folino, Joan McEachern
Oct. 28 – Cliff Caffery, Linda Hartsell, Riley Moran, Taylor Pruette
Oct. 30 – Adam Hartman, Jackson Propst

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Oct. 25	9:00am	Choir
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	3:00pm	**Trunk or Treat!** 🎃
Monday, Oct. 26	10:30am	Quilting
Thursday, Oct. 29	6:30pm	Choir
	7:30pm	Carols by Candlelight Rehearsals
Sunday, Nov. 1	*Salvation Army Meal Week*	
	9:00am	Choir
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

SALVATION ARMY MEAL WEEK UPDATE

St. James is providing meals for the Salvation Army **November 1–7**, and we still have a couple of nights available.

Can't commit to a full night? - Join Martha Matthews in providing dinner on Wednesday, November 4, at 6:30 p.m. for approximately 50 adults. Martha is providing chicken tenders and welcomes contributions of side dishes, desserts, and other items to round out the meal.

To contribute, call or text Martha at 704-787-2180.

Meal expenses can be reimbursed through Jill Irvin.
Contact Chip Popovici with questions.
Scan QR code to sign up!

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
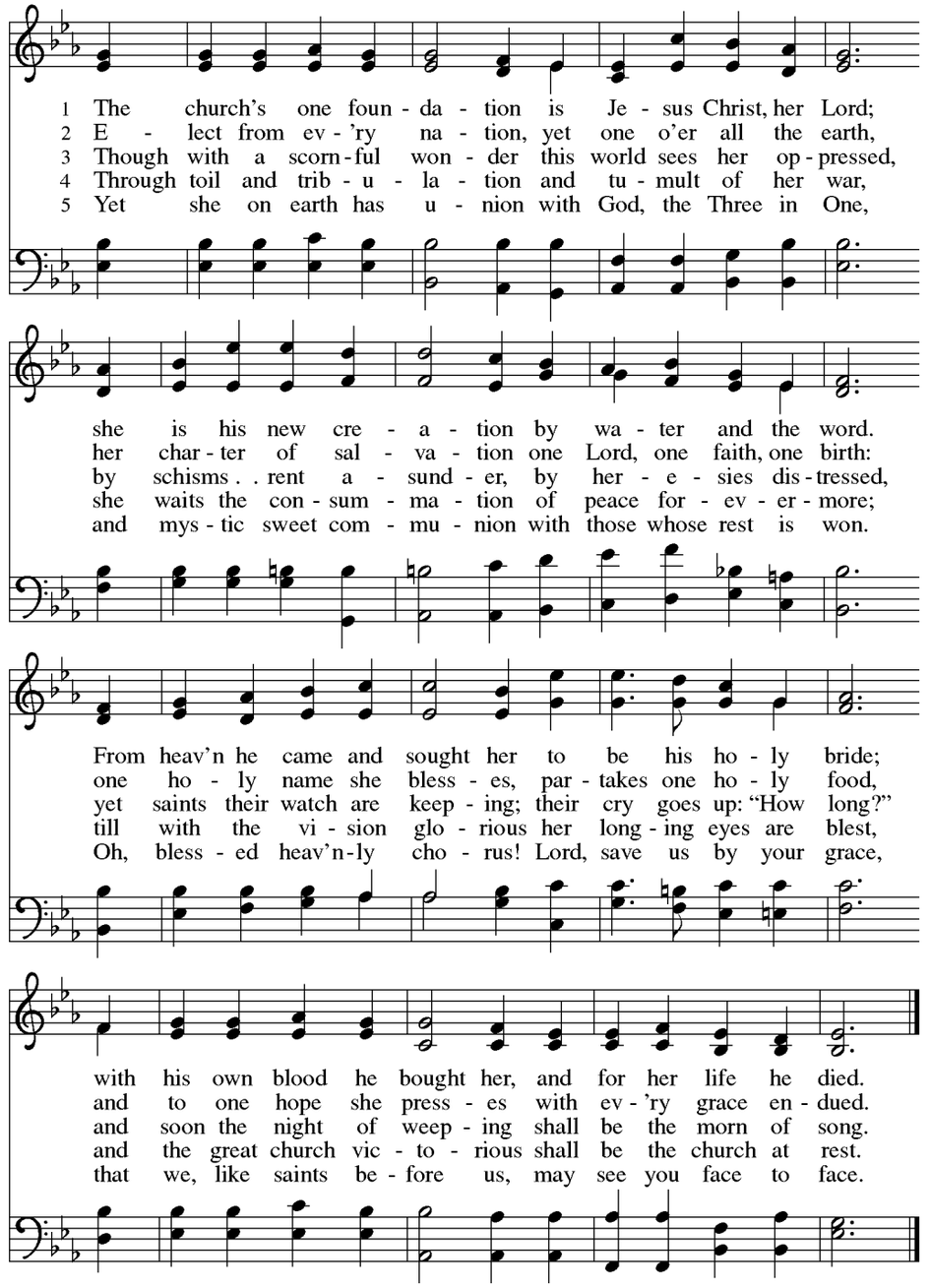
Prelude Pastorale in F Major J. S. Bach

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 ENTRANCE HYMN: #369 The Church's One Foundation
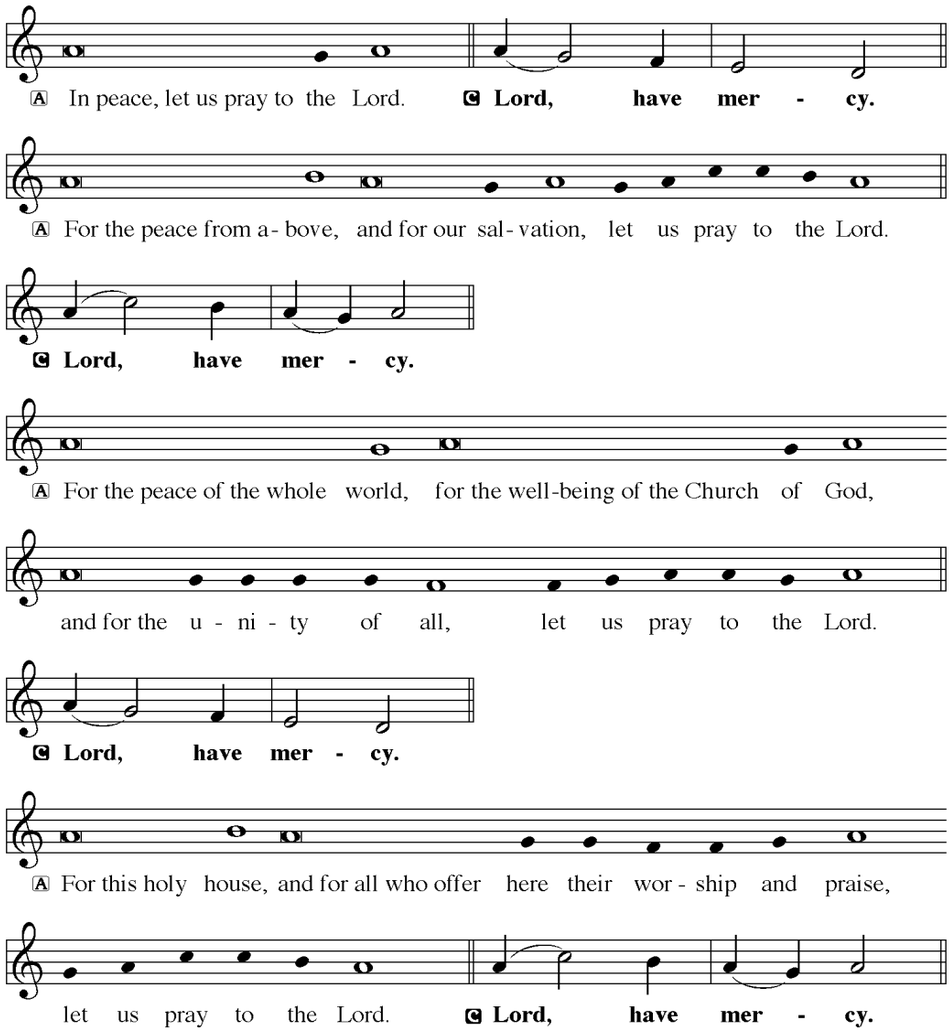


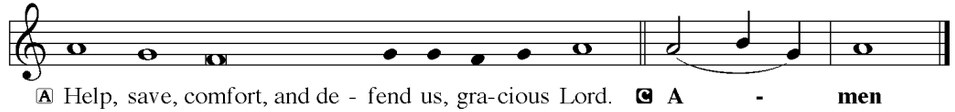
THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
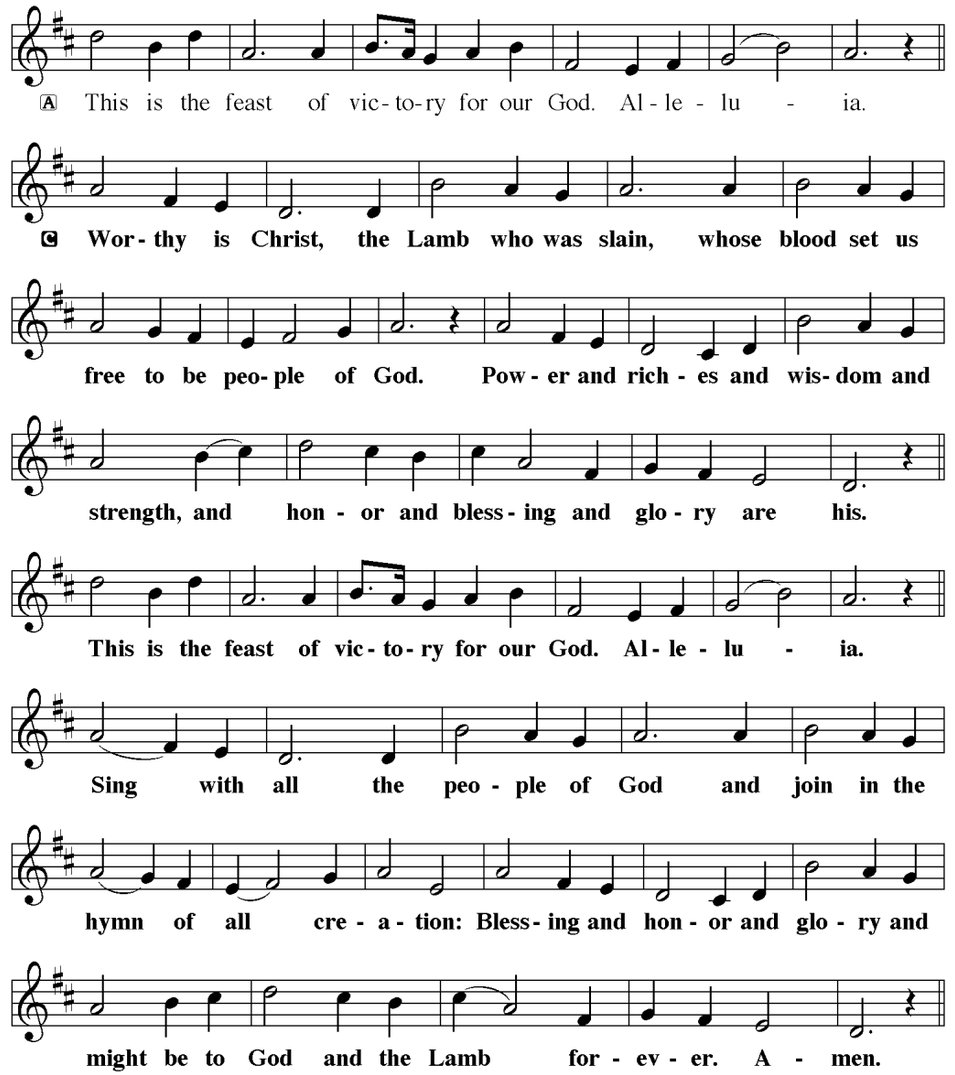
C And also with you.
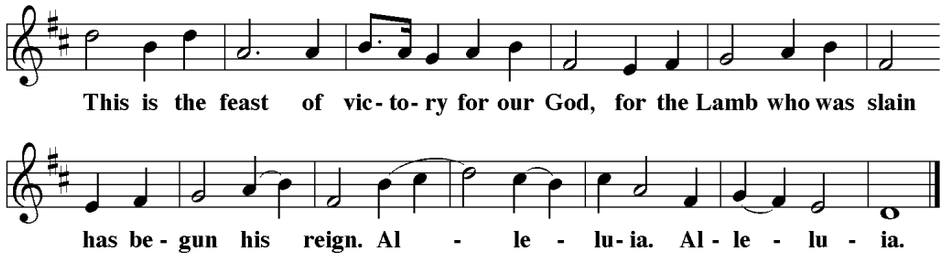
THE KYRIE





THE HYMN OF PRAISE





THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I
made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the
land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says
the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those
days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one
another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the
least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and
remember their sin no more.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under
the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held
accountable to God. 20 For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds
prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is
attested by the law and the prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus
Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall
short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the
redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of
atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness,
because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously
committed; 26 it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that
he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.
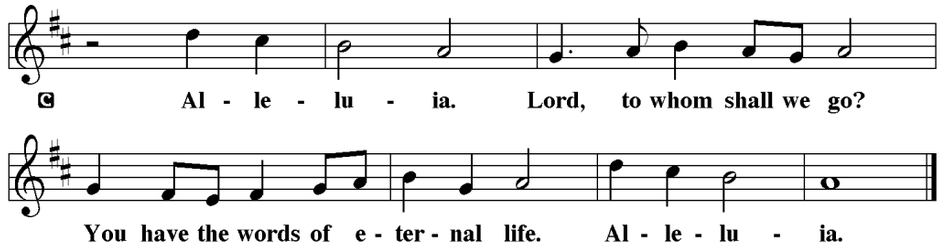
27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of
works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith
apart from works prescribed by the law.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

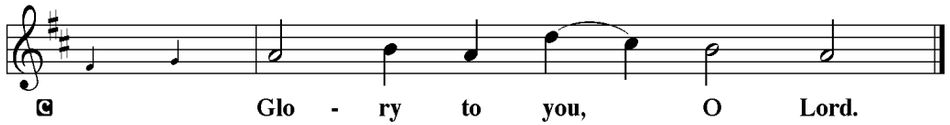
Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE GOSPEL
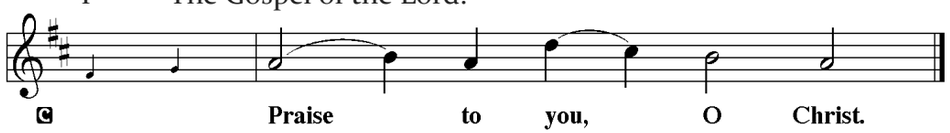
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.



Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' 33They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?'

34Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. 36So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
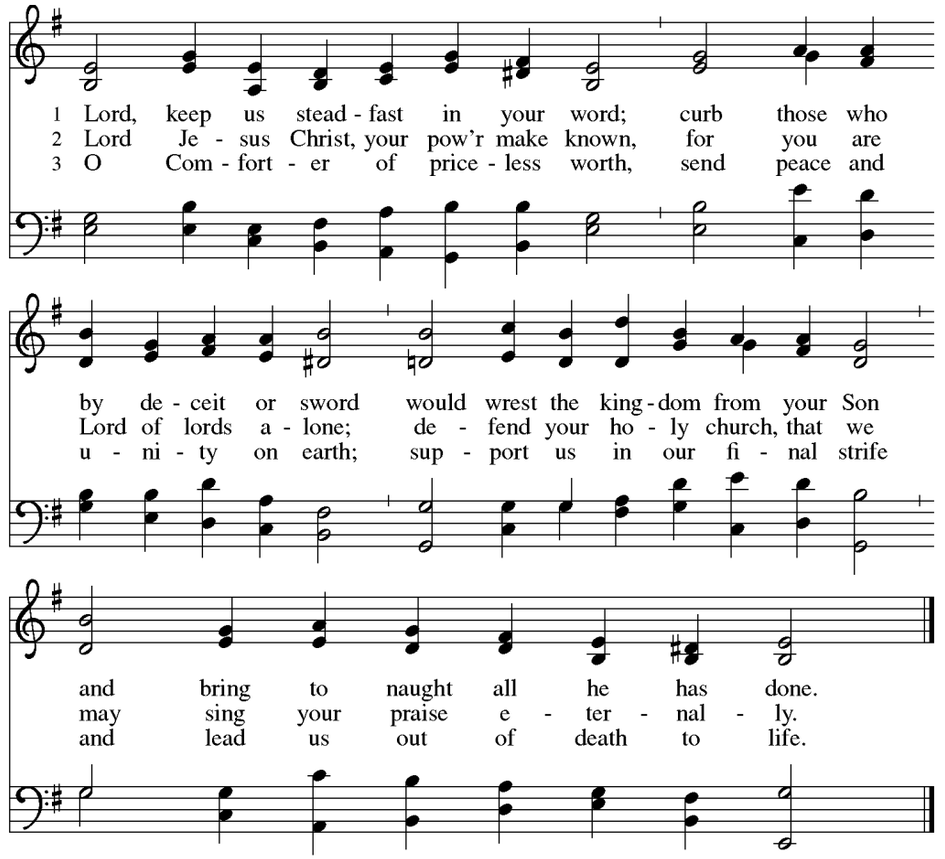


Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #230 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

P Dear friends, we rejoice to receive you, members of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, into our fellowship in the Gospel.

P Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people,

you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, 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.

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

C **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 PRAYERS are said and the congregation <u>remains standing</u>.

A Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, for all the baptized everywhere, for the church and the world:

A For Diane, John and Brent: that they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death. That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth. That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church. That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love. That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you in your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 Sit.

The minister addresses those making affirmation.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear his Word and share in his supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P Let us pray.

P Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made Diane, John and Brent your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: 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; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen

Please stand.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please sit.

THE OFFERING

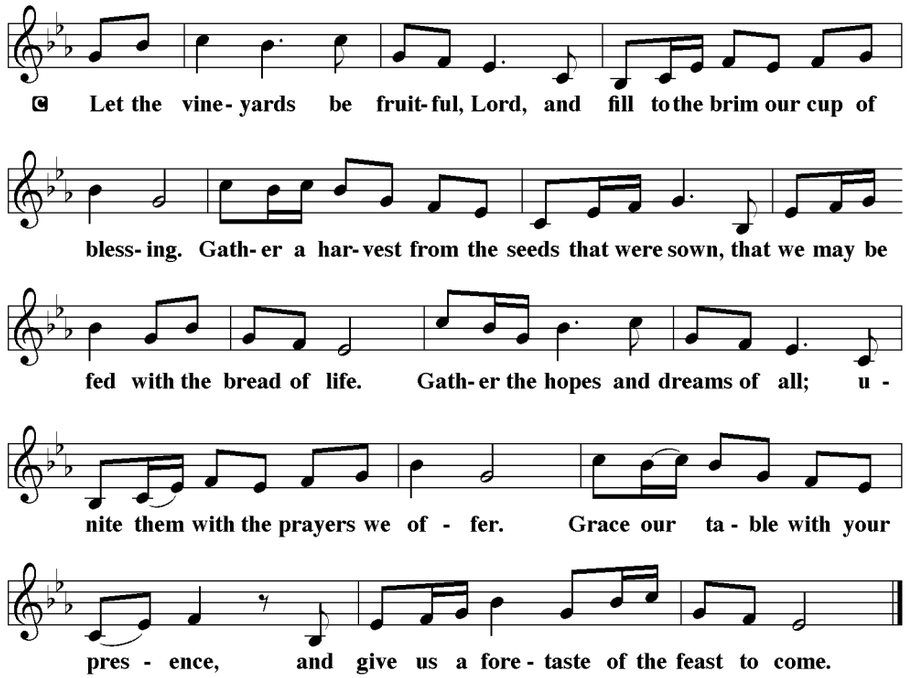
THE ANTHEM — Dem wir das Heilig itzt (from *Cantata no. 129*) — J. S. Bach

Dem wir das Heilig itzt	To whom we now
Mit Freuden lassen klingen	let "holy" ring forth with joy,
Und mit der Engel Schar	and with the throng of angels
Das Heilig, Heilig singen,	sing "holy, holy,"
Den herzlich lobt und preist	who is heartily honored and praised

Die ganze Christenheit: by all of Christianity:
Gelobet sei mein Gott praised be my God
In alle Ewigkeit! in all eternity!

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



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.**

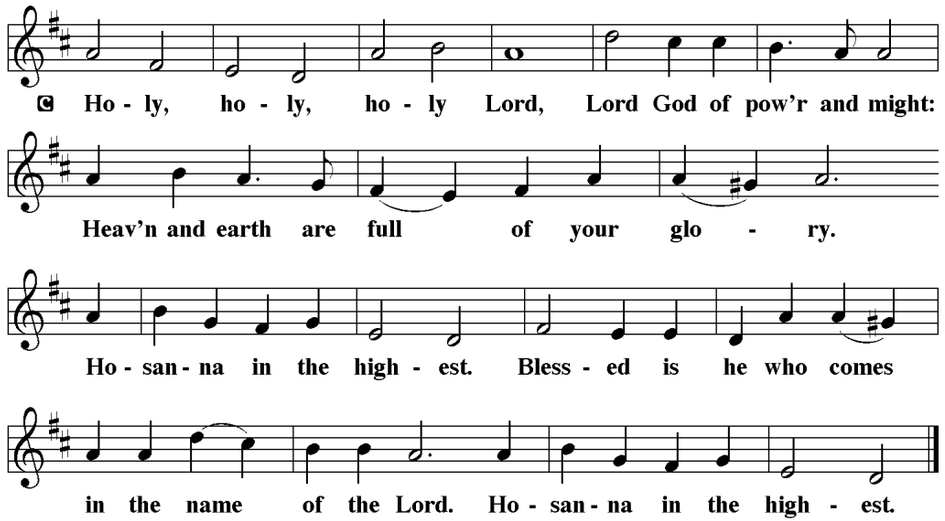
P Lift up your hearts.

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 Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.
You rescued Israel, your chosen people.
Through the prophets you renewed your promise;
and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,
who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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

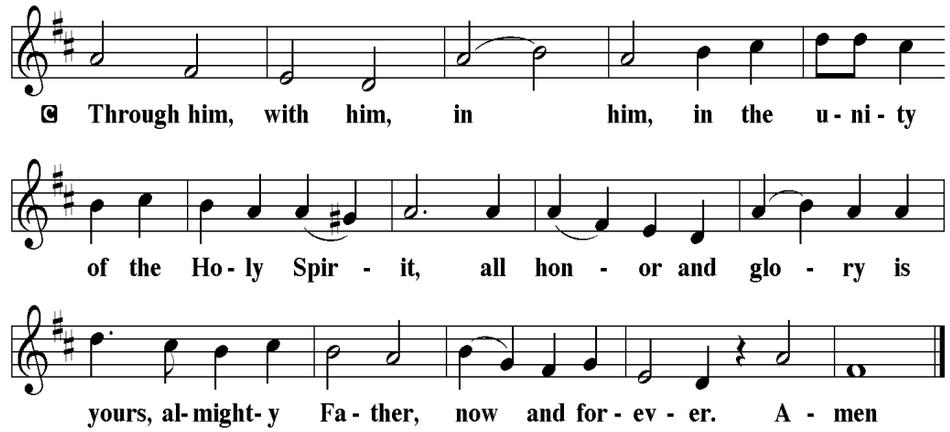
P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

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

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
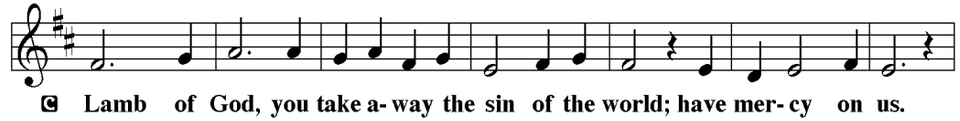
C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**
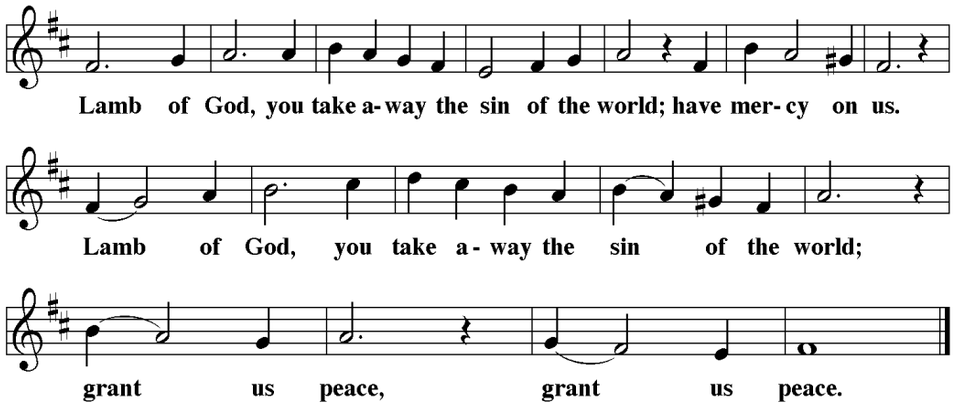
P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



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.





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.

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

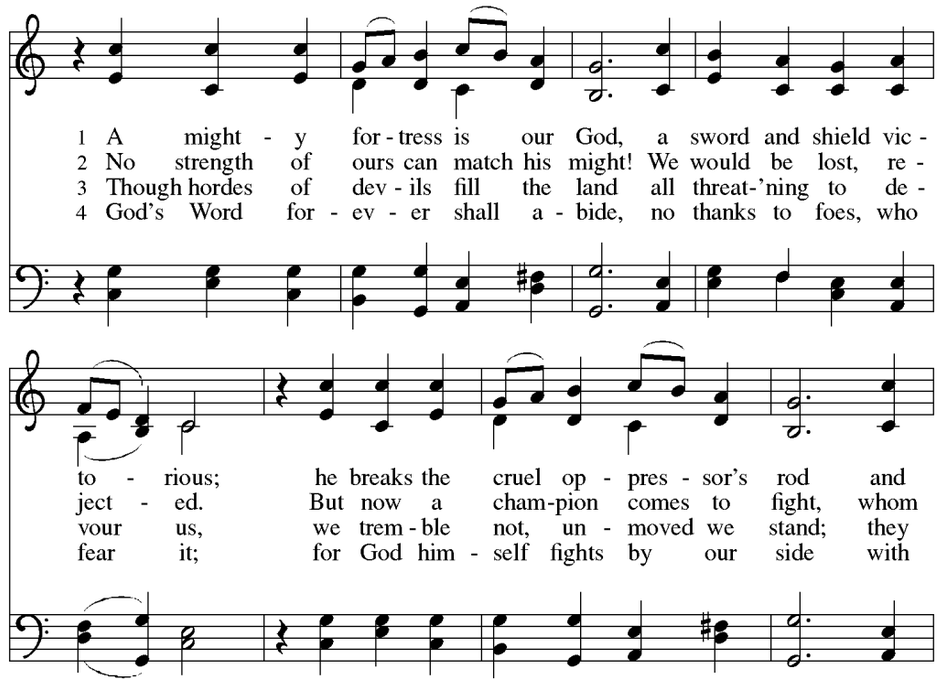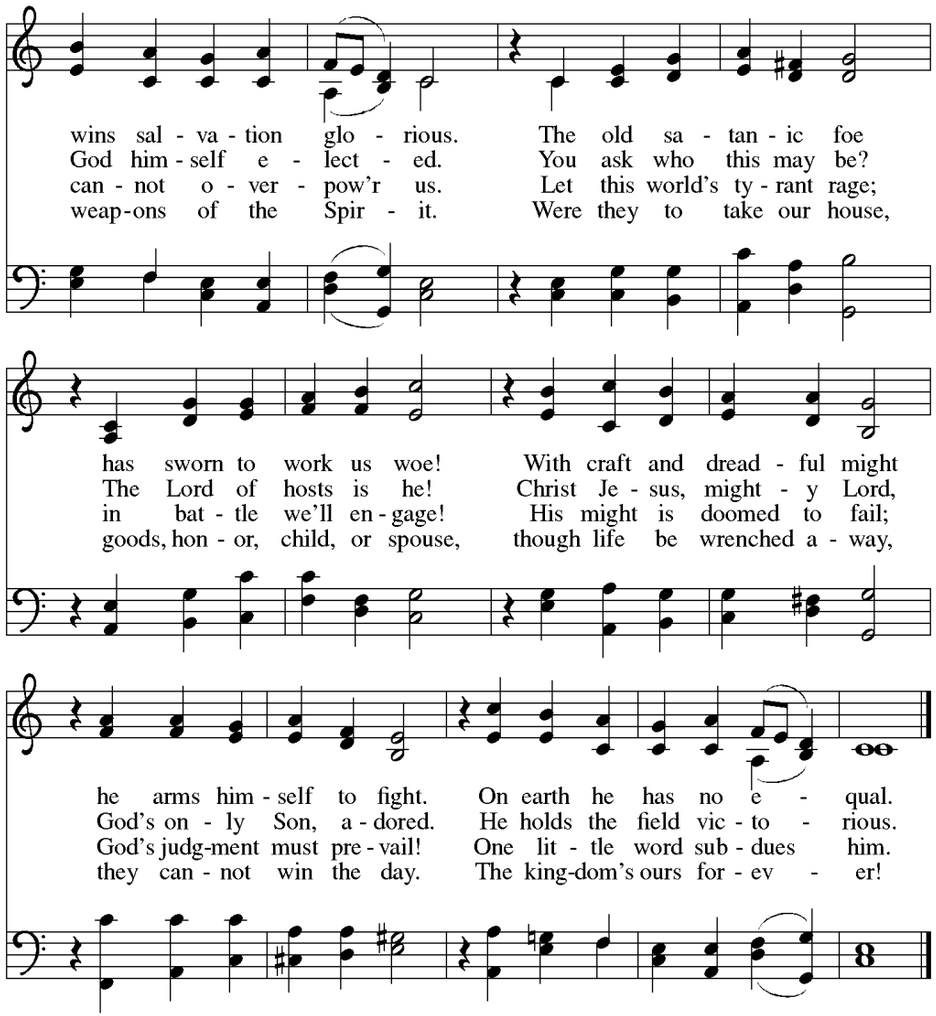


THE BENEDICTION

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

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: #229 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God





THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE March Hoffman

The Festival of the Reformation

The Festival of the Reformation is to be understood and observed not as a triumphalist celebration as though all error was purged from the church forever in 1517 (Luther nailed his 95 theses, questioning abuses in the sale of indulgences, to the castle church door in Wittenburg on 31 October 1517). Rather it is a day of humble recollection of the revolutionary and cleansing Word of God, which is continually reforming and renewing God's church. It is a day that reminds God's people of the provisional nature of all that is less than God, and of the sovereignty of God alone, who is always free to tear up and destroy in order to build and plant anew. Reform and renewal is not a once-for-all event, nor even an occasional eruption, but rather a continuing condition of the church.

A more irenic (a part of Christian theology concerned with reconciling different denomintions and sects) date for the commemoration of the Reformation is June 25, the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, which makes clearer the Lutheran understanding of itself **not as a separate denomination but as a reforming movement within the Catholic Church of the West**.

-From New Book of Festivals & Commemorations. Philip H. Pfatteicher © Fortress Press. 2008

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, Nov. 22, following worship, we will have a potluck congregational meeting to approve the proposed 2027 budget, hold the Council election, and review a proposed bylaw addition. Please plan to attend.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Save the dates and plan to join us on Friday, December 11, and/or Saturday, December 12, at 7 p.m. for a congregational sing-along tradition featuring full orchestra, choirs, and organ!

BETHLEHEM AT THE FARM – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sunday, December 6 | 3:00–5:00 p.m. | Jones Family Farm (off Old Salisbury Rd.)

Help bring the Christmas story to life with a marketplace, shepherds, Mary and Joseph, live animals, and more! About 50 volunteers are needed to make this St. James tradition possible. There are many roles available, and costumes are provided.