

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Kim Haberman

Communion Assistant: Margaret Garrison

Ushers: Chip Popovici, Jimmy Harris,
Jeff Jones, Jeff Gilbert, Phil Tesh

Videographer:

Greeter: Laura Overby

Building Supervisors: Jeff Gilbert & Chip Popovici

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Catherine Durst (Daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Anne Fridlund; Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Tom Grady; Scott Harrington (friend of Glenda Poole); Phillis Harward (mother-in-law of Kim Harward); Linda Jones (family of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Ruther Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Stan Parnell (friend of Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Geoff & Pam Seige (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis).

St. James prays with Suzanne Wilkins upon the passing of her brother, Richard Simpson on March 20, 2025.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Children and Volunteers... Please save the dates: **July 20 – 22, 2025** for Vacation Bible School. All volunteers will be required to have a current *Safe Gatherings* background check. Please contact holly@sjnc.net to receive instructions on how to complete this process.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Final date: April 9 – 6:30pm

Join us for a meaningful Lenten tradition of gathering on Wednesdays for prayer and study. We will come together at 6:30pm for approximately an hour of reflection. Each evening will include a prayer office and a study of the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday.

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, April 6, 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 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.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

April 6 – David Clary, Mark Murphy

April 9 – Myers Jones

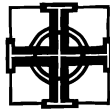
April 11 – Alison Monk

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 6	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, April 7	10:30am	Quilting
	6:30pm	Scouts
Tuesday, April 8	Noon	Lively Leisures
	6:00pm	Congregation Council
Wednesday, April 9	6:30pm	Final Wednesdays in Lent
Thursday, April 10	5:30pm	Handbells
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 11	7:00pm	Youth Friday Night at the Movies
Sunday, April 13	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	4:00pm	Youth Gathering

EASTER EGG HUNT

Join us for the annual St. James Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, **April 19 at 2:00pm!** Save the date and be sure to bring your basket!



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Welcome

Prelude

Toccatà

Eugène Gigout

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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 Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. 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 In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. In his living water God makes us his children and bestows on us his Holy Spirit. Refreshed and renewed we rest in his peace and rise to serve him.

C Amen

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
 storm-y gale my anchor holds within the veil.
 washed away, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness alone, re-deemed to stand before the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

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**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you
C **And also with you.**
P Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; 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: Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

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

ANTHEM

It is Well

Handbell Choir

THE SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not

having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not

sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P The Gospel of the Lord.
 C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.
 THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all!

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

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

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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

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

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel or sit as able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
from the cunning assaults of the devil;
from an unprepared and evil death:

Good Lord, deliver us.

From war, bloodshed, and violence;
from corrupt and unjust government;
from sedition and treason:

Good Lord, deliver us.

From epidemic, drought, and famine,
from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning and storm;
and from everlasting death:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your incarnation; by your holy birth:

Help us, good Lord.

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by your agony and bloody sweat;
by your cross and suffering;

by your precious death and burial:

Help us, good Lord.

By your glorious resurrection and ascension;

by the gift of the Holy Spirit:

Help us, good Lord.

In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

Save us, good Lord.

Though unworthy, we implore you
to hear us, Lord our God.

To rule and govern your holy catholic Church;
to guide all servants of your Church in the true knowledge and
understanding of your Word and in holiness of life;
to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense to those who would believe;
and to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and gone astray:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To beat down Satan under our feet;
to send faithful workers into your harvest;
to accompany your Word with your Spirit and power;
to raise up those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and
to comfort and help the fainthearted and the distressed:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To give to all nations justice and peace;
to preserve our country from discord and strife;
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;
and to bless and guide all our people:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;
to protect and guide all who travel;
to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;
to watch over children and to guide the young;
to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;
to bring reconciliation to families in discord;
to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;
to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;
to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows;
to watch over our loved ones in need;
and to have mercy on all your people:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,

and to reconcile us to them;
to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures
of the earth, the sea, and the air;
and graciously to hear our prayers:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you desire not the death of sinners, but
rather that they should turn from their evil way and live: Graciously turn us
from those punishments which we by our sins have deserved, and grant us
grace evermore to serve you in holiness and pureness of living; through Jesus
Christ 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 ANTHEM

And then shall your light break forth Felix Mendelssohn
(from *Elijah*)
Jacob Lipham, timpani

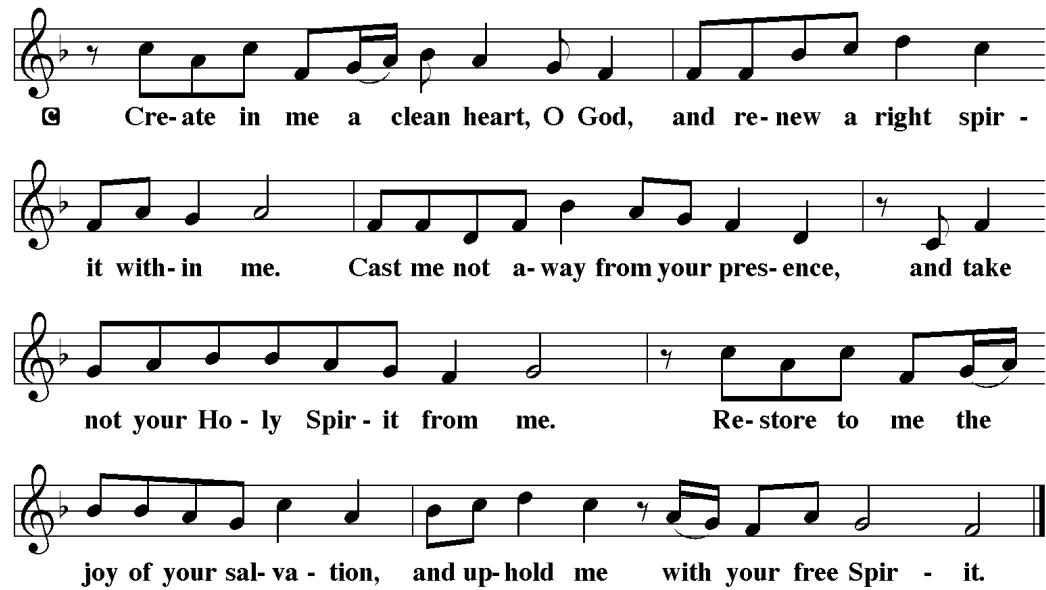
*And then shall your light break forth as the light of morning breaketh:
and your health shall speedily spring forth then:
and the glory of the Lord ever shall reward you.*

*Lord, our Creator, how excellent Thy Name is in all the nations!
Thou fillest heaven with Thy glory. Amen!*

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

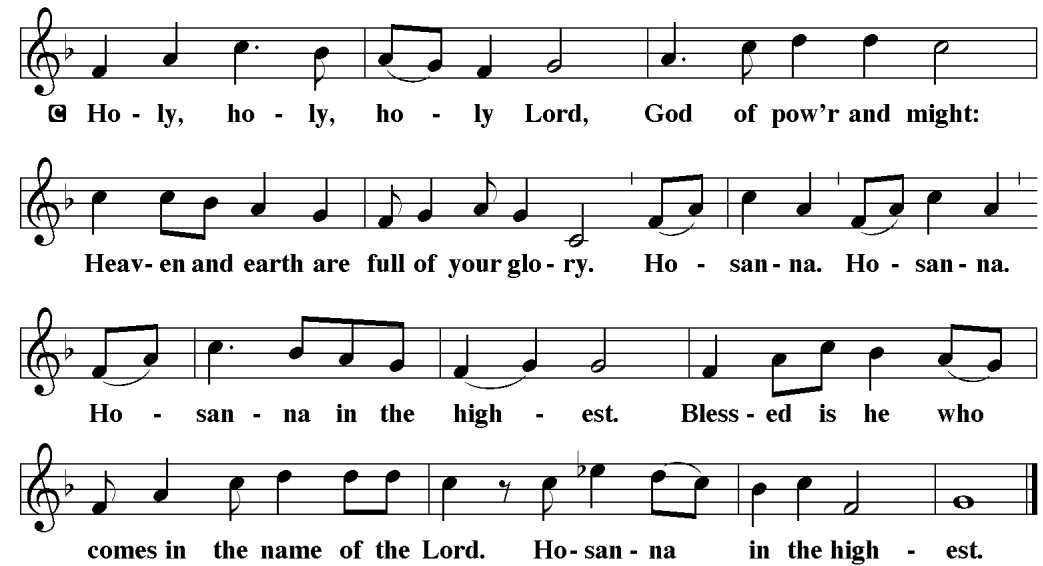
A Merciful Father,
 C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our
 selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
 Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ
 our Lord. Amen.



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, through Christ our Lord.

You bid your people cleanse their hearts
 and prepare with joy for the paschal feast.
 Renew our zeal in faith and life,
 and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.
 And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P You are indeed holy, 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

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.**

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.

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,

A Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his through the same 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: Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me (#336 Green LBW for harmony)



1 Je - sus, thy bound - less love to me no thought can reach, no
2 Oh, grant that noth - ing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure
3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue and daunt - less - ly to
4 In suf - f'ring be thy love my peace, in weak - ness be thy



tongue de - clare; u - nite my thank - ful heart to thee,
love a - lone; oh, may thy love pos - sess me whole,
thee as - pire. Oh, may thy love my hope re - new,
love my pow'r; and when the storms of life shall cease,



and reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, thine a -
my joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my
burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night, be
O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, be thou my rod and



lone, I am; be thou a - lone my con - stant flame.
heart re - move; my ev - 'ry act, word, thought, be love.
all my care to guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.
staff and guide, and draw me safe - ly to thy side!

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Andante ma non troppo

Rousset



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Sunday, April 13th: **Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)**
THE CONGREGATION GATHERS INSIDE IN
THE PEWS, NOT OUTSIDE
Blessing of the Palms
Holy Communion
10am

Thursday, April 17th: **Maundy Thursday**
Holy Communion
Noon – Spoken Liturgy
7pm

Friday, April 18th: **Good Friday**
The Death of our Lord
Noon

Sunday, April 20th: **The Resurrection of our Lord (Easter Sunday)**
Prelude Music with Instrumentalists – 9:45am
Holy Communion – 10am

EASTER LILY GIFTS

Easter Lily Gifts are available for purchase now.

Order deadline: April 13.



FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Attn: Middle and High School Youth!

Join us for a fun movie night at St. James in the Flex Room on

Friday, April 11, from 7:00 – 9:15 p.m.

We'll have pizza, games, and watch the movie (movie TBA).

Bring a friend, kick back, and enjoy the evening!

RSVP to help us plan!



JOHN & ALMA COOK SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Attention Students!

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 2025/2026 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.

**** Earlier deadline this year - MAY 11, 2025 ****