

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Christine Ruff

**Communion Assistant:** Elizabeth Hurley

**Ushers:** Mike Downs, Al Brown, Jr., Sid Hughes

Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss

**Greeter:** Laura Overby

**Videographer:** Ann Blackwelder

**Building Supervisors:** Hunter Huss & Kim Haberman

**PRAYER LIST**

Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); 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); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; Will Irvin; 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); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney); Deb Walker.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of the volunteers who helped with Vacation Bible School by Ashley Cline.

*To assist in your offering*

Secure Online Giving



Open Camera – Scan QR Code

*Thank you for supporting St. James!*

**The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 3, 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](http://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**

August 6 – Ellen Mitchener  
August 7 – Teresa Klauss  
August 8 – Sylvia Corl

**CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

|                   |         |   |
|-------------------|---------|---|
| Sunday, August 3  | 9:00am  | Parish Choir                                      |
|                   | 10:00am | Worship   |
| Monday, August 4  | 10:30am | Quilting  |
| Tuesday, August 5 | 6:00pm  | Executive Committee                               |
| Sunday, August 10 | 9:00am  | Parish Choir                                      |
|                   | 9:30am  | Children's Sunday School                          |
|                   | 9:55am  | Congregational Meeting                            |
|                   | 10:00am | Worship   |
|                   | 11:00am | Blessing of the Backpacks<br>Congregational Lunch |

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Join us for the annual Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am worship.  
Be sure to stick around afterwards for the congregational lunch.

**Everyone is welcome; please RSVP to help us plan!**

Scan below or email [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net) to RSVP.



**STUFF THE PENCIL BOXES!**

Throughout the month of August, our Christian Education Committee is collecting pencils to support students in our local schools.  
High-need item: Ticonderoga #2 Pencils  
Also accepting: Crayola Colored Pencils

Look for the pencil boxes on the counter in the Portico to leave your donations.



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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION



### 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: 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** Almighty God, judge of us all, you have placed in our hands the wealth we call our own. Give us such wisdom by your Spirit that our possessions may not be a curse in our lives, but an instrument for blessing; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.



*Please sit.*  
**THE FIRST READING:** Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23  
<sup>2</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>12</sup>I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup>applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. <sup>14</sup>I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

<sup>18</sup>I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me <sup>19</sup>—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup>So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup>because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup>What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup>For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

**THE SECOND READING:** Colossians 3:1-11  
<sup>1</sup>So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. <sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup>But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the

image of its creator. <sup>11</sup>In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**  
P     The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C     **Glory to you, O Lord**

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup>Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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: Son of God, Eternal Savior**



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



## 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

*Please sit or kneel, as able.*

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A Heavenly Father, you bless greatly, us even when we think we have very little! You give us life and breath. Each new day gives us a chance to repent, forgive, and share Jesus' love. Help us to thank you for these things, to enjoy them rightly; and to share them generously. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Clothe your Church with Christ. Put away from it all evil desires, words, and deeds. Fill it with your Spirit, so it abounds in every good gift, overflows with Jesus' life, and leads many to faith in him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the people of this congregation with wisdom and humility. Remind us that everything is done for you, not for ourselves. Make us faithful, generous, and holy. Use us to draw many people into your fatherly embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your blessing upon our nation – and for all nations. Guide our leaders with your Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might. Remind them that they are to be faithful and honest stewards of the power and authority entrusted to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, lead us on the hard path of discipleship. Teach us virtues that are often unpopular: responsibility, accountability, and self-sacrifice, grounded in faith toward you and fervent love for one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift before you the suffering and sorrow of your people. Anoint them with the oil of gladness. Heal wounds to body, mind, and soul. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, keep our beloved dead close to your heart. Comfort all whose grief runs deep. By the power of your Spirit, turn our hearts from the folly of sin. Keep us focused on Jesus and his love for us. Make us channels of his forgiveness and grace. By your mercy, bring us into your Kingdom, where with

all the redeemed, we shall praise and adore you forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend 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.**

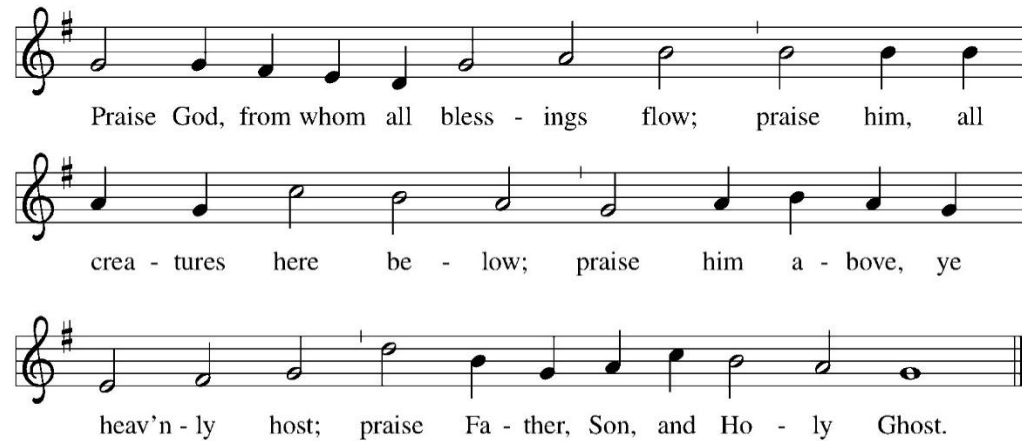
*Please sit.*

### 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.**

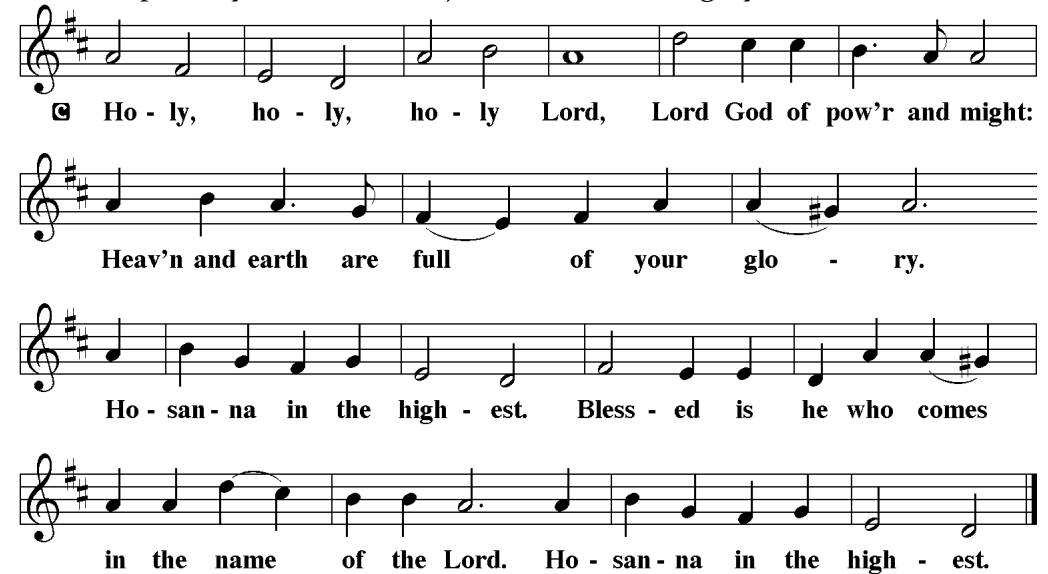
P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord;

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 Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him  
should not perish, but have eternal life.  
We give thanks to you  
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

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

P 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.

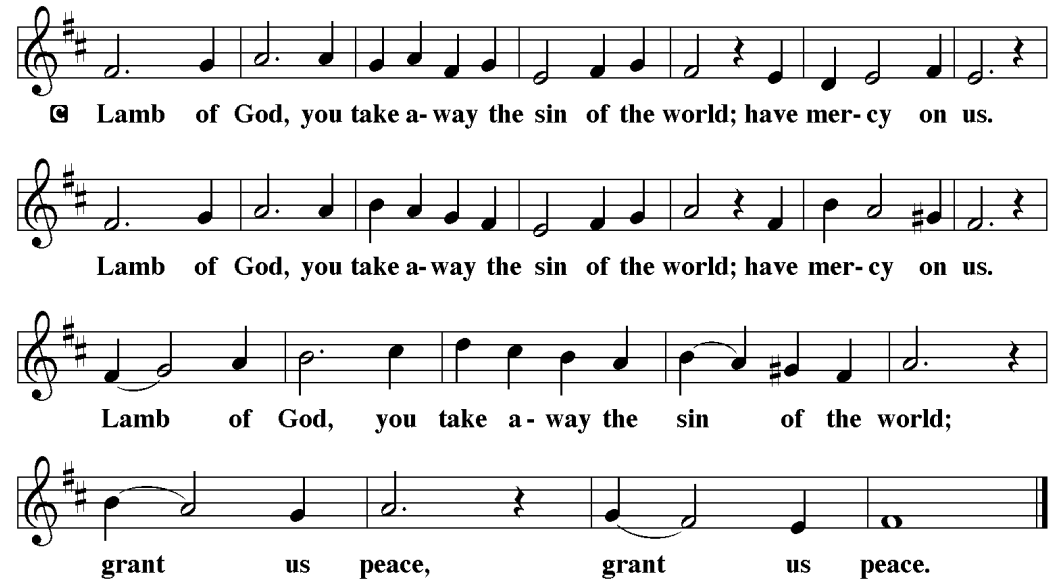
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### 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.**



*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     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: God Whose Giving Knows No Ending (See next page.)**

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:  
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;

na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,  
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.  
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.

gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;  
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;  
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,

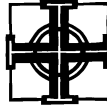
thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

## THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## Postlude



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**Prayers** adapted from Cathy Ammong's work at lutherancore.website.

## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING -AUGUST 10

C13.02 mandates that the voting membership, at the annual meeting, elect six voting members to serve a one-year term on the Nominating Committee. This committee is charged with developing a slate of nominees to serve on church council. We forgot all about this in February. So, we're doing it on August 10th. Immediately before worship, we will gavel in, take a vote to elect and gavel out. The vote to elect the members of the nominating committee is the only item of business permitted on August 10th. The nominees are Annette Propst, Chip Blackwelder, Wendell Overby, Deedee Gilbert, Ashley Cline, Beth Huss.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOU

We're looking for caring volunteers to help with our Children's Sunday School classes. No teaching experience needed – just a love for kids and willingness to share God's Word. Materials and training provided. Please email Ann Blackwelder at [mafb2468@gmail.com](mailto:mafb2468@gmail.com) or call the church office.

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Please save the date and join us for a congregational sing-along of Advent and Christmas Carols accompanied by full Orchestra, Organ and the Parish & Bell Choirs of St. James Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 13th at 7:00pm.

## RING OUT??? WHAT'S A RING OUT???

The Ring Out is the email newsletter of St. James. It is full of timely information, usually more than what's in the bulletin. If you're not receiving it, visit [sjnc.net](http://sjnc.net), click Publications, click Ring Out and hit Subscribe.

## USHERS NEEDED

We are currently looking to add a few new ushers to our Sunday worship team. Whether you're able to serve regularly or are simply willing to be on call as a substitute, your help would be greatly appreciated.

If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to Gretchen Walker, [gwalk64@ctc.net](mailto:gwalk64@ctc.net).