ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Lindsey Olsen
Ushers: Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin, Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard
Videographer: Emma DePaulis
Building Supervisor: Wendell Overby

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; Samantha Hillegass; 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; Luke Roloff and Caroline & Henry (family of the late Elizabeth Roloff, Margaret Garrison's niece); 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.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – DEC. 11 & 12

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

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving

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

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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

Nov. 9 – Chip Harward, Jr.
Nov. 10 – Orietta Grady, Bradley Propst
Nov. 11 – Jazmin Harward, Ben Kuly, Erin Kuly, Lillian Parks

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 8	9:00am	Choir
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, Nov. 9	10:30am	Quilting
Tuesday, Nov. 10	12:00pm	Lively Leisures
	6:00pm	Congregation Council
Wednesday, Nov. 11	*Church Office Closed*	
Thursday, Nov. 12	6:30pm	Choir
	7:30pm	Carols by Candlelight Rehearsals
Sunday, Nov. 15	9:00am	Choir
	9:00am	**Budget Q&A Session**
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

LIVELY LEISURES – NOV. 10

Todd Eury of the Cabarrus Beekeepers Association will present "Honey Bees and Their Impact on Us." Honey will be available for purchase ($12–$16); all payment types accepted.

BUDGET Q&A SESSION – NOV. 15

There will be a Budget Q&A Session (ahead of the Congregational Meeting) on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 9am in the Fellowship Hall.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – NOV. 22

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

ADVENT ACTIVITIES – NOV. 29

Join us Sunday, Nov. 29, at 11:00 a.m. (after worship) as we begin the Advent season with a time of fellowship and preparation. We'll have lunch, make ornaments, and decorate the Fellowship Hall tree. All ages welcome!

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 Praise the Lord with the Drums and Cymbals Karg-Elert

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

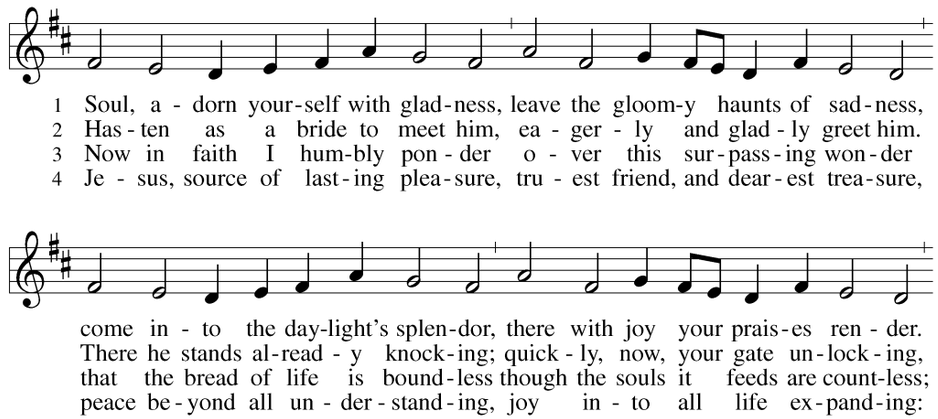
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

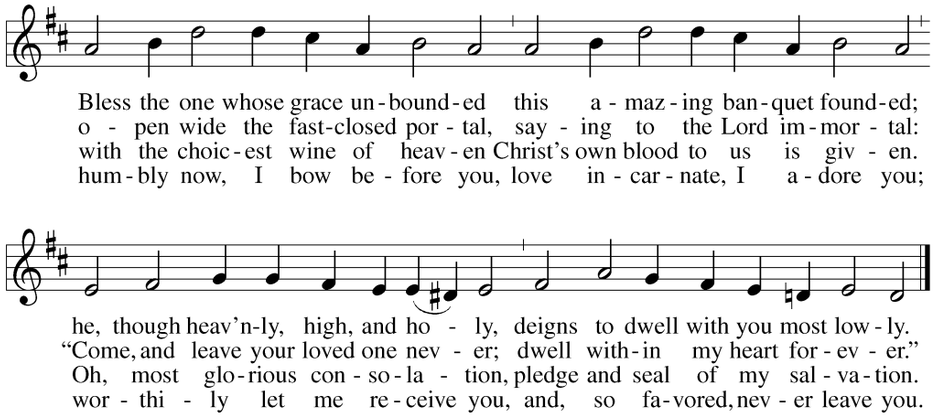
Please sit or kneel, as able.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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: #224 Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness



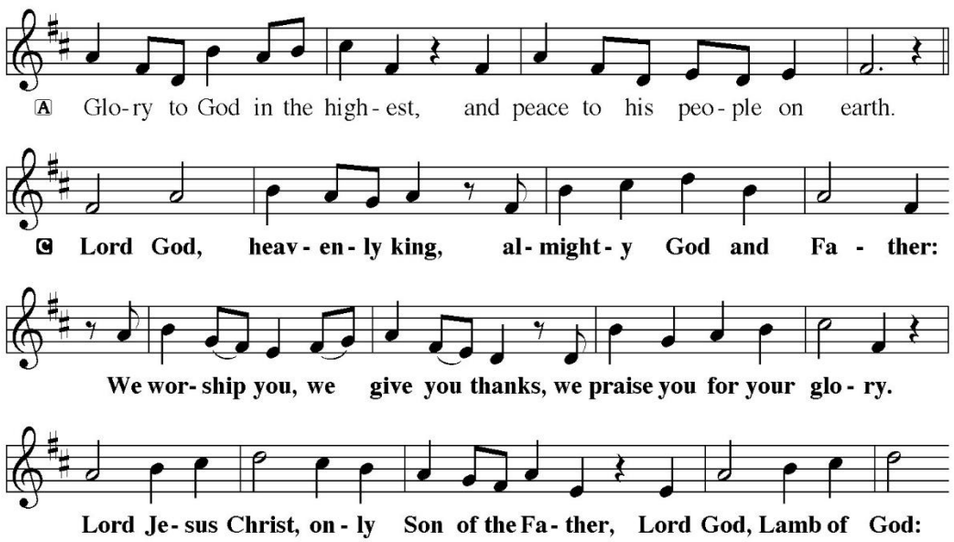


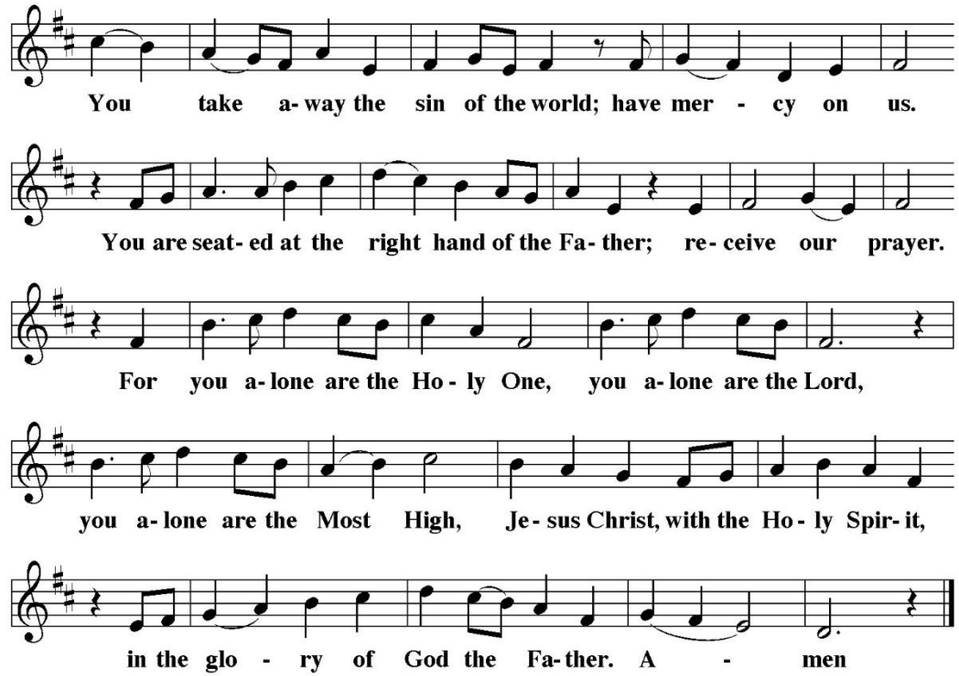
THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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 HYMN OF PRAISE





THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lord, when the day of wrath comes we have no hope except in your grace. Make us so to watch for the last days that the consummation of our hope may be the joy of the marriage feast of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;
19 as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
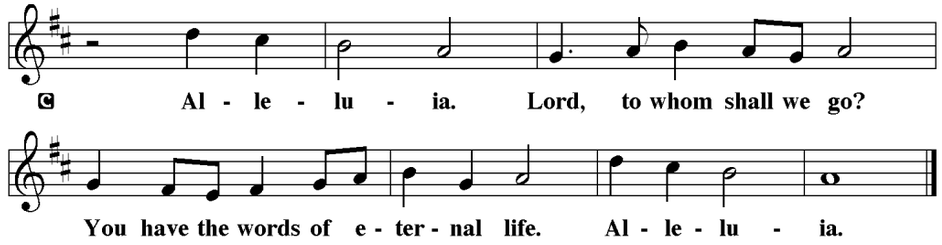
A The Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: I Thessalonians 4:13-18
But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

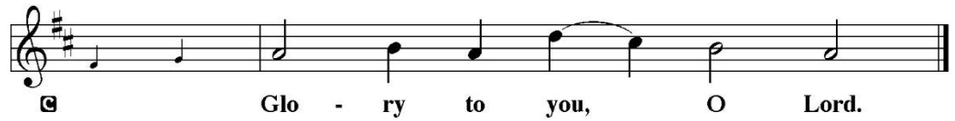
Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



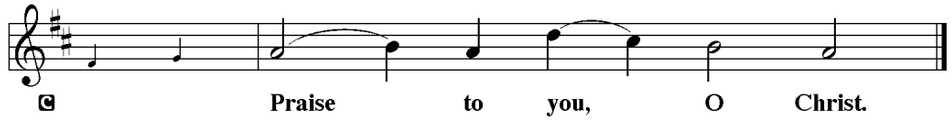
THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.



Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." 9 But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." 12 But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
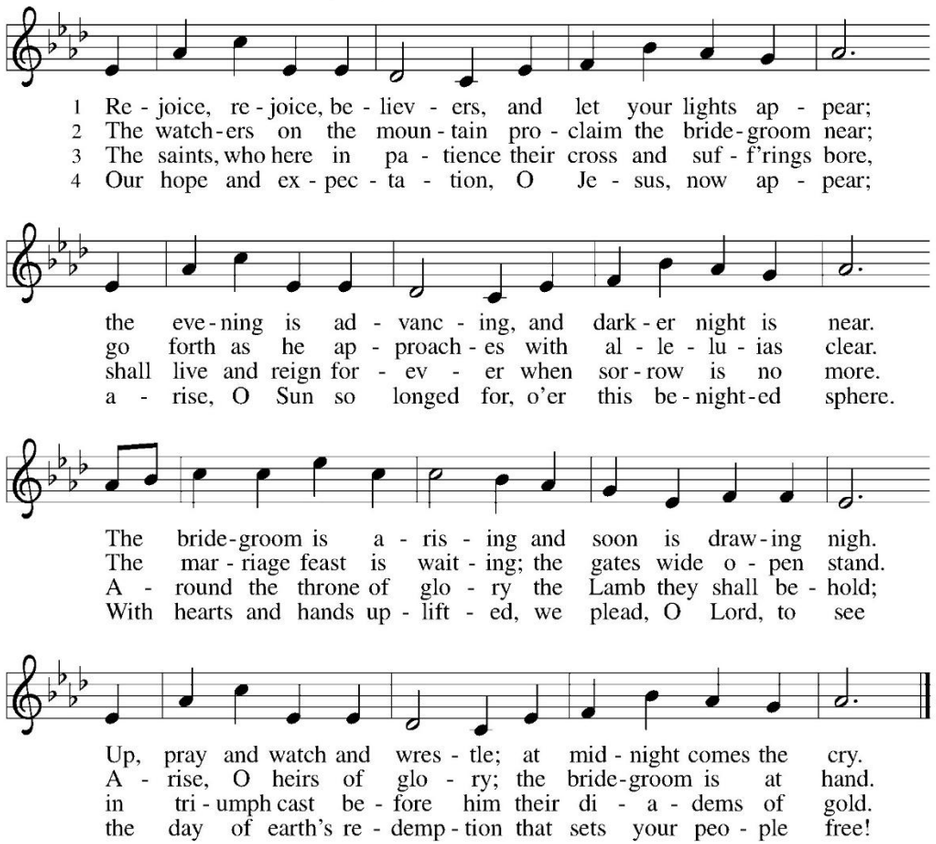


Please sit.

THE SERMON **Pastor Bill Ridenhour**

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #25 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers



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 approach the Throne of Grace, there to pray for the Church, the world,

Heavenly Father, we are sometimes foolish, not wise; scatterbrained, not prudent; reactive, not responsive. Forgive us! Remind us of the privilege of being invited to your Son's wedding feast! Fill us with your Holy Spirit's wisdom. Let us always rejoice; believe; and show the light of faith, hope, and love in this dark world. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Make your Church wise, faithful, pure, and watchful, rejoicing in the near approach of her Bridegroom and Savior. Make her worship joyful and pleasing in your sight. Make her labors glorify you and help those in distress. Make her feasts a foretaste of your heavenly wedding banquet, feeding all with truth, righteousness, and salvation. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Make everyone in this congregation into lamps shining with your light and love. Keep us constantly worshipping you and serving others. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and help us share your grace and favor with those whose lights are flickering out. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Let your justice roll down like waters upon this parched and broken world. Let

your righteousness fill the hearts and minds of all who are entrusted with authority. Especially we pray for our elected and appointed leaders. Give them your Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, so that they may bring peace, prosperity, justice, and healing to our land. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer***.

Let all who seek your help in their times of trial find deliverance from all that troubles them. Grant them health and salvation; justice and comfort; hope and guidance. When their lamp of faith seems ready to flicker and fade, rekindle them with the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. And give a double portion of that same Spirit to all who minister to their needs. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Heavenly Father, we grieve for our dead, but not without hope. Thank you for receiving them into your merciful care. Renew our confidence in your goodness and help us to encourage and help one another along the way. Lead us, by the Cross of Jesus, into the Kingdom which you have prepared for all who have been redeemed by his suffering, death, and resurrection. 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 OFFERING

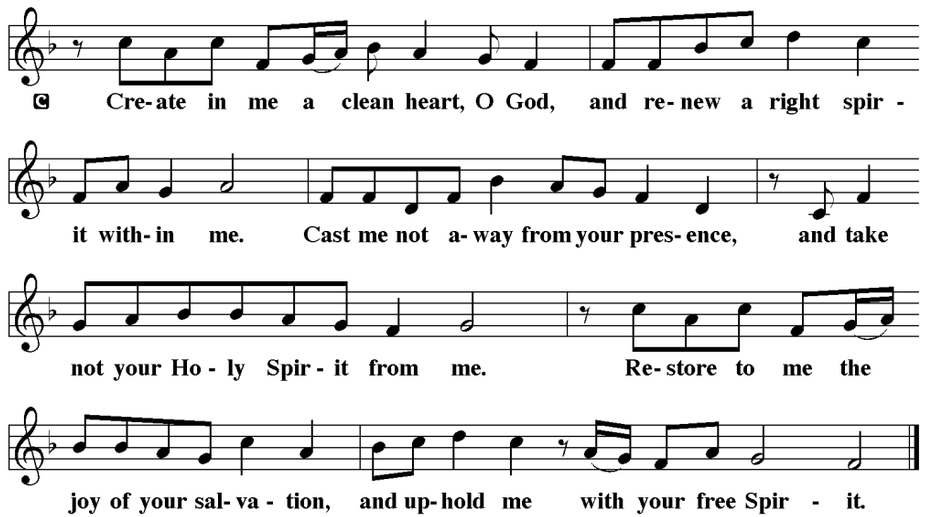
THE ANTHEM Keep Your Lamps arr. Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary,
Til your work is done.

Christian, journey soon be over,
The time is drawing nigh.

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.

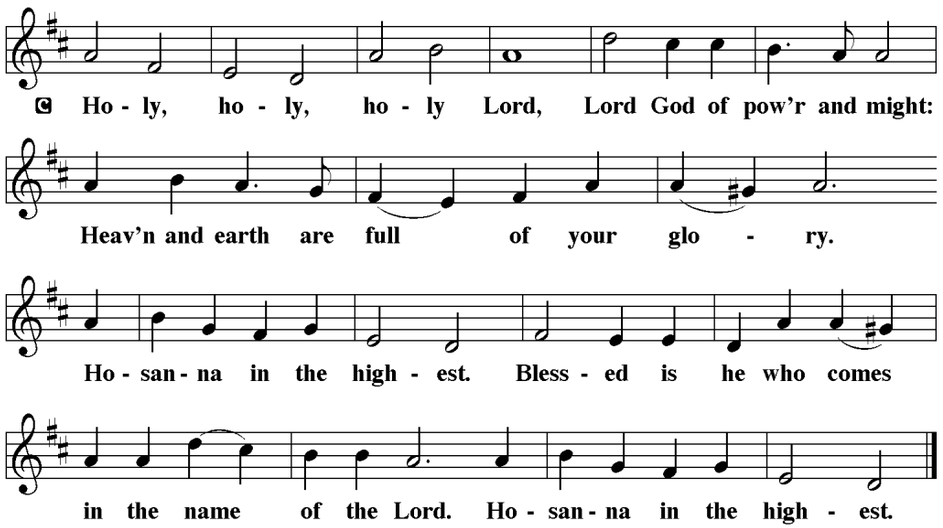
P Lift up your hearts.

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 You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.
We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.
We thank you for the new world to come
and for the love that will rule all in all.
We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,
the people of your promise:
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile,
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.
In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.
We remember the sacrifice of his life:
his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.
But chiefly [on this day] we remember his rising from the tomb,
his ascension to the seat of power,
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.
We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,
when Christ will come again in beauty and power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

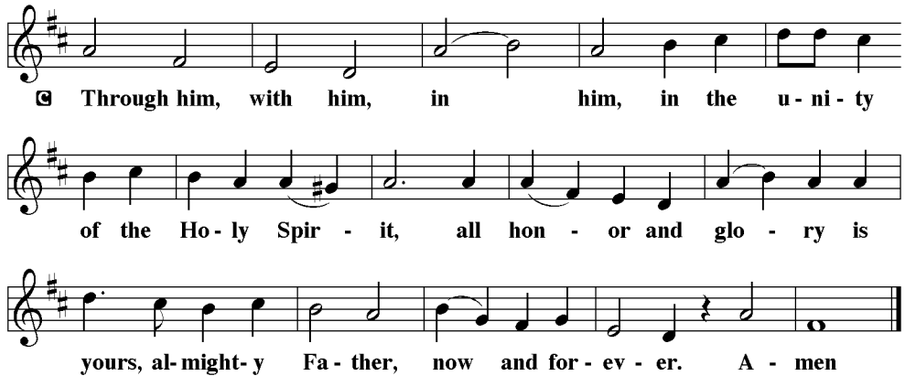
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,

that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

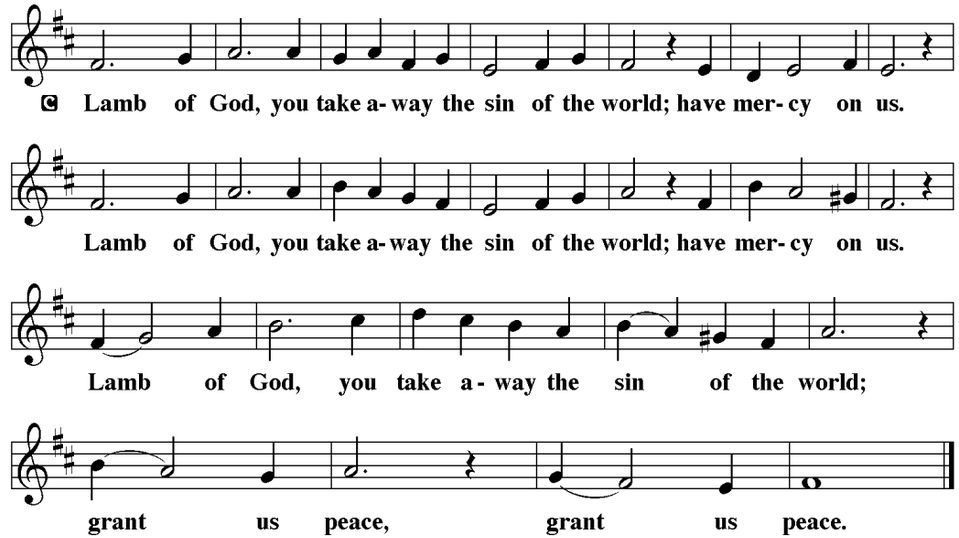
P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



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. 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.

COMMUNION MUSIC Adagio (from Voluntary I) John Stanley
There Jesus Hung upon the Cross Samuel Scheidt
-Isaac Jay, organist

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,
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: #351 Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

Please see next page.

THE DISMISSAL

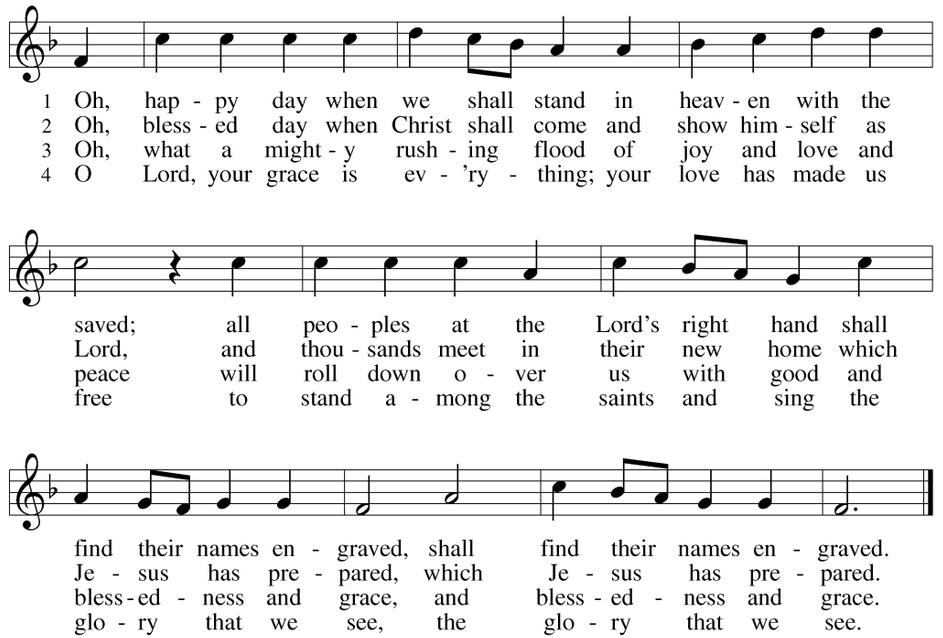
P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude Tanz Lowry



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<u>THANK YOU</u>!

Your generosity makes ministry happen at St. James.

Offerings Budgeted for 2026	**$405,055**
Offerings Received as of October 31, 2026	**$279,018**
Offerings Expected as of October 31, 2026	**$337,546**
***<u>DEFICIT</u>* as of October 31, 2026**	***-$58,528***

<u>BETHLEHEM AT THE FARM – DEC. 6</u>

Sunday, December 6 | 3:00–5:00 p.m. | Far Fetched Farm (835 Brafford Dr., Concord)
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.