

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright
Communion Assistant: Kim Haberman
Acolyte: Joshua Rinker
Ushers: Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin,
Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard
Greeter: Barbara Albright
Building Supervisor: Wendell Overby

PRAYER LIST

Paul Auten (friend of Robert & Debbie Davis), 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; 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).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's alter flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Orfa Nery Sánchez & Alfa Liria Sánchez by Carlos Velez Sánchez and Wes Watts.

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 for instructions.

Meal Train Opportunity

The Meal Train for Jay Clemmer has been adjusted to one meal weekly on Mondays. If you can assist with these efforts, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/JCMealTrain>

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 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

May 11 – Hollis Miller
May 14 – Lisa Folino, CoCo Hoekstra
May 17 – Liz Klein

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 11	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
		<i>Cook Scholarship Deadline!</i>
Monday, May 12	10:30am	Quilting
	6:30pm	Scouts
Tuesday, May 13	10:30am	Lively Leisures
	6:00pm	Congregation Council
Thursday, May 15	5:30pm	Handbells
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, May 17	8:30am	Leah's Hope Trailer
Sunday, May 18	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Ice Cream Party
	11:00am	Bubble Blast Activity

St. James seeking a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

This new position, which will focus on leading and growing our youth program, came out of the conversations during last fall's stewardship meetings. We invite you to learn more about the position on our website and help us spread the word.

To assist in your offering:





Prelude	Theme & Variations in C, Hob. XVII	F. J. Haydn
	Delaine Leonard, harp	

THE INVOCATION

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

A When we were joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we were clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Together let us remember our baptism.

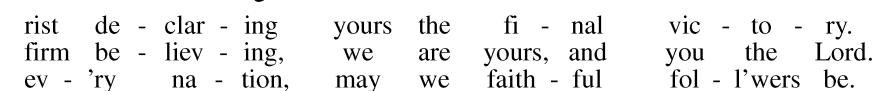
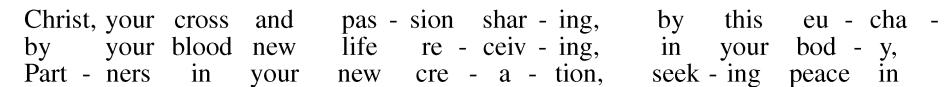
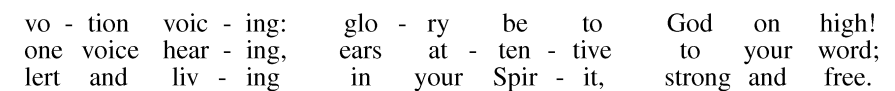
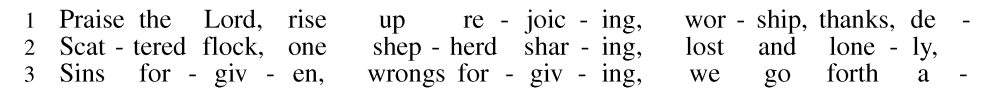
P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you created the world by your Word, calling forth life in which you took delight. You led Israel safely through the Red Sea into the land of promise, and in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus your beloved one. By water and the Spirit you adopted us as your daughters and sons, making us heirs of the promise and servants of God. Through this water remind us of our baptism. Shower us with your Spirit, that your forgiveness, grace, and love may be renewed in our lives. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #196 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

No harmony graphic available. See green LBW hymnal.



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

A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you
C And also with you.
P God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; 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: Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt

down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

THE SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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. John, the 10th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

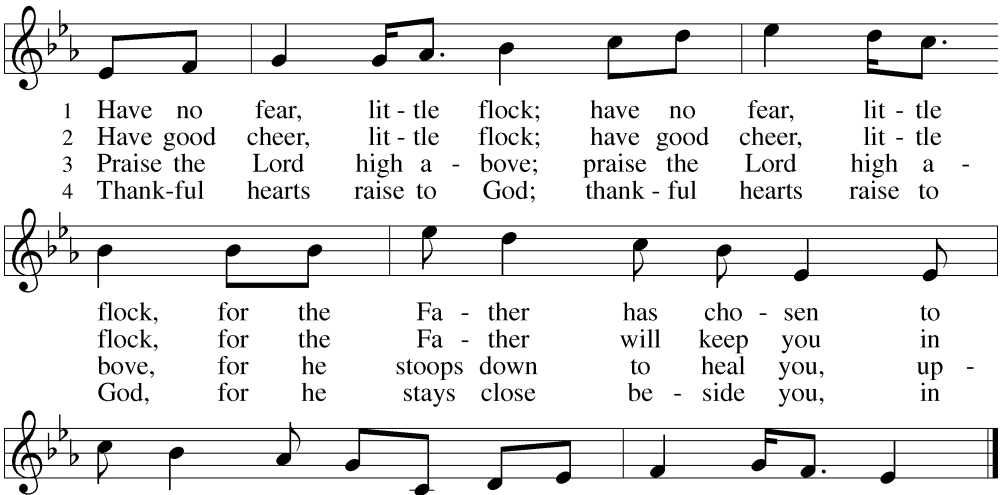
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.
THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.
THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #476 Have No Fear, Little Flock

No harmony graphic is available. Please see green LBW hymnal.



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank-ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in

give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

THE NICENE CREED
C 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 he 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 Let us pray to our risen Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and one
another.

Lord Jesus, you alone are worthy! You are worthy of blessing and honor, glory,
and praise. Give us grace to praise your greatness, to bless your name, and to
live lives worthy of you, our Shepherd and Savior. Lord, in your mercy, **hear**
our prayer.

Your martyrs stand before your throne, praying for all who are persecuted for your Name's sake. Join our prayers to theirs. Give courage and endurance to those who suffer on account of you. By their example, cause their enemies to repent, so their lives may be transformed, and their minds renewed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless and direct this congregation. Call us by name and lead us in love. Guide us in paths of discipleship and service. Let all be done to your glory, and for the good of our family, community, and world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our littlest lambs: our infants and toddlers, and all newborns in the faith. Lead them safely through the dangers of this world. Crown their innocence with holiness. Teach them to know your voice and to gladly follow wherever you would have them go. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for mothers, foster mothers, and for all who care and love with a mother's heart. Adorn their lives with wisdom, goodness, common sense, and patience. Give them endurance – and a good night's sleep – to carry out their many tasks with a light heart and ready smile. Be their strength and shield when their burdens are great and sorrowful. And bestow your dearest comfort to all who have lost a child, or who are unable to have one. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give a shepherd's heart to the leaders of all nations, especially our own. Teach them to seek the welfare of their people above power, wealth, or re-election. By their labors, grant the simple blessings of decent food, clean water, and the chance to raise families in freedom and safety. Give wisdom and integrity to all who risk their lives on behalf of others. And to all people, especially those whose lives have been shattered by violence, grant a measure of your peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O great and good Shepherd, carry on your shoulders all who are suffering in body, mind, and heart. Give a double portion of you Spirit to all who care for them, and restore them to wholeness and hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we entrust to you all our dear departed. Lead, feed, and protect us, as you have done for them. Prepare our place at your festive table, where with all whom you have redeemed, we will feast on your goodness and mercy forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P O God, you gladden our hearts by the annual celebration of the resurrection of our Lord: In your mercy grant that we, who celebrate these joyous days on earth, may at length attain to the eternal Easter in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

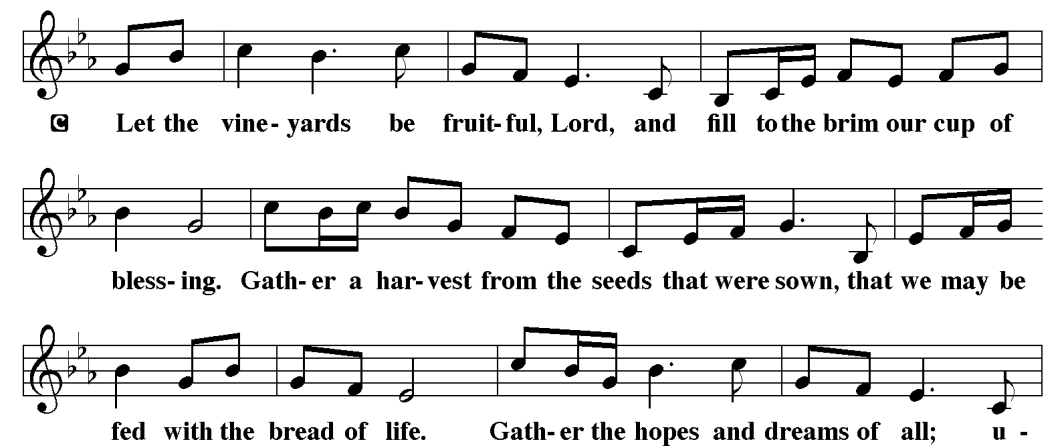
Psalm 23

Franz Schubert

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

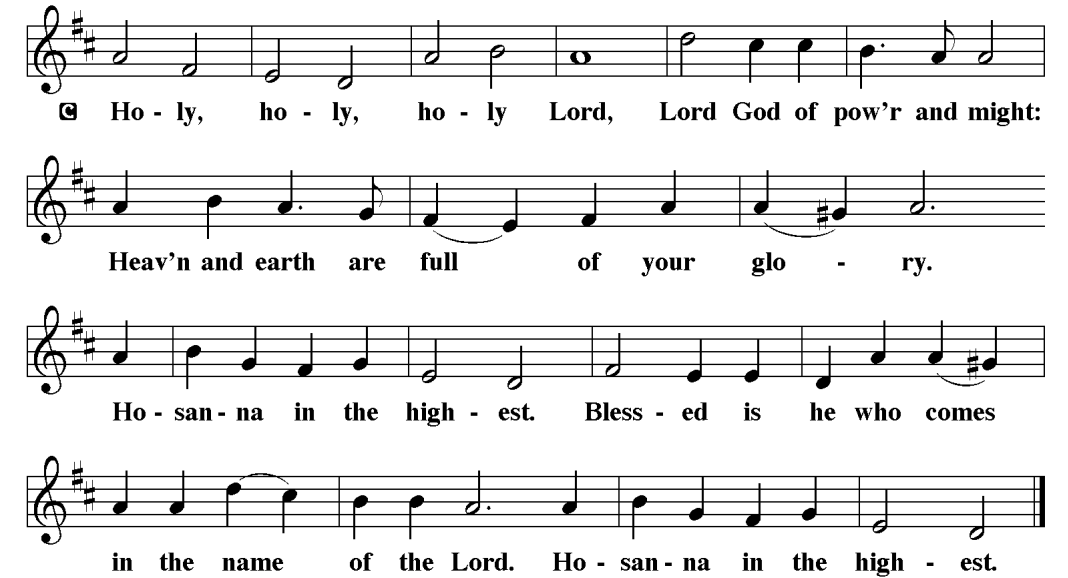
- A Let us pray.
A Blessed are you,
C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, 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, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and

archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty
of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is
yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men

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.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please sit.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.
Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?
A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.
-Luther’s Small Catechism Part V

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. 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.

Communion Music: Trois Preludes, Op. 16 Marcel Tournier
Delaine Leonard, harp

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

Silence for reflection.



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

THE SENDING HYMN: #456 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

No harmony graphic available. Please see the green LBW hymnal.

Musical notation for the first line of the hymn, followed by four lines of lyrics:

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

Musical notation for the second line of the hymn, followed by four lines of lyrics:

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if I am
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant pas - tures
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der gent - ly
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my com - fort

Musical notation for the third line of the hymn, followed by four lines of lyrics:

his and he is mine for - ev - er.
grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

THE DISMISSAL
P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude Aria Becker