ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Margaret Garrison Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass Ushers: Mike Downs, Al Brown, Jr., Sid Hughes Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss

Videographer: Anne 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); 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); Margaret Garrison; Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; 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); Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney); Deb Walker.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Caleb Harding by Deb and John Walker.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee is looking for volunteers! If you are interested, please reach out to Travis Nesbit in person or at tnez13@gmail.com.

> To assist in your offering **Secure Online Giving**



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

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost **August 31, 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 to you or to an usher.

<u>Restrooms</u> are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A <u>nursery</u> 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

Aug. 31 – Conner Gale

Sept. 1 – Claire Ford

Sept. 2 – Kathryn Radcliffe

Sept. 3 – William Propst

Sept. 4 – Kim Haberman, Patrick Propst

Sept. 5 – Simon Lovelace, Ashleigh Matthews

Sept. 6 – Sophie Horton, Trey Horton, Dylan Urso

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 31	9:00am 9:30am 10:00am	Choir Children's Sunday School Worship
Monday, Sept. 1	Church Office Closed	
Tuesday, Sept. 2	10:30am 6:00pm	Mary Magdalene Circle Executive Committee
Thursday, Sept. 4	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Sept. 7	9:00am 9:00am 10:00am 11:00am	Adult Sunday School Choir Children's Sunday School Worship God's Work. Our Hands.

MY FATHER'S HOUSE -SEPT. 15 & 16

St. James Lutheran Church will provide meals for My Father's House Ministry on Monday, September 15 (ham meal) and Tuesday, the 16 (chicken strip meal). If you can provide a side dish to accompany either meal, please contact Martha Matthews: 704-787-2180. Suggestions: Mac & cheese, Bob Evans mashed potatoes, baked beans, green beans, corn, noodle dish, or any vegetable casserole. Also collecting fruit, desserts, rolls, and snacks for after school tutoring.

LIVELY LEISURES RETURNS!

Lively Leisures starts back Sept. 9! Join us on the second Tuesday of the month at noon for lunch, fellowship and a presentation.



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

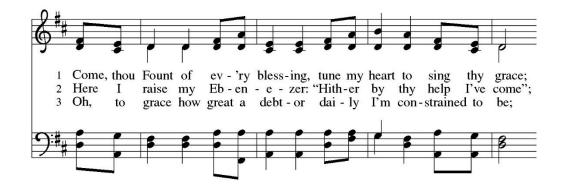
- P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen

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,
- 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: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing





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 O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

6Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great; 7for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

iLet mutual love continue. 2Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. 3Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. 4Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. 5Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." 6So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

7Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. 8Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

15Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. 16Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

- 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. Luke, the 14th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

iOn one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

7When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 8"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; 9and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be

honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

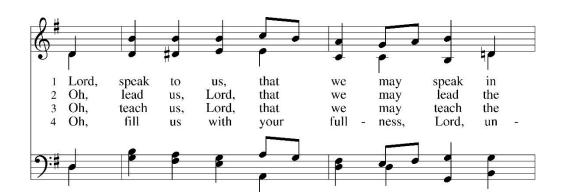
12He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

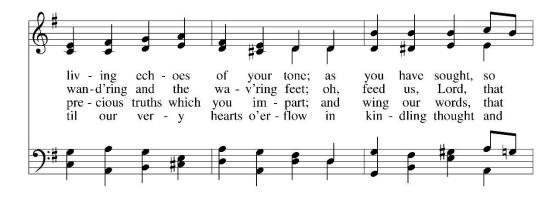
- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

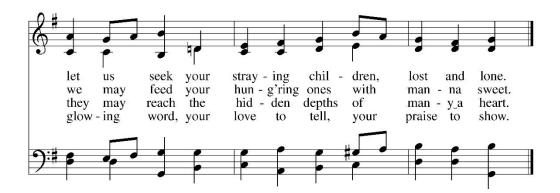
Please sit.
THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

*Please stand.*THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Speak to Us That We May Speak







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 With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- A Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
- C That we all may be one.
- A Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
- C That your Name may be glorified by all people.
- A We pray for all bishops, pastors, and deacons;
- C That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.
- A We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
- C That there may be justice and peace on the earth.
- A Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
- C That our works may find favor in your sight.
- A Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
- C That they may be delivered from their distress.
- A Give to the departed eternal rest.

- C Let light perpetual shine upon them.
- A We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy.
- C May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.
- A Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

A brief silence for reflection.

- 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.

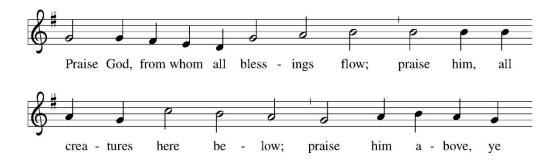
Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY #564 "The Doxology"





THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray.
- A Blessed are you,
- 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

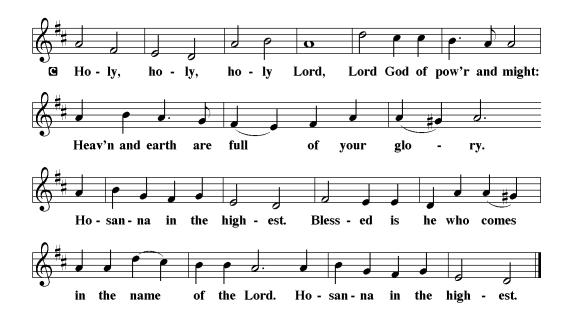
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise 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 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.

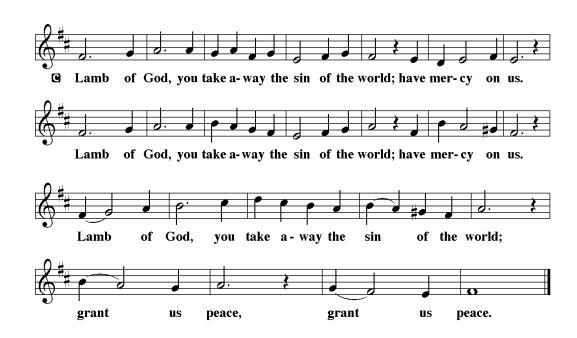
THE LORD'S PRAYER

- 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



THE BENEDICTION

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

THE SENDING HYMN: Jesus, the Very Thought of You



THE DISMISSAL

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

Postlude



COPYRIGHT:

Lutheran Book of Worship © 1978. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Licenses SAS-002140, SB177826.

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (Text) © Oxford University Press (New York). Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002. (**Arrangement**) © Augsburg Fortress. Used by Permission Augsburg Fortress License SB177826. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002.

IMPORTANT DATES

God's Work. Our Hands.	Sept. 7 – 11AM
Brass Trio	Sept. 20 – 7PM
CROP Hunger Walk	Oct. 12 – 2PM
Trunk or Treat	Oct. 26 - 3PM
Organ Concert	Nov. 8 – 7PM
Carols by Candlelight	Dec. 13 - 7PM

TRI-TONE BRASS – SEPT. 20

Join us for a memorable evening of music as three talented Juilliard graduates share their incredible gifts with our congregation and community. The brass trio performs on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 7pm.

ORGAN CONCERT - NOV. 8

Enjoy an evening of music for organ and timpani on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 7pm. Featuring: Brice Burton, Principle Percussionist for the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra & Dr. Kevin L. Estes, Director of Music Ministry & Organist.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT - DEC. 13

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 7pm.

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. Email Ann Blackwelder at <a href="mailto:mai

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SEPT - 7

Join us after worship on Sunday, Sept. 7 in the Fellowship Hall for *God's Work, Our Hands*, a day of service across the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. We'll assemble hygiene and school kits for Lutheran World Relief, make Mission Quilts, and write encouragement cards for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

All materials and a bagged lunch are provided. Please sign up online at www.sjnc.net

SONSHINE BACKPACKS

St. James is partnering with the Sonshine Backpack Ministry, which provides weekend food for Cabarrus County schoolchildren in need. For 12+ years, this ministry (led by Bonita Rowland at St. John's Lutheran) has helped ensure students don't go hungry when school meals aren't available.

You Can Help! Needs:

Shelf-stable milk, cereal cups, oatmeal, grits Mac & cheese, canned pasta, soup, veggies, fruit Granola bars, juice boxes, popcorn, pudding cups

Prop donations on the back counter in the church kitchen by Sept. 28. Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl (704-425-8621) or Gretchen Walker gwalk64@ctc.net.

BLESSING BOX

St. James is once again sponsoring the Blessing Box for the month of September.

Requested items:

Nonperishable food Baby food Bottled water Hygiene items

• Items may be placed in the **Blessing Box at Rotary Square** or in the **collection bin in the portico**.