

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Barbara Albright

Communion Assistant: Dianne Lambert

Ushers: Al Brown, Jr., Bill Hardister

Ushers Needed! - Contact Gretchen Walker if you can assist (gwalk64@ctc.net)

Videographer: Jason Pittard

Greeter: Samantha Hillegass

Building Supervisors: Kim Haberman, Hunter Huss

PRAYER LIST

Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; Patrick Bryn (son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn); 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 Marlow's); Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Jeff Gilbert; Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); 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); Leonard "Buddy" McEachern; Jason Matthews; Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Mason Overby; Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Al Pieschel; Corinne Robbins; Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Ruby Tyler (niece of Beth Huss' friend); John Walker.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God in honor of the Sunday School volunteers.

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



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

**The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026**

**The Holy Communion
Blessing of the Backpacks
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

Aug. 10 – Connie King Aug. 12 – Robert Davis, Jr., Wayne Williams
Aug. 14 – Mike Downs, Bill Grady Aug. 15 – Charlotte Davis

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Aug. 9	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Blessing of the Backpacks Luncheon
	2:00pm	Carols by Candlelight Interest Preview
Monday, Aug. 10	10:30am	Quilting
Tuesday, Aug. 11	6:00pm	Congregation Council
Thurs., Aug. 13	6:30pm	Choir
Saturday, Aug. 15	8:30am	Leah's Hope Trailer
Sunday, Aug. 16	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON

Join us for a special Stewardship Luncheon after worship on **Sunday, August 23**. Enjoy a catered lunch and fellowship as we discuss the mission of St. James.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Help us prepare for *God's Work. Our Hands.* by donating supplies for Lutheran World Relief Kits that will support people in need around the world.

Social Ministry & Christian Ed. Committee are collecting supplies for:

- School Kits
- Personal Care Kits
- Baby Care Kits
- Fabric Kits

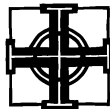
Collection Dates: August 2 – September 6

Assembly Day: Sunday, September 13, following worship

Donations: Please place kit items in the corresponding bin at the Portico entrance. Consider donating supplies, packing kits, or both to help serve our neighbors around the world.

Scan for supply list:





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

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: #548 O Worship the King





our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
his char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
es - tab - lished it fast by a change-less de - cree,
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

6 O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
while angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to your praise.

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 and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merit of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: I Kings 19:9-18

At that place Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ ¹⁰ He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.’

¹¹ He said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ ¹⁴ He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.’ ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.’

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that ‘the person who does these things will live by them.’ ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, ‘Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into heaven?”’ (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ ‘or “Who will descend into the abyss?”’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

‘The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart’

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’

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. Matthew, the 14th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord**

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’

²⁸Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ ²⁹He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’ ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of 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: #467 Eternal Father, Strong to Save



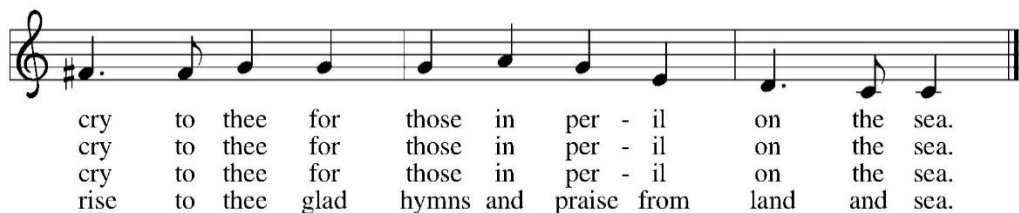
1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



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 pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their need.
- A Holy Father, we bow in adoration before your majesty. We stand in awe of your wisdom, power, and goodness. And we thank you for your strong saving love, made real for us in your dear Son. Send us your Spirit, so we boldly obey his commands and humbly crave his mercy. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Send your Church into every corner of the world to preach the Gospel of salvation through Christ alone. By your Spirit, give it humility, faith, and courage to proclaim your holy Word with clarity and charity. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Protect this congregation from storms of contention, controversy, and confusion. Shelter us, and help us trust you. Help us to say in word and deed, “I love you, O Lord my strength, O Lord my stronghold, my crag, and my haven. My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge; you are worthy of praise!” Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Look kindly upon those who are overwhelmed by winds and waves of grief and suffering. We know they sometimes feel abandoned by others – and even by you. Help us to encourage, strengthen, and aid them. Help us to take their hand and walk with them across their stormy seas, towards the nail-scarred hands of Jesus, who alone can lift them up and save them. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Shield us from natural disasters and from human malice and stupidity. Come down, O Lord, on the wings of wind. Scatter our enemies and deliver us from our anguish! Speak your word of peace upon the troubled earth and every human heart; and reign undisturbed as King and Lord of all. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Clothe with righteousness and wisdom all your servants, including our brother, Mason, who risk their lives in defense of life and liberty. Be their stronghold, shield, and refuge. Make them models of justice, integrity, and service. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Many people can say with the Psalmist, “The breakers of death rolled over me, and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.” We lift them before you. Save them from everything that threatens to undo them. Lead them to a place of shelter, healing, and hope. Bless everyone who cares for them in any way. Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Thank you, dear Father, for your servants who now rest from their earthly labors – especially those whose death touches us most closely. Give to us, who still sail life’s stormy seas, faith to call upon you in confidence and hope. Give us love to encourage and help our neighbor in distress. Grant that we, with all whom you have redeemed, may sing with joy and worship you forever. 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.**

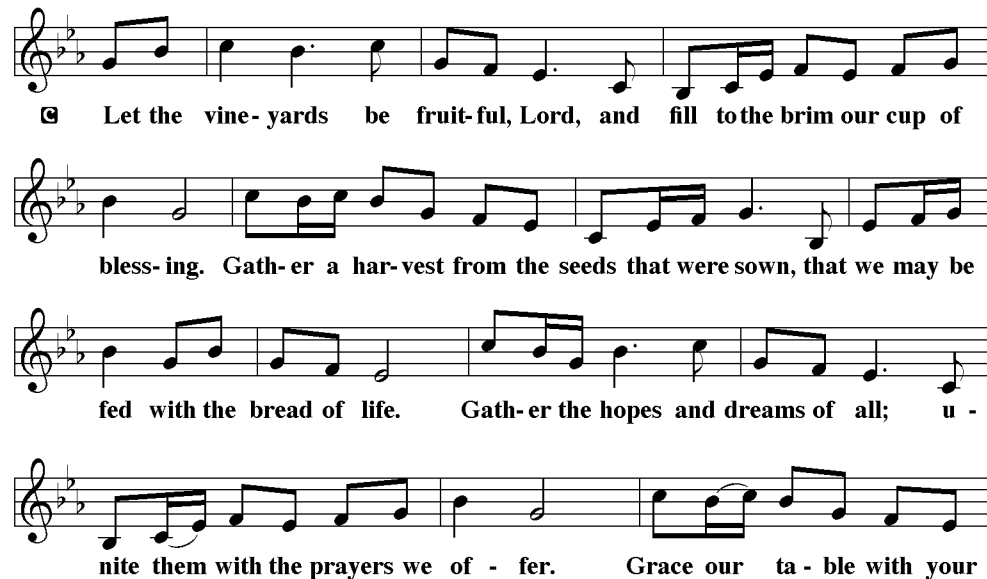
Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

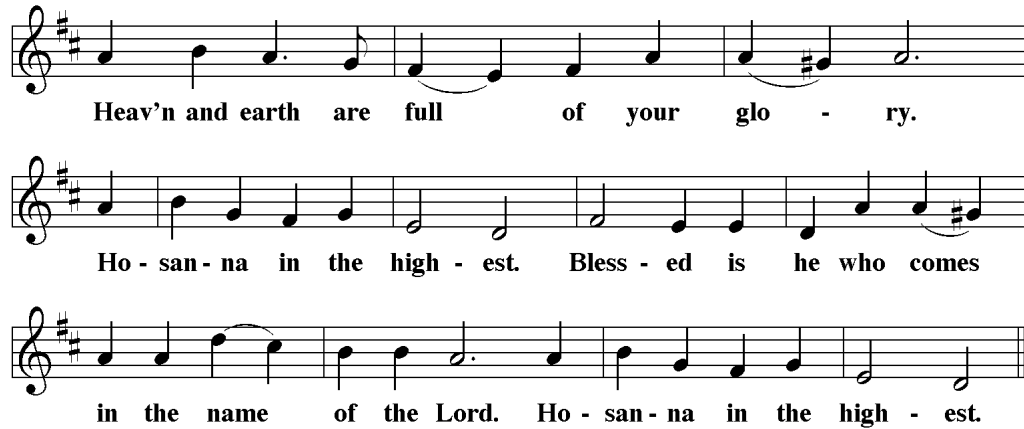
A Let us pray.
A Blessed are you,
C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, 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 Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus,
your Son, who reached out
to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross,
opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Remembering, therefore,
his death, resurrection and ascension,

we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that by the Holy Communion
we may know the unity
we share with all your people
in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen

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. 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.

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,

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.



Blessing of the Backpacks

The minister addresses the congregation.

P Brothers and Sisters, our community is prepared to open our schools. Teachers are ready to teach. Parents are prepared to send their children back to school. Children are excited or, perhaps, not so excited to engage in learning.

Let us pause to give God thanks for the gift of learning and for the labors and well being of all who teach and learn.

A Remembrance of Baptism.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God’s people, you have learned from his Word God’s loving purpose for you and all creation. Because of God’s love for us, we are sent into the world, and our schools, to be Christ for our neighbor.

Prayers for students and teachers.

Lord Jesus Christ, at the age of twelve, you set us an example for seeking knowledge and truth when you were found in the Temple, “sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.”

Let us pray: Help us to honor and support those who teach. Affirm them in their chosen vocation. Give them loving hearts, strong spirits and love for their students. When they are weary, given them rest and renewal. Give them perseverance to sow seeds they may not see come to harvest.

Give our children a love for learning full of discovery and growth. May your Holy Wisdom be their guide. Open their hearts and minds to the wonder and mystery of learning. Guide them in your ways and truth. Give them loving friends and let them be good friends for others. Give them teachers willing to challenge and pick them up when they fail.

Bless the teachers, students and staff of Families First as their preschool serves another year at St. James. May our preschoolers find in this place welcome, love, acceptance and a solid foundation. Foster in their teachers a love for teaching and their students.

Protect and defend all who labor and learn in our school buildings and on our school campuses. Keep them safe from all harm.

The Blessing.

*All are invited to raise a hand, palm up, toward the ceiling and pray together”
Students may turn their hands down and hold them over their backpacks.*

**Almighty God, fountain of all wisdom,
You have blessed us with the joy
and care of children: give us and teachers
everywhere calm strength and patient
wisdom to bring them up, teaching them
to love whatever is just and true and good.**

*The congregation may raise their hand(s)
to bestow a blessing on the children gathered here.*

**Bless now these backpacks and the children
who carry them: That with hearts enlightened**

**by your Holy Spirit they may grow in knowledge
and piety, to worship and serve you.**

THE BENEDICTION

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

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN: #320 O God, our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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