

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Kim Haberman

Communion Assistant: Ann Blackwelder

Acolyte: Joshua Rinker

Ushers: Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,
Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright

Greeter: Barbara Albright

Building Supervisors: Chip Blackwelder & Mike Rinker

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); Jennifer Cook (friend of Fonda Shumate); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; 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; Lori Pittard; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney).

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God in honor of the St. James Church Council by Elizabeth Hurley.

CROP WALK – Oct. 12

Join the St. James team on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 2pm for the annual Crop Hunger Walk.
Register to walk or donate at the link: <http://tinyurl.com/stjamescropwalkteam>.

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



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

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 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.

Let us know you visited!



Scan to connect!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Sept. 22 – John Patterson, Patricia Propst
Sept. 23 – Annette Propst
Sept. 24 – Lois Marlow
Sept. 27 – Tommy Propst

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Sept. 21	9:00am	Mission Info Session with Frank & Pastor Bill
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Mission Info Session with Frank & Pastor Bill
Monday, Sept. 22	10:30am	Quilting
	6:30pm	Cub Scouts
Thursday, Sept. 25	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Sept. 28	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

IMPORTANT DATES!

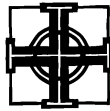
CROP Hunger Walk	Oct. 12 – 2PM
Million Meals Tour	Oct. 25 - 9AM
Trunk or Treat	Oct. 26 – 3PM
Organ Concert	Nov. 8 – 7PM
Carols by Candlelight	Dec. 13 – 7PM

BLESSING BOX

St. James is sponsoring the Blessing Box for September.
Requested: nonperishable food (easy open cans), baby food, bottled water, hygiene items.
Place items in the Rotary Square box or the church portico Blessing Box bin.

SONSHINE BACKPACKS

St. James is partnering with Sonshine Backpack Ministry to provide weekend food for Cabarrus County children in need. Place items on back kitchen counter by Sept. 28.
Requested: shelf-stable milk, cereal/oatmeal, mac & cheese, canned pasta/soup/veggies/fruit, granola bars, juice, popcorn, pudding.



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Prelude Toccata in Seven Rutter

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: #428 O God of Earth and Altar

Please see the green LBW hymnal for the harmony.

1 O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our cry;
2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, from lies of tongue and pen,
3 Tie in a liv - ing teth - er the prince and priest and thrall;

our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter, our peo - ple drift and die;
from all the eas - y speech - es that com - fort cru - el men,
bind all our lives to - geth - er; smite us, and save us all;

the walls of gold en - tomb us; the swords of scorn di - vide.
from sale and pro - fa - na - tion of hon - or, and the sword,
in ire and ex - ul - ta - tion, a - flame with faith, and free,



Take not thy thun - der from us, but take a - way our pride.
from sleep, and from dam - na - tion, de - liv - er us, good Lord!
lift up a liv - ing na - tion, a sin - gle sword to thee.

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 Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you!

C And also with you.

P Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle.
Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives
by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

4Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

5saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,

6buying the poor for silver

and the needy for a pair of sandals,

and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

7The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

THE SECOND READING: I Timothy 2:1-7

1First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
5For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, 6who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. 7For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

Please stand.
THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 16th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

1Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ 3Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ 5So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ 7Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ 8And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

10“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #447 All Depends on Our Possessing

Please see the green LBW hymnal for the harmony.



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
4 Well he knows what best to grant me; all the long - ing
5 If on earth my days he length - en, God my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.
hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
soul will strength - en; all my trust in him I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
He who did so gent - ly school me, he who dai - ly
To his lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der soul and bod - y
I shall doubt his wis - dom nev - er; as God wills, so
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
I sur - ren - der, for on God a - lone I build.
be it ev - er; to him I com - mit my way.
way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in his grace.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

THE PRAYERS

Please sit or kneel, as able.

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

A Dear Father, thank you for the prophets and evangelists who speak your holy Word, even when it makes us squirm. Thank you for being patient with us. Thank you for lifting us up when we fall away from your commands. Thank you for restoring us, when we have repented, to positions of trust and to the task of proclaiming the Gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless your Church throughout the world. Fill it with faithful teachers and preachers of your Word. Kindle its worship to be a living flame of praise to you. Make it wise as serpents and innocent as doves as it bears witness to Jesus. Give it grace to lavish the treasures of your Kingdom on all who need them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we may smile or shudder to hear the parable of the dishonest servant – especially at a time of year when stewardship is often lifted up! Bless this

congregation in its stewardship of time, talents, treasures, and testimony. Help us to be honest, eager, and ingenious as we use whatever has been entrusted to us, for the sake of your Kingdom, and for the benefit of our neighbor. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant integrity and common sense to our earthly leaders. Make them honest stewards of the power and authority granted to them, for they must give an account of their stewardship to you, their Master and King. Be the shield and defender of first responders and those in the military. Use their labors to accomplish your will in places of chaos and violence. Help us all to have a heart for the poor, and the will to assist them effectively and graciously. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless volunteers and workers, not only in this church, but throughout the world, who seek to serve you and neighbor. Multiply their gifts and talents, so that through their labors, many people receive mercy, comfort, and a clear sign of your providential care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You raise the poor from the dust and care for all who cry out to you. Therefore with confidence and hope, we remember before you all who are afflicted in body, mind, or spirit. Bring them out of darkness into your glorious light; and restore them to fellowship with all who love them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, receive into your Kingdom all the faithful departed, especially those dearest to us. Keep us steadfast in faith, diligent in service, truthful in word, and honest in deed. Bind us together in cords of love and compassion for one another. Bring us, with all whom you have redeemed, into the fullness of your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C

Amen.

THE PEACE

P

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C

And also with you.

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Rutter

¹All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

²Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings.

⁵God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

³The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky.

⁴The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them ev'ry one.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -

it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take

not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--our
selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen



THE COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

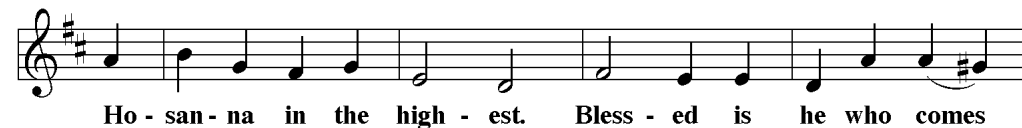
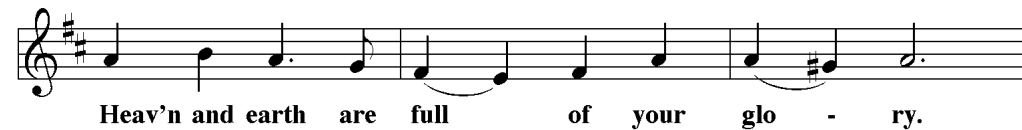
P Lift up your hearts.

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 God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.
You rescued Israel, your chosen people.
Through the prophets you renewed your promise;
and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,
who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

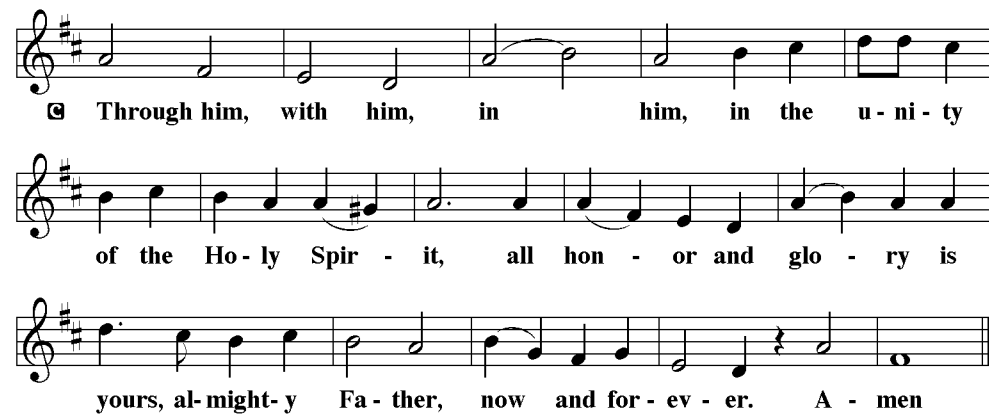
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup

C we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

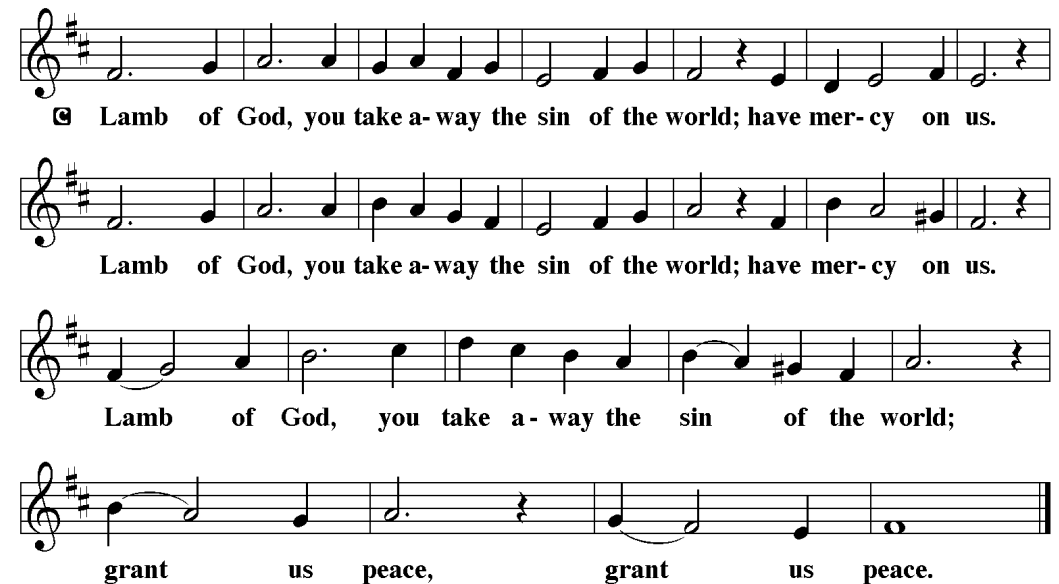
P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



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. 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: #383 Rise Up, O Saints of God

THE DISMISSAL

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

Postlude

