

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright

Communion Assistant: Kim Haberman

Ushers: Dale Merrell, Gretchen Walker,
Robert Davis, Lex Patterson, Samantha Hillegass

Greeter: Barbara Albright

Videographer: Chris Miller

Building Supervisors: Robert Davis & Gretchen Walker

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); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; Will Irvin; Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); 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 Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Roger Scarselletta (nephew of Joan Mahoney); Deb Walker.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of their son Lyn from Buddy & Joan McEachern and Jennifer & Jack Ritchie.

To assist in your offering
Secure Online Giving



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

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 13, 2025

The Holy Communion
Holy Baptism
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

July 15 – Margaret Ford, Mark Weisel
July 16 – James Hughes, Jr., Beth Huss, Janice Klauss, James Weisel
July 18 – Reggie Hardister, Sid Hughes, Sr.

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 13	9:00am	Parish Choir
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	VBS Volunteer Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00am	Social Ministry Meeting (Parlor)
Monday, July 14	10:30am	Quilting
Saturday, July 19	8:30am	Leah's Hope Trailer
Sunday, July 20	9:00am	Parish Choir
	10:00am	Worship
	5:30pm	Vacation Bible School





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

THE HOLY COMMUNION
HOLY BAPTISM



***We rejoice with Jake and Morgan Rooker at the baptism of their daughter,
Rylee Alizabeth Rooker.***

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 ENTRANCE HYMN: Open Now Thy Gate of Beauty

Please see next page.

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;

where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.

Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

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



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

Ⓑ 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, use our lives to touch the world with your love. Stir us, by your Spirit, to be neighbor to those in need, serving them with willing hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

⁹ The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰ when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?” ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?” ¹⁴ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Colossians 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of

this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷ This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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 10th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord**

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with


all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”


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

Please sit.
THE SERMON **Pastor Bill Ridenhour**

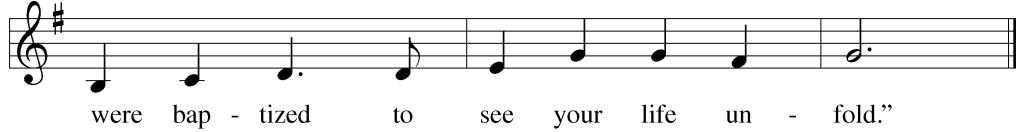
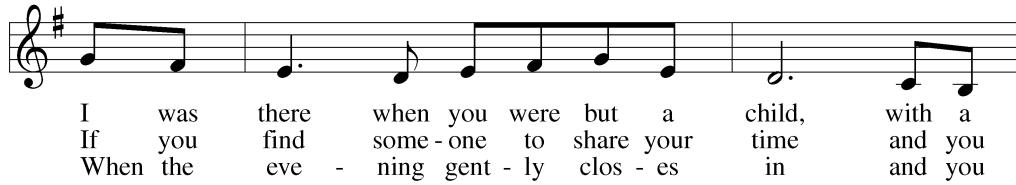
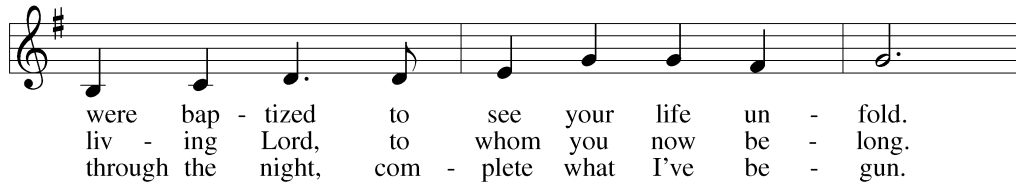
Please stand.
THE HYMN OF THE DAY: I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry



1 “I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I’ll be
2 “When you heard the won - der of the Word I was
3 “In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too



there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the
old, no lon - ger young, I’ll be there to guide you



The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

P In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a sinful humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The parents/sponsor(s) for each candidate present the candidate:

R I present Rylee Alizabeth Rooker to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The minister addresses the sponsors and parents.

P In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R I do.

Please Stand.

The Prayers are offered.

A Let us pray for Rylee, about to be baptized, and all the baptized everywhere:

A That Rylee may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A That the Holy Spirit may open her heart to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A That she may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A That she may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A That she may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,
C **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 minister begins the thanksgiving.

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 him thanks and praise.**

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and

fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that she who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of she who is cleansed by this water and bring her forth as an inheritor of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen**

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
R I do.

P Do you believe in God the Father?
C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
C **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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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**

Please Sit.

The minister baptizes each candidate.

P Rylee Alizabeth Rooker is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*The minister lays both hands on the head of the baptized
and prays for the Holy Spirit (Confirmation).*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your
sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life
through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Rylee Alizabeth
Rooker: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and
might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your
presence.

C **Amen**

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

P Rylee Alizabeth Rooker, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A lighted candle may be given to each of the baptized:

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and
glorify your Father in heaven.

P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of
this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them
teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in
their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation
you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Please Stand.

A Through Baptism God has made this new sister a member of the priesthood we
all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his
creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow
member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a
worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

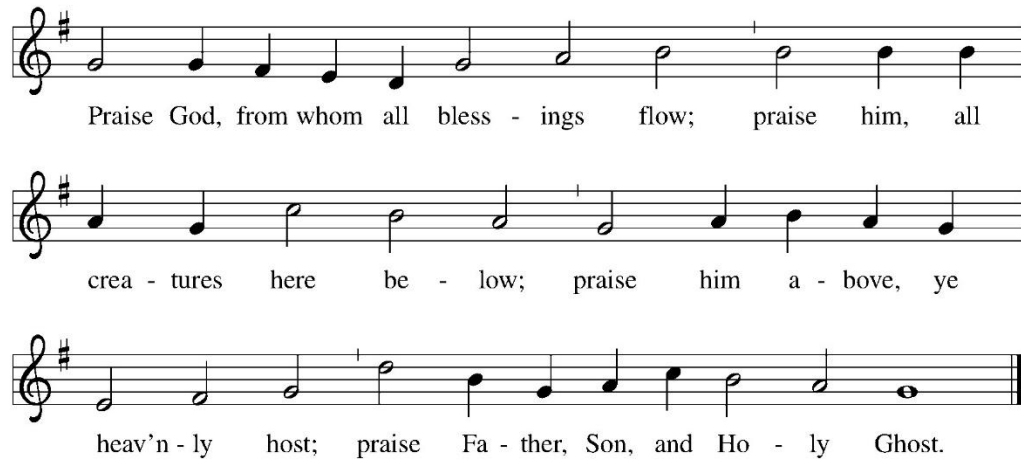
Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY #564 “The Doxology”



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

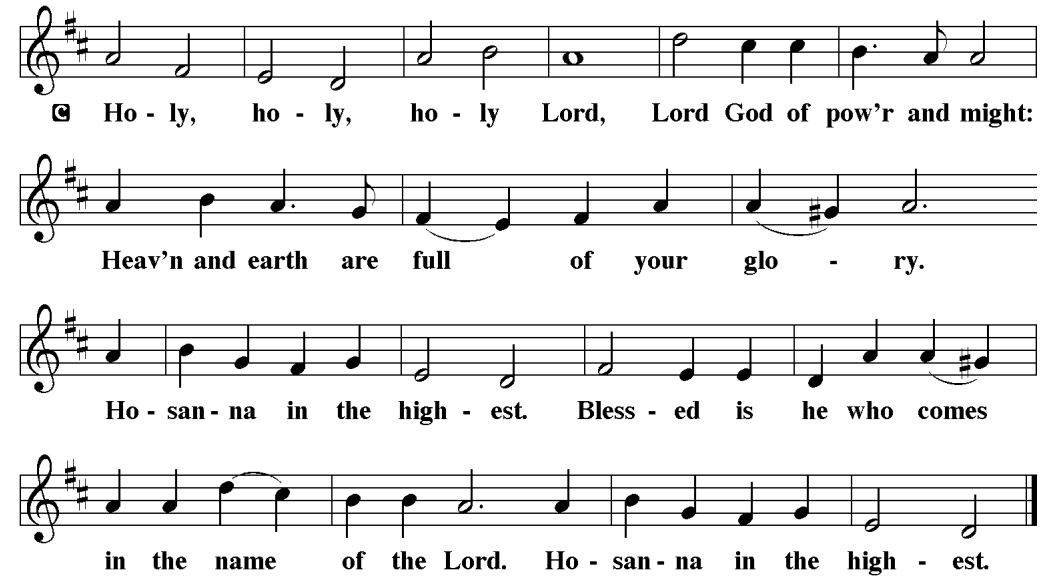
A Let us pray.
A Blessed are you,
C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, 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 We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.
He is your Word,
inseparable from you.
Through him you created all things,
and in him you take delight.
He is your Word,
sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.
It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This is my blood poured out for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we lift this bread and cup before you,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.


And we ask you:
Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church both 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.



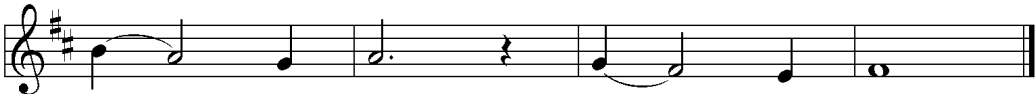
☩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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. 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**

Silence for reflection.



THE BENEDICTION

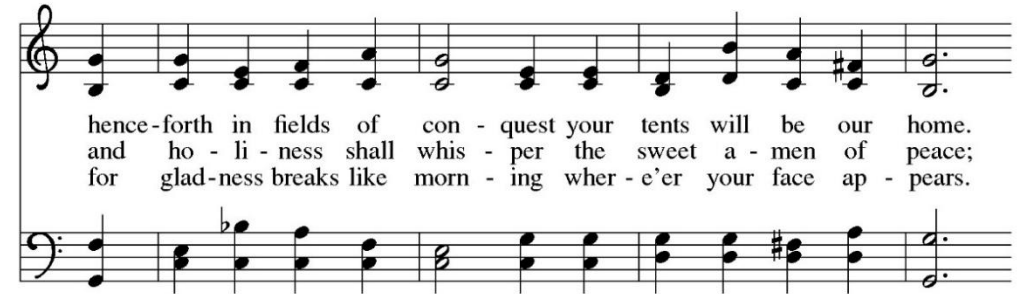
P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

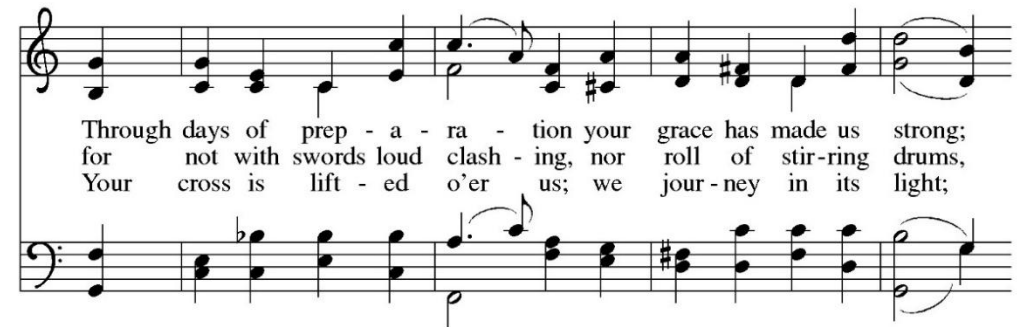
THE SENDING HYMN: #495 Lean on, O King Eternal (Please see next page.)



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



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KEVIN ESTES IN CONCERT

As part of the Charlotte Area Chapter of the American Guild of Organists' Summer Concert Series, Kevin Estes will present a recital on Sunday, July 13th at 4pm. The concert host is Friendship Missionary Baptist Church located at 3400 Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte.

VBS 2025!

Join us for Vacation Bible School **July 20 – 22, 2025**.

Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/StJamesVBS25>.

Sign up by July 6 to guarantee a T-shirt.

All volunteers will be required to have a current *Safe Gatherings* background check. Please contact holly@sjnc.net for instructions.

WE'RE HIRING!

St. James is seeking a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries to lead and grow our youth program. Learn more on our website and help spread the word!

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>.

VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED!

As summer travel picks up, we will need more volunteers to keep Sunday worship accessible online.

Serving as videographer is a simple process—just a few steps to start and stop the stream, with optional zoom control from your seat using a tablet.

Training is easy: we can walk you through it or have you shadow a current volunteer.

Visit the website to sign up.