

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Lector/Intercessor:** Barbara Albright  
**Communion Assistant:** Samantha Hillegass  
**Acolyte:** Noah Pittard  
**Ushers:** Chip Popovici, Jimmy Harris, Jeff Jones, Jeff Gilbert, Phil Tesh  
**Greeter:** Barbara Albright  
**Building Supervisor:** Wendell Overby

### PRAYER LIST

Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; Caroline Bost; Betsy Boynton (friend of Tommy Propst); Patrick Bryn (son of Kirby & Sondra Bryn); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; 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); Jeff Gilbert; Tom Grady; Harriett Huss Hodge; 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); Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Becky Phillips; Al Pieschel; Lori Pittard; Tom Ridenhour.

### ❖ FAMILY SNOW EVENT ❖

Join us after worship on **Sunday, Jan. 25**, for lunch and snowy fun in the Fellowship Hall!  
Enjoy snow games, snow science, snow art, snow cones, and of course, SNOW!

*To assist in your offering*  
Secure Online Giving



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

## The Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 18, 2026

**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.

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

Jan. 19 – Carrie Craver, Gail Johnson, Kristin Rinker  
Jan. 21 – Michael Phillips  
Jan. 22 – Samantha Cooley, Jeff Jones, Jason Pittard

## CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

9:00am	Adult Sunday School
9:00am	Choir
9:30am	Children's Sunday School
10:00am	Worship
11:00am	Social Ministry Meeting (Parlor)
<i>MLK, Jr. Day - Office Closed</i>	
10:30am	Quilting
6:30pm	Choir
9:00am	Adult Sunday School
9:00am	Choir
9:30am	Children's Sunday School
10:00am	Worship
11:00am	Family Snow Event ❄

## VOLUNTEER

Our 2026 Sunday Worship Volunteer Opportunities are now open! We're looking for Ushers, Communion Assistants, Lectors, Acolytes, and Videographers to help on Sundays.

Altar Flower dates are also available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Not sure where to start? Email us at [info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net) for more information, training, or to connect with a volunteer team leader.

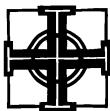
## STAY CONNECTED!

Sign up to receive our weekly *Ring Out* e-newsletter for news, events, and ministry updates.



**Follow us on social media:**

Facebook & Instagram: [@stjamesnc](https://www.instagram.com/@stjamesnc)  
YouTube: [@stjameslutheranconcord](https://www.youtube.com/@stjameslutheranconcord)



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

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**



**Welcome**

**Prelude**

Pastorale in F Major

J. S. Bach

*Please stand.*

**THE INVOCATION**

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: #265 Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies**

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy - less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

### 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

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

P Lord God, you showed your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son. As he brought gladness and healing to his people, grant us these same gifts and lead us also to perfect faith in him, Jesus Christ our Lord

C Amen.



*Please sit.*

**THE FIRST READING:** Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,

pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The Lord called me before I was born,

while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword,

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'

<sup>4</sup> But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,  
and my reward with my God.'

<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—

<sup>6</sup> he says,  
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
'Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

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

#### THE SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

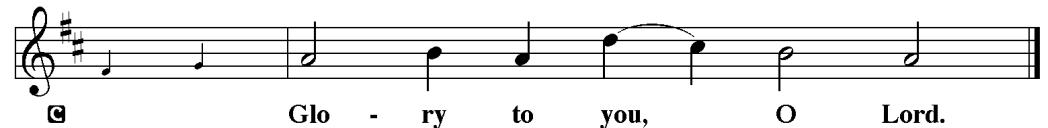
<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

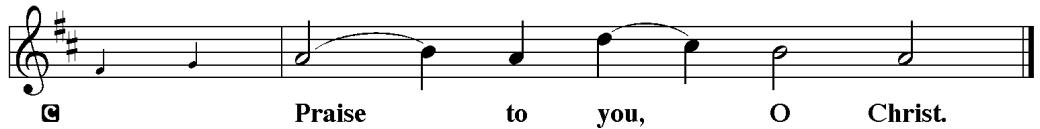


<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' <sup>32</sup> And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove,

and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ <sup>39</sup>He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter).

P The Gospel of the Lord.



*Please sit.*

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

*Please stand.*

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #87 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

*No harmony graphic is available.*



THE APOSTLES' CREED

C 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**

*Please kneel or sit as able.*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**A** Let us pray that the light of Christ may shine upon the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

*A brief silence*

Thank you, Father, for Jesus. Thank you for making him our doorway into your heart. Thank you for making him your dear Lamb, the sacrifice for our sin. Thank you for making him the light of the world, and of our lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, cause your Church to preach like John the Baptist. May it always point to Jesus, and say, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Prune away every teaching or effort that does not serve that end. Let Jesus use the Church to draw new disciples to himself, and to shape them into his likeness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make disciples of everyone in this congregation. Give us willing and trust-filled hearts. Help us to use our spiritual gifts to glorify you and build up our community of faith. Make us bold to tell others, "This is the Christ, the Son of the living God." Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fuel us with the passion to value and treat all people with respect, justice and charity. By the power of your Spirit, reminds us always of the witness of Dr. King and take away our prejudices. Help us to lay these, our sins, at the foot of the cross. Mold us to illumine the world with respect, justice and charity. Help

us to love you and our neighbors as ourselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enlighten the minds and purify the hearts of those who take counsel for the nations. Turn them away from the false gods of power, prestige, and ideology, and teach them your ways. Bestow your favor upon our country. Make it a beacon of righteousness, justice and freedom for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Stoop down, O Lord, and hear the cry of all who are afflicted by suffering or sorrow, including. Lift them out of their desolation, make their footing sure, and put a new song into their mouths. Restore them to their loved ones, so they may joyfully proclaim your deliverance. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, thank you for your servants who have died to us but rest safely in your hand. Sustain us with that same strong and merciful hand. 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**

Behold the Lamb of God

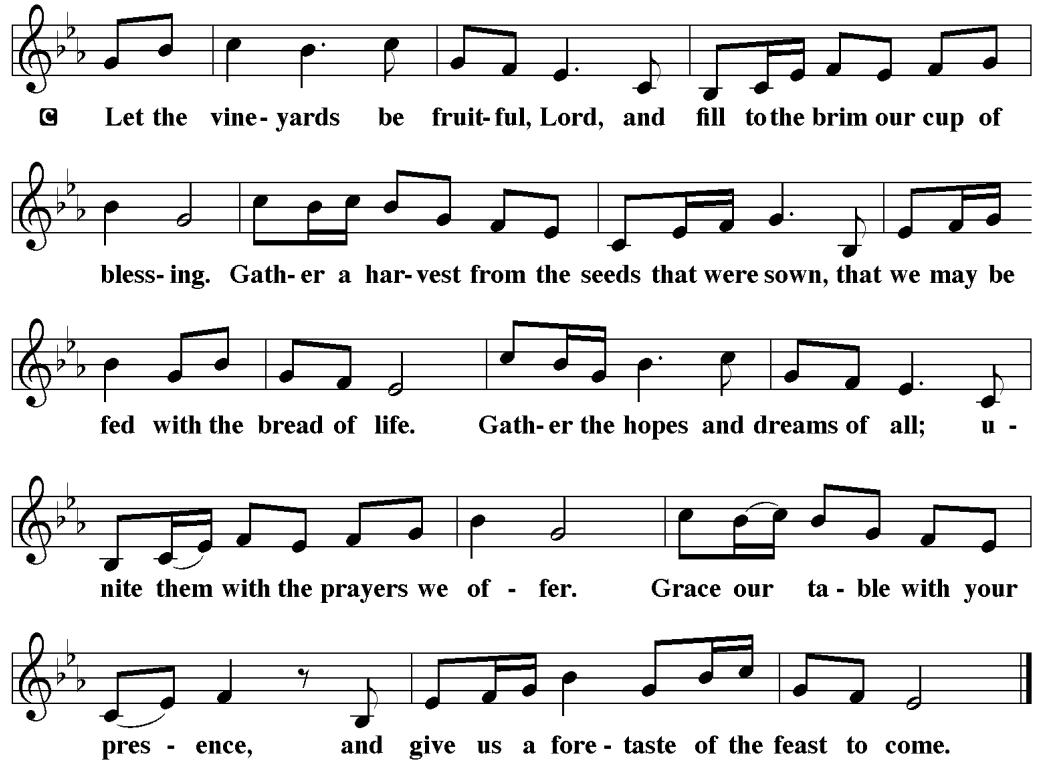
G. F. Handel

*Behold the Lamb of God,  
that taketh away the sin of the world.  
(John 1:29)*

**THE OFFERING**

*Please stand.*

## THE OFFERTORY



C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

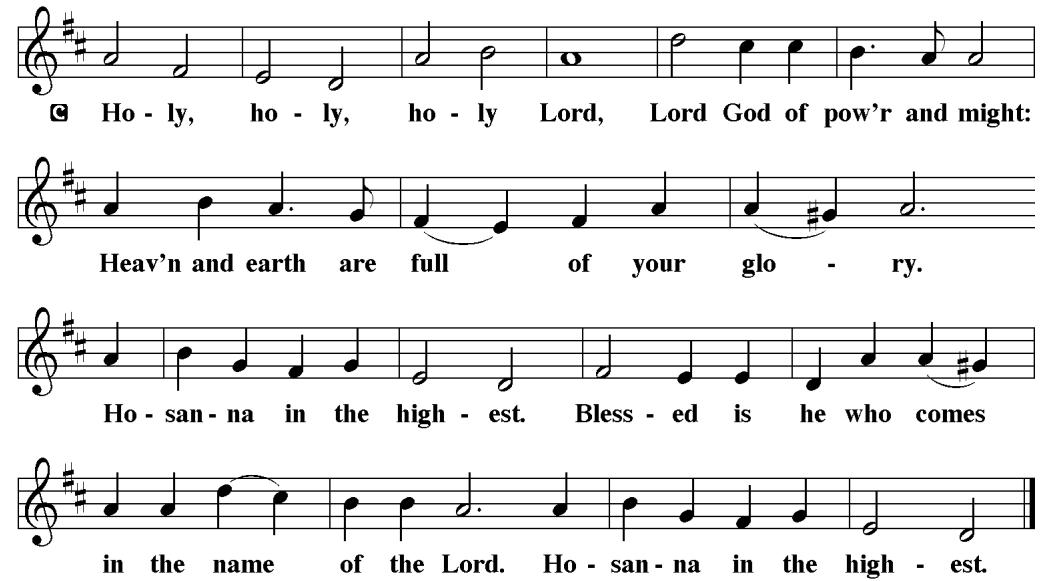
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, almighty and merciful Father, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

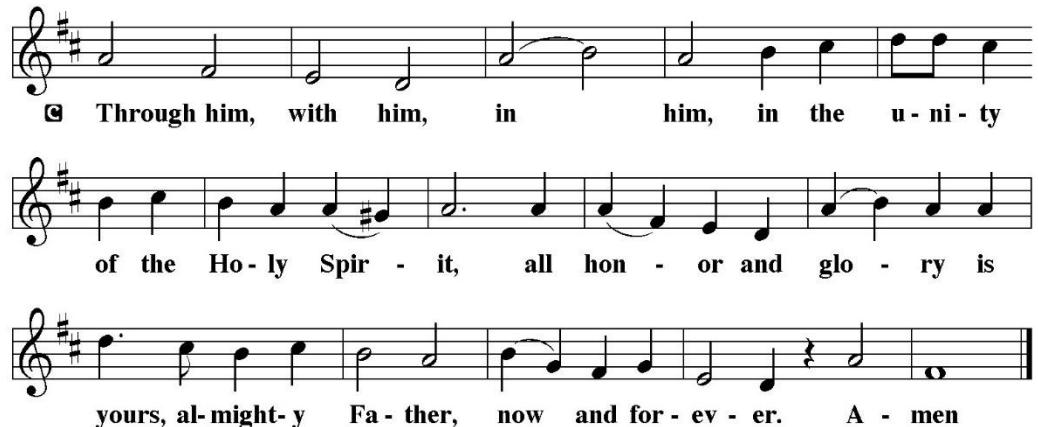
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

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

**C** Amen.



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

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

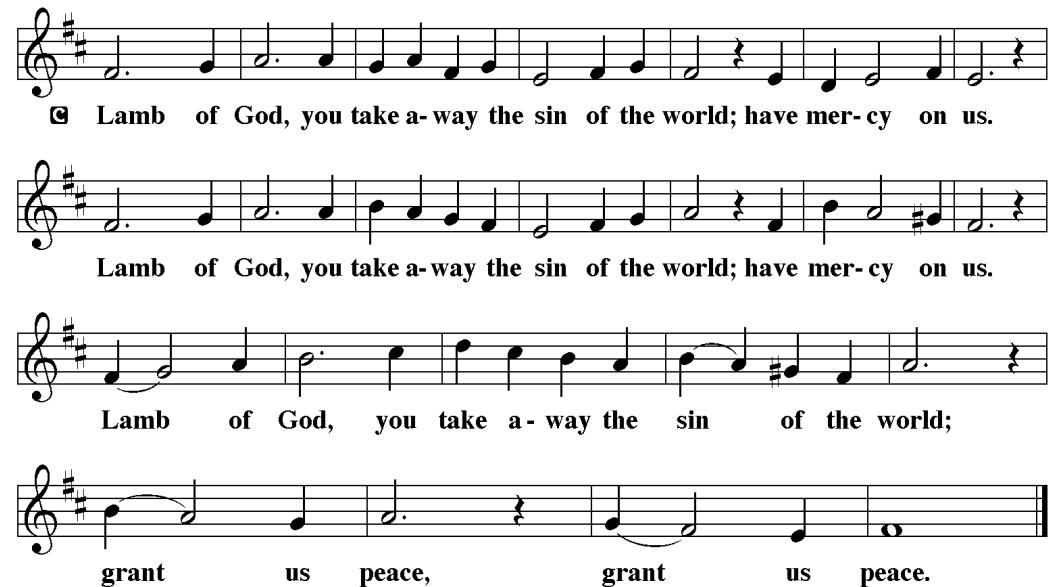
**C** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.



**C** 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,

P 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: #364 Son of God, Eternal Savior

*Please see next page.*

*Harmony available in the green LBW hymnal.*



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant-ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil-ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray-ing, by your will-ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

### THE DISMISSAL

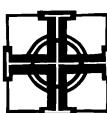
P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Allegro (from Sonate No. 2)

Schmidt



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