ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Kim Haberman Communion Assistant: Elizabeth Hurley Ushers: Brad Baker, Chip Harward, Taylor Pruette, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller

Greeter: Gretchen Walker **Videographer:** Laurie Miller **Building Supervisor:** Tommy Propst

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); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); 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); Stan Parnell (friend of Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour; Geoff & Pam Seige (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of their grandson Bodhi's first birthday by Todd & Gretchen Walker.

To assist in your offeringSecure Online Giving



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

The Seventh Sunday of Easter June 1, 2025

The Holy Communion 10:00am



St. James Lutheran Church 104 Union Street South PO Box 684 Concord, North Carolina 28026 704-786-0166 www.sjnc.net

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Pastor

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next to you or to an usher.

<u>Restrooms</u> are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A <u>nursery</u> is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

June 1 – Jason Kartheiser

June 3 – Mike Holt, Nancy Hopkins, Jack Nivens III

June 4 – Thomas Propst, Jr., Miles Walker

June 5 – Mark Davis

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 1	9:00am 9:30am 10:00am	Parish Choir Children's Sunday School Worship
Monday, June 2	10:30am	Quilting
Tuesday, June 3	6:oopm	Executive Committee
Thursday, June 5	5:30pm 6:30pm	Handbells Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, June 8	9:00am 9:30am 10:00am	Parish Choir Children's Sunday School Worship Confirmation Reception (Fellowship Hall)

MY FATHER'S HOUSE MINISTRY NEEDS

St. James Lutheran Church will provide meals for My Father's House Ministry **June 16 and 17**. If you can help provide a side dish to accompany a chicken meal or a ham meal for that Monday or Tuesday supper, please contact Martha Matthews: 704-787-2180.

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@sinc.net for instructions.



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Welcome

Prelude

Pastorale (from Symphonie I)

Guilmant

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

THE REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

A When we were joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we were clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Together let us remember our baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks:

- 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 our thanks and praise.
- We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you created the world by your Word, calling forth life in which you took delight. You led Israel safely through the Red Sea into the land of promise, and in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus your beloved

one. By water and the Spirit you adopted us as your daughters and sons, making us heirs of the promise and servants of God. Through this water remind us of our baptism. Shower us with your Spirit, that your forgiveness, grace, and love may be renewed in our lives. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: Welcome, Happy Morning

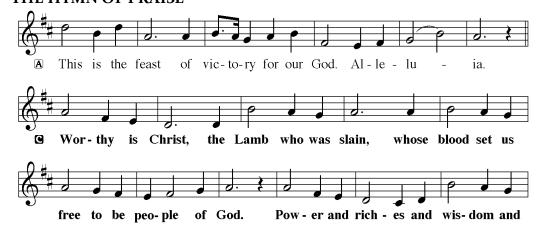




THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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 God, our creator and redeemer, your Son Jesus prayed that his followers might be one. Make all Christians one with him as he is one with you, so that in peace and concord we may carry to the world the message of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Acts 16:16-34

¹⁶ One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

THE SECOND READING: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

¹² "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

¹⁶ "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

²⁰ The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

- 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 20th chapter.



[Jesus prayed:] ²⁰ "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Son of God, Eternal Savior



THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

Please kneel or sit as able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."
- For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy.
- For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for Α the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy.
- For all Bishops, for all the clergy and all the people, let us pray to the Lord. Α
- Lord, have mercy.
- For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy.
- For our city of Concord, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy.
- For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us Α pray to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy.
- For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to Α conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy.
- For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord. Α
- Lord, have mercy.

- A For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
- C To thee, O Lord our God.
- P O God, you gladden our hearts by the annual celebration of the resurrection of our Lord: In your mercy grant that we, who celebrate these joyous days on earth, may at length attain to the eternal Easter in heaven; through your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- And also with you.

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

Anthem text may be found in the green LBW hymnal. Hymn 561.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



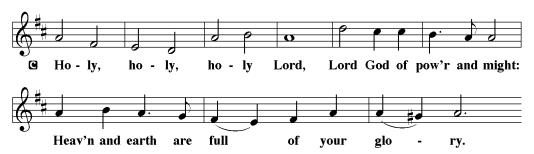
THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

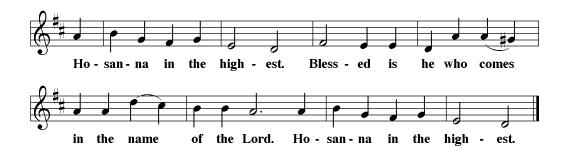
- A Let us pray.
- A Blessed are you,
- O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



THE COMMUNION RITE

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

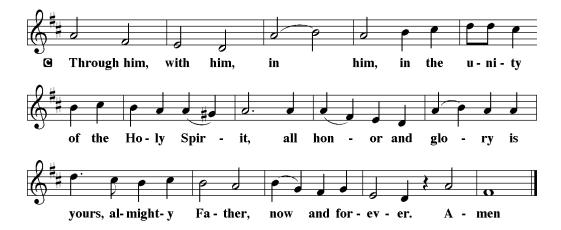
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: 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, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving

Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

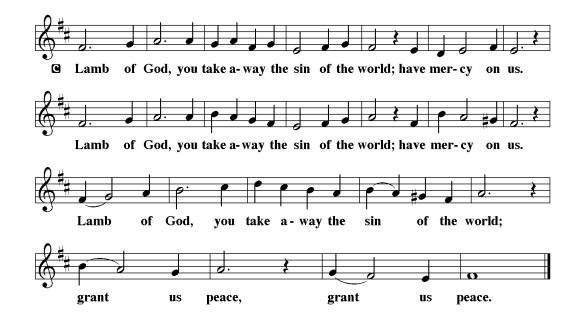
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
- C Amen. Come, Holy 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?
- 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,
- P 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.



THE BENEDICTION

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

THE SENDING HYMN: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus





THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude Rondeau Mouret

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY- JUNE 8

Join us on Pentecost **Sunday**, **June 8** as we celebrate Confirmation Sunday, a joyful milestone in the faith journey of nine of our young members.

Following the service, all are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall to offer congratulations and enjoy a time of fellowship.

MENNONITE CHILDREN'S CHOIR - JUNE 13

St. James will welcome the Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster, PA for a special concert on **Friday**, **June 13 at 7:00pm**.

These talented singers (grades 6–12) are on tour through NC & VA, sharing their beautiful program: Morning & Evening: Songs for the Everyday — music that celebrates God's presence in the simple moments of life.

Can you open your home for the night? We're looking for members that can host singers after the concert. Hosts provide: a simple snack, bedding (or sleeping bag), and simple breakfast. Choir members return to St. James by 8:00am the next morning to continue their journey.

Contact Elizabeth Hurley for information: elizabeth.p.hurley@gmail.com; 704-796-8538.

GRADUATES! -

Are you about to celebrate your commencement? Let us know by **June 8** so we can recognize you! <u>info@sjnc.net</u>; 704-786-0166.

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.