

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Lindsey Olsen

Communion Assistant: Ann Blackwelder

Acolyte: Maddox Landers

Ushers: Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin,
Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard

Videographer: Annette Propst

Greeter: Nancy Faggart

Building Supervisors: Wendell Overby & Tony Folino

PRAYER LIST

Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; George Brinkman (Friend of Margaret Garrison); 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); Catherine Durst (daughter of Anne & Dee Hodges); Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Phyllis Freeman (Mother of Fonda Shumate); Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Ginger Gibbs (Friend of Jeff & Deedee Gilbert); Jeff Gilbert; Tom Grady; Nancy Haney (loved one of Betsy Ballard); Ryan Hardister (son of Bill & Reggie Hardister); Maureen Hollmeyer; Hunter Huss; Family of Dale Johnson (Friend of Dale Merrell); Mary Frances Johnson (cousin of Francie Davis); Karen Johnston (friend of Judy Benz); Mary Anne Lanahan (Aunt of Francie Davis); Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); John Ledford (brother of Deb Black); Leonard "Buddy" McEachern; Jason Matthews; Barbara Merrell; Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Dave Olsen (friend of Patsy Black); Mason Overby; Stan Parnell (friend of Rob & Debbie Davis); Becky Phillips; Al Pieschel; Lori Pittard; Lori Ruff (mother of Christine Ruff); Jessica Seeley (cousin of Christine Ruff); Ruby Tyer (niece of Beth Huss' friend).

ALOHA SUMMER PARTY - JUNE 7

Join us after worship on June 7 for lunch, playground fun, fellowship, and tropical snow cones as we kick off summer together!

SPECIAL CHOIR PERFORMANCE - JUNE 14

The St. James Lutheran Parish Choir will perform in an American Guild of Organists concert on Sunday, June 14, at 4:00pm at Providence United Methodist Church in Charlotte. Come support our choir and enjoy an afternoon of music!

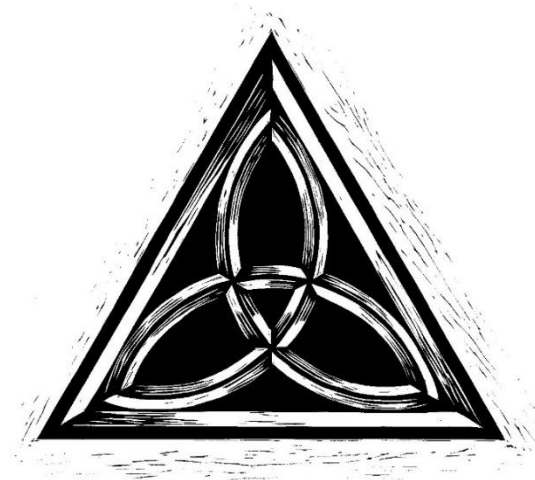
To assist in your offering
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Thank you for supporting St. James

The Holy Trinity
The First Sunday after Pentecost
May 31, 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

May 31 – Joe Grady, Samantha Hillegass, Emery Poplin
June 1 – Jason Kartheiser
June 3 – Michael Holt, Nancy Hopkins, Jack Nivens
June 4 – Thomas Propst, Jr., Miles Walker
June 5 – Mark Davis

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 31	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, June 1	10:30am	Quilting
Tuesday, June 2	5:45pm	Mission Fund Meeting (Parlor)
	6:00pm	Executive Committee
Thursday, June 4	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, June 7	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	<i>Aloha Summer Party!</i>

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Rising 6th–8th graders are invited to help pack food boxes with The Salvation Army on Thursdays in June from 12:00–2:30pm in Concord. RSVP through SignupGenius and complete a volunteer form before serving.

Details:



SONSHINE BACKPACK JUNE SUPPLY DRIVE

Help provide weekend food for local children in need through our partnership with Sunshine Backpacks. Requested items include shelf-stable milk, cereal, mac & cheese, canned goods, granola bars, juice, popcorn, and pudding. Donations are due on the back kitchen counter by June 28. Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker.

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee,
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

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 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

B Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you.**

P Almighty God our Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, renewing and fulfilling creation by your eternal Spirit, and revealing your glory through our Lord, Jesus Christ: Cleanse us from doubt and fear, and enable us to worship you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, living and reigning, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, ‘Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’ ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give

light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’ ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ ²⁹ God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

² Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: II Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

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

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION




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



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

THE HOLY GOSPEL


P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.


Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #393 Rise, Shine, You People



- 1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
- 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
- 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

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**

THE PRAYERS

A In the power of the Spirit, let us pray to God the Father, that through his dear Son, he would accomplish his will for the Church, the world, and all people for whom we pray.

We adore you, O Lord, and confess you are one God in three Persons. With God the Son, in the power of God the Spirit, we are bold to pray to God the Father as “*Our Father!*” We do not deserve, and can barely comprehend, such a wonder. All we can do is bless your holy Name and proclaim your goodness and grace to the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give the Church such wisdom and faith that it may rightly proclaim your Name to the world. Give it such humility and grace that, through it, many come to know, trust, and love you, the Lord and Savior of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make this congregation a temple, fit for your holy presence. May everything we say and do glorify you. Bind us together in love. Use us to introduce you to those who don't yet know you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You created this world, blessed it, entrusted it to us, and called us to be the face of God to creation! Help us to use the bounties of sea, land and air with wisdom and prudence. Give wise and loving hearts to all who care for animals. Bless farmers, ranchers, fisher-folk, and all who keep an anxious eye on weather, pollution, and everything that affects this beautiful planet. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remind leaders of the nations that they are your stewards of authority and power. Remind captains of industry and commerce that they are stewards of the world's resources. Remind the healthy and wealthy, the educated and influential, the popular and powerful, that they, too, are stewards of your lavish gifts. Remind all of us that we are stewards of your bounty. You command us to use them in accordance with your will; and your will is for all people and all creatures to enjoy their rightful portion of your gifts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remind the leaders of the nations that they are called to keep the peace and when they fail our loved ones are placed in danger. Give them the help of your Spirit that rhetoric may cool and weapons may go silent. Guard and protect all whose duty places them in harms way, especially Mason.

Bless, heal, and comfort all who suffer. Guide them safely through the dark valleys in which they wander. Be their light and life, their guide and joy. Return them to the fellowship of all who love and pray for them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we praise for all your saints now resting from their labors. Help us to imitate their faithfulness as we follow you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Hear our prayers, O Father, for the sake of Jesus your Son; and by the power of your Holy Spirit, bring what is pleasing in your sight to fruition in our lives. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

Holy, Holy, Holy

Schubert

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



☩ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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 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, almighty and everliving God.

You have revealed your glory as the glory also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit: three persons, equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory.

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



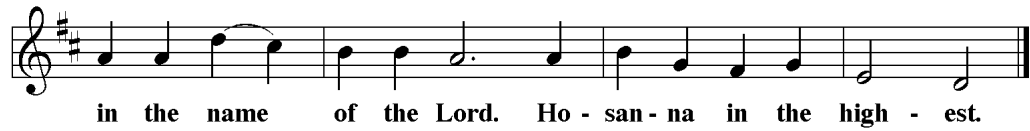
☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



P Holy God, holy and mighty one, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus, who in the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

C Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever.

C **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

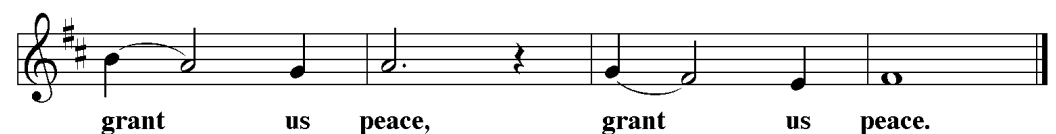
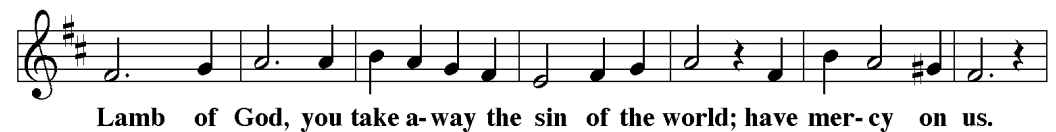
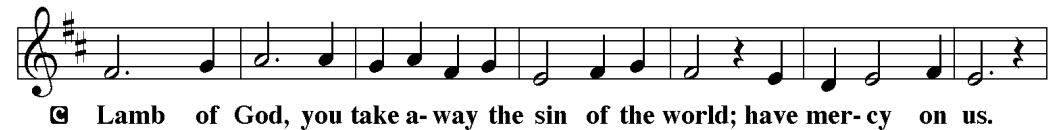
P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**



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 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: #169 Father, Most Holy

1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our
2 Trin - i - ty bless - ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en; good - ness un -
3 Mak - er of all things, all thy crea - tures praise thee; all for thy
4 Lord God Al - might - y, un - to thee be glo - ry, one in three

Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,
bound - ed, ver - y God of heav - en, light of the an - gels,
wor - ship were and are cre - at - ed; now, as we al - so
per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,

ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, light nev - er wan - ing.
joy of those for - sak - en, hope of all liv - ing.
wor - ship thee de - vout - ly, hear thou our voic - es.
praise thee and a - dore thee, now and for - ev - er.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Impromptu

Nealson

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