

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector:

Communion Assistant: Christine Ruff

Ushers: Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,

Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright

Building Supervisor: Mike Rinker

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18, 2025

The Holy Communion The Imposition of Ashes

7pm

PRAYER LIST

Cecil Berry (friend of Gretchen Walker); Family of Michael Black (nephew of Patsy Black); Patsy Black; Caroline Bost; 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; Hunter Huss; 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; Ruby Tyler (niece of Beth Huss' friend); Jesse Woodard (son-in-law of Beth Huss).



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**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!

REMINDERS:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! - MEAL PACKING SATURDAY FEB. 21

Join us on **Saturday, February 21st**, at 10:00am at Gibson Mill for a morning of service with Lifeline Christian Mission.

We're looking for 60 volunteers to help pack meals at various stations. The event will run from 10:00am to noon and all supplies including hairnets, gloves, and guidance will be provided.

With your help, we expect to pack 10,800 meals for those in need! Scan to sign up!



+ LENTEN FAMILY EVENT – FEB. 22 +

Join us after worship for a light lunch on **Sunday, Feb. 22nd** in the Fellowship Hall. After lunch we will create prayer chains and kindness cards to utilize throughout the season of Lent.

PARTNER INITIATIVES: AMAZING GRACE ADVOCACY

Spaghetti Dinner – Feb. 26

Amazing Grace Advocacy invites you to attend their Spaghetti Fundraiser on Thursday, February 26 in the Fellowship Hall.

Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., with dinner from 4:00–7:00 p.m. Enjoy a delicious meal while supporting an important mission. Proceeds benefit life and job skills programs for youth with disabilities.

Blessing Box in Rotary Square

Amazing Grace's Life Skills Lab program will be helping to keep the Blessing Box stocked every Tuesday and Thursday in partnership with the iCAN Organization. You can join in this ongoing effort by donating non-perishable food or hygiene items. The red Blessing Box collection bin will remain on the Portico Counter and serve as a year-round ministry opportunity.



The Congregation assembles in silence for meditation during the prelude.

Prelude

Élévation

Dubois, Théodore

Please stand.

PSALM: 51:1-18

The Psalm is spoken in unison.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

⁵ And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

⁶ Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁷ For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸ Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;

wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹ Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹¹ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹² Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹³ Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹⁴ I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.

¹⁵ Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

¹⁶ Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁷ Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

¹⁸ The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

C Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be forever. Amen

THE EXHORTATION

P Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us.

Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love--the discipline of Lent--help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Please sit or kneel, as able.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

THE CONFESSION

P Most holy and merciful Father:

C **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,
C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
C **accept our repentance, Lord.**

P For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
C **accept our repentance, Lord.**

P For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
C **accept our repentance, Lord.**

P Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
C **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The people are invited to come forward to receive ashes. Please kneel or stand, able.

The minister applies the ashes with the words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Following the imposition, the minister leads the conclusion of the confession.

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
C that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,
C bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Silence.

Please stand.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, 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: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near — ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

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

THE SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

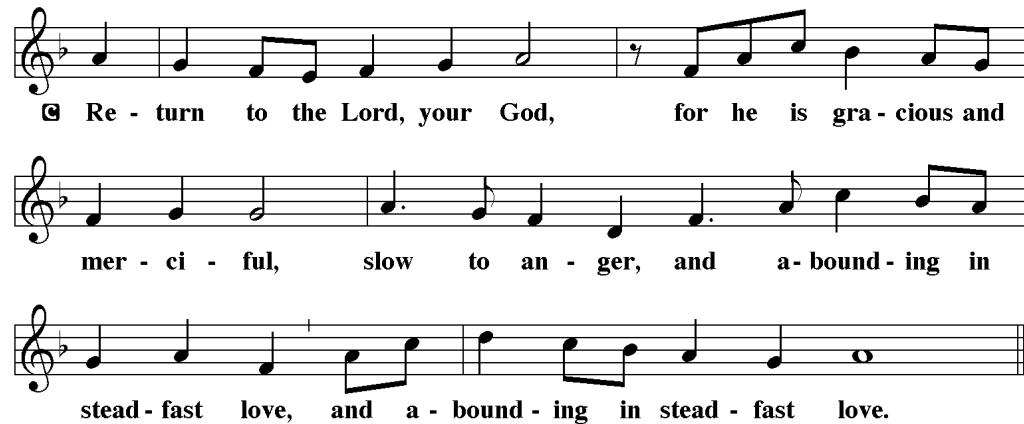
We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as

impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



S Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and

shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

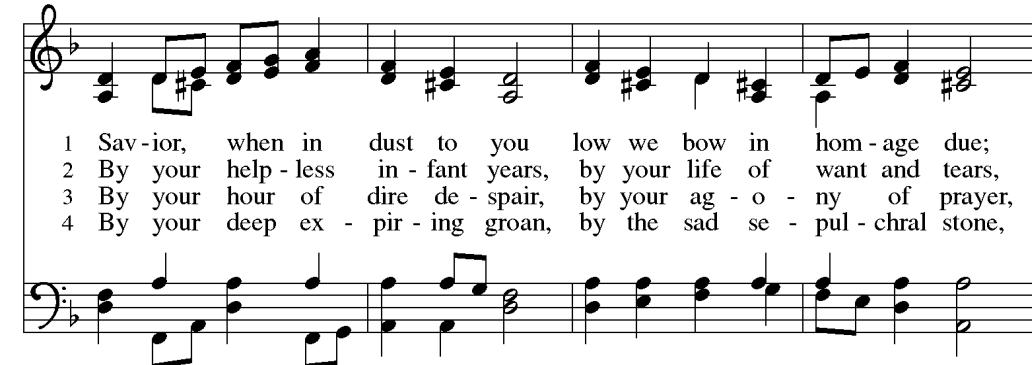
¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.
THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #91 Savior, When in Dust to You



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due;
2 By your help - less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,

when, re - pen - tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;
by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,
by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,

oh, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,
by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,
oh, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,

bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn, oh, turn a fa - v'ring eye; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

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 sit or kneel, as able.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
from the cunning assaults of the devil;
from an unprepared and evil death:

Good Lord, deliver us.

From war, bloodshed, and violence;
from corrupt and unjust government;
from sedition and treason:

Good Lord, deliver us.

From epidemic, drought, and famine,
from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning and storm;
and from everlasting death:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your incarnation; by your holy birth:

Help us, good Lord.

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by your agony and bloody sweat;
by your cross and suffering;
by your precious death and burial:

Help us, good Lord.

By your glorious resurrection and ascension;

by the gift of the Holy Spirit:

Help us, good Lord.

In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

Save us, good Lord.

Though unworthy, we implore you
to hear us, Lord our God.

To rule and govern your holy catholic Church;
to guide all servants of your Church in the true knowledge and
understanding of your Word and in holiness of life;
to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense to those who would believe;

and to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and gone astray:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To beat down Satan under our feet;
to send faithful workers into your harvest;
to accompany your Word with your Spirit and power;
to raise up those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and
to comfort and help the fainthearted and the distressed:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To give to all nations justice and peace;
to preserve our country from discord and strife;
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;
and to bless and guide all our people:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;
to protect and guide all who travel;
to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;
to watch over children and to guide the young;
to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;
to bring reconciliation to families in discord;
to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;
to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;
to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows;
to watch over our loved ones in need; especially . . .
and to have mercy on all your people:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,
and to reconcile us to them;
to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures
of the earth, the sea, and the air;
and graciously to hear our prayers:
We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn from their evil ways and live: Graciously turn us from those punishments which we by our sins have deserved, and grant us grace evermore to serve you in holiness and pureness of living; through 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 OFFERING

THE ANTHEM

Sicut Cervus (Like as the Hart)

Palestrina, Giovanni

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.*

*Like as the hart desireth the water brooks,
ev'n so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
-Psalm 42:1*

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



Music notation for the Offertory hymn 'Create in me a clean heart, O God' by Palestrina. The music is in G major, common time, with a basso continuo line below the vocal line.

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres- ence, and take



Music notation for the Offertory prayer by Palestrina. The music is in G major, common time, with a basso continuo line below the vocal line.

not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal- va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. 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, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav- en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 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 You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;
 you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
 You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
 that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
 Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will
 and accomplished our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,

his life-giving Passion and death,
 his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,
 we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
 not as we ought, but as we are able;
 and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving,
 and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants,
 and these your own gifts of bread and wine;
 that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son
 may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,
 and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body,
 and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church, now and forever.

C Amen

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

THE DISTRIBUTION

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

A Let us pray.

A Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his through the same 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: #306 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound-ed heart,
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won-drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
He sus-tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.



THE DISMISSAL

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

There is no prelude.

The people depart as quietly as possible.



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