

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright
Communion Assistant: Christine Ruff
Ushers: Brad Baker, Chip Harward,
Taylor Pruette, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller
Greeter: Gretchen Walker
Videographer: Chris 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); Tom Grady; Maureen Hollmeyer; Will Irvin; Ruth Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); Patricia Mahoney (sister-in-law of Joan Mahoney); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Deb & Roger Myers (friends of Deb Black); Stan Parnell (friend of Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Al Pieschel; Tom Ridenhour.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Fuller Beasley as he celebrates his birthday today!

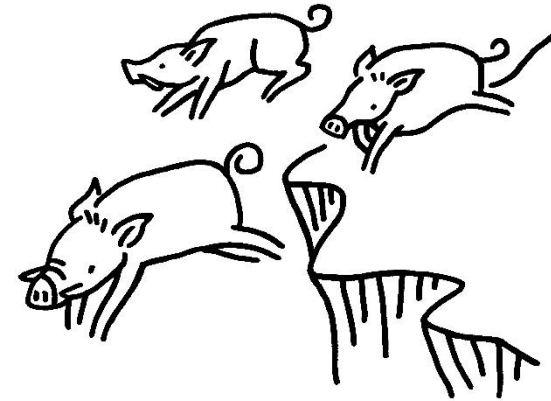
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Thank you for supporting St. James!

The Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 22, 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 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.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- June 22 – Fuller Beasley
- June 23 – Samuel Haberman, Ben McGuire
- June 25 – Bill Hardister
- June 26 – Wilson Propst, Jr.
- June 27 – Phyllis Freeman
- June 28 – Kim Harward

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 22	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, June 23	10:30am	Quilting
Sunday, June 29	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Social Ministry Meeting (Parlor)

JOIN US FOR CABARRUS
CREAMERY ICE CREAM



IMMEDIATELY AFTER
WORSHIP





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

THE HOLY COMMUNION



This Sunday begins the lengthy “green” season of “ordinary time.” During the summer look out weekly for a change or two and some things that are omitted.

Kevin Estes is enjoying the day. We welcome Linda McKechnie to the organ bench.

Welcome

Prelude Fairest Lord Jesus with Jesu Joy by Bach, arr. McKechnie

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

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

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: #520 Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways; won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you
C **And also with you.**
P O God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord
C **Amen.**



Please sit.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:1-9

¹ I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,
to be found by those who did not seek me.
I said, “Here I am, here I am,”
to a nation that did not call on my name.
² I held out my hands all day long
to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good,
following their own devices;
³ a people who provoke me
to my face continually,
sacrificing in gardens
and offering incense on bricks;
⁴ who sit inside tombs,
and spend the night in secret places;
who eat swine’s flesh,
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;
⁵ who say, “Keep to yourself,
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.”
These are a smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that burns all day long.
⁶ See, it is written before me:
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will indeed repay into their laps
⁷ their iniquities and their ancestors’ iniquities together,
says the Lord;
because they offered incense on the mountains
and reviled me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps
full payment for their actions.
⁸ Thus says the Lord:
As the wine is found in the cluster,
and they say, “Do not destroy it,
for there is a blessing in it,”
so I will do for my servants’ sake,
and not destroy them all.

⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
my chosen shall inherit it,
and my servants shall settle there.

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

THE SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-29

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 8th chapter.
- C **Glory to you, O Lord**

²⁶ Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons

met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”—²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #415 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to -
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

THE PRAYERS

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

A For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be
 found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For all bishops, pastors and deacons that they may speak the good news of
 Jesus Christ, and for all the holy people that may hear and live it willingly, we
 pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may
 cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O
 Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples. For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

C **To you, O Lord our God.**

P For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM	Hymn of Promise	Natalie Sleeth
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*In the bulb there is a flower;
In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,
Seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness,
Bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
What it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning;
In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing;
In our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection;
At the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

THE OFFERING

Please stand.
THE OFFERTORY #564 “The Doxology”

Musical notation for the Doxology (The Offering). The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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



THE COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:


Musical notation for the Gloria. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 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 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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER


P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:
C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.




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



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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please sit.
THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.
Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?
A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.
-Luther’s Small Catechism Part V

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.
THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray,
A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord
C Amen

Silence for reflection.



THE BENEDICTION

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

THE SENDING HYMN: #559 Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He breaks the pow'r of can-celed sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
5 To God all glor-y, praise, and love be now and ev-er giv'n

the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a-vails for me.
by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

THE DISMISSAL

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

Postlude

Hymn to Joy

Young



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I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

The May 18th ice cream social celebration of the successful boiler appeal was so much fun we're doing it again! Stick around after worship on **July 6th** for fabulous Cabarrus Creamery ice cream and enjoy one another's company. Hosted by Christian Ed. Committee; red, white and blue sprinkles included!

VBS 2025!

Join us for Vacation Bible School **July 20 – 22, 2025**.
Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/StJamesVBS25>. Sign up by July 6 to guarantee a T-shirt.
All volunteers will be required to have a current *Safe Gatherings* background check. Please contact holly@sjnc.net for instructions.

WE'RE HIRING!

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

MEAL TRAIN OPPORTUNITY

The Meal Train for Jay Clemmer has been adjusted to one meal weekly on Mondays.
If you can assist with these efforts, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/JCMealTrain>.

VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED!

As summer travel picks up, we will need more volunteers to keep Sunday worship accessible online.
Serving as videographer is a simple process—just a few steps to start and stop the stream, with optional zoom control from your seat using a tablet.
Training is easy: we can walk you through it or have you shadow a current volunteer.
Visit the website to sign up.