



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service."

Week of March 22, 2026

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Introduction to Worship

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

Watch the Live Stream:



[Download Bulletin](#)

The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 22

9:00 am Adult Sunday School
9:00 am Choir
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:00 am Worship

Monday, March 23

10:30 am Quilting

Thursday, March 26

6:30 pm Choir

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

9:00 am Adult Sunday School
9:00 am Choir
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:00 am Worship

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday

10am - Worship Service

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday

Laying on of the Hands & Holy Communion

Noon - Spoken Liturgy

7pm - Worship Service (with Choir)

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

The Death of Our Lord

Noon - Worship Service

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of Our Lord

9:45am - Prelude Music with Instrumentalists

10am - Holy Communion

[Church Calendar](#)

Sunday Ministries

LECTOR/INTERCESSOR

March 22 Kim Haberman

VIDEOGRAPHER

March 22 Annette Propst

March 29 Margaret Garrison

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

March 22 Margaret Garrison

March 29 Kim Haberman

ACOLYTE

March 22 [Volunteer](#)

March 29 Joshua Rinker

GREETER

March 22 Barbara Albright

March 29 [Volunteer](#)

March 29 [Volunteer](#)

USHERS

Al Brown, Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss

BUILDING SUPERVISORS

Kim Haberman & Kenny Propst

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 22 Family of Dallas Dean

Helgeson

March 29 Palms

Sign Up to Volunteer

- Lector
- Communion Assistant
- Acolyte
- Videographer
- Altar Flowers

Happy Birthday! 🎈

March 23 - Chip Blackwelder, Tanner Poplin, Landon Trott

March 24 - Elliot Horton, Charlie Pittard

March 25 - Madeline DeGrace, Audrey Glatz

Announcements



Honor a loved one this Easter 🌿

Celebrate Easter by honoring your loved ones while helping to adorn our sanctuary with beautiful lilies and geraniums. Tribute names will be listed in the Ring Out newsletter and in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Order Deadline: March 29, 2026

Cost: \$25 each

[Place your order online](#) or complete the insert in Sunday's bulletin.

Payments can be mailed to the church (PO Box 684, Concord, NC 28026), dropped off at the church office, or [made online](#).

Please pick up your flower of choice after Easter worship on April 5.



March 15 Worship Video

Thank you for your patience as we work through technical difficulties with our YouTube streaming. If you missed this past Sunday's worship service, it has been uploaded for view.

[Click here to view worship for Sunday, March 15, 2026.](#)

Videos are also accessible from the [website](#).



Help St. James Serve *My Father's House*

St. James Lutheran Church will be providing meals for My Father's House Ministry on **Monday, March 23 and Tuesday, March 24**. We need your help!

If you can provide a side dish to complement the meals—ham on Monday or chicken strips on Tuesday—please contact Martha Matthews at 704-787-2180.

Suggested items:

- Mac & cheese, mashed potatoes (Bob Evans style), baked beans, green beans, corn, noodle dishes, or vegetable casseroles
- Fruit
- Desserts—think kid-friendly 😊
- Rolls or cornbread
- Snacks for after-school tutoring: crackers, juice boxes, Capris, or fresh fruit

Martha will provide a headcount for each night to help with planning.



This week's lesson...

Welcoming Others in Christ - Acts 10:9-15, 30-35; Galatians 3:28-29

The Christian Church birthed on the day of Pentecost stemmed from a core of believers with Jewish backgrounds. Most Jews in the Roman Empire kept themselves apart from Gentiles. Observant Jews saw Gentiles as unclean pagans who endangered Jewish religious and moral purity. They would not eat with Gentiles or visit their homes. However, there were also a significant number of non-Jewish people who became devout converts to Judaism who were circumcised and followed the Law of Moses; they were referred to as "God-fearing Gentiles". The Acts passage is about visions that both Peter (a Jew) and Cornelius (a Gentile) have where God casts aside these previous definitions of "clean" and "unclean", and replaces them with the reality that anyone, through faith in Jesus, could become a full member of God's people!

Further, in the Galatians passage, Paul's words of the stripping away of divisive categories and focusing on the commonality that comes from faith in Jesus Christ! Let us take these lessons to heart so that the Kingdom of God can be increased!

Reminders



Building Entry Reminder

Friendly Reminder!

When entering the building, please move your dot to “IN” on the magnetic IN/OUT board at the Portico door to indicate that you are inside the building—regardless of how long you will be there or where you park. If your name or committee is not listed, please use the “OTHER” dot to show that someone is in the building.

When leaving, please move your dot to “OUT” and check that no cars remain in the garden lot or portico lot when setting the alarm.



Sonshine Backpack Food Drive

We’re continuing our quarterly partnership with Sonshine Backpacks to provide weekend food for local children in need.

Requested items:

- Shelf-stable milk
- Cereal / oatmeal
- Mac & cheese
- Canned pasta, soup, vegetables, fruit
- Granola bars
- Juice
- Popcorn
- Pudding

Please place donations on the back kitchen counter by Sunday, March 29.

Questions? Contact Sylvia Corl or Gretchen Walker.



March Supply Drive to Support Humane Society

St. James Social Ministry Committee is launching a supply drive throughout the month of March to support the Humane Society of Concord & Greater Cabarrus.

Needed items:

- Paper towels

- Blankets (not stuffed or quilted)
- Canned chicken breast
- Dawn dish soap
- Liquid Tide detergent

Place donations on the counter under the Animal Shelter board in the portico. Questions? Contact Samantha Hillegass.

In Our Prayers

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)

Phyllis Freeman

(Mother of Fonda Shumate)

Ed Frost (Friends of the Marlow's)

Jeff Gilbert

Tom Grady

Ryan Hardister

(Son of Bill & Reggie Hardister)

Harriett Huss Hodge

Maureen Hollmeyer

Hunter Huss

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)

Family of Don Matkins

(Brother-in-law of Margaret Garrison)

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

Lori Ruff (Mother of Christine Ruff)

Ruby Tyer (Niece of Beth Huss' Friend)

Jesse Woodard (Son-in-law of Beth Huss)



Meal Train Opportunity

The Meal Train for St. James member Jay Clemmer is ongoing. Volunteers are invited to [sign up for dates](#) that work best for them.

Secure Online Giving

Supporting your church is just a few clicks away! With [online giving](#), you can make a one-time gift, set up automatic recurring donations on the date you choose, and view your complete giving history.

Automated recurring gifts are a convenient way to provide our church with much-needed consistent support throughout the year. Thank you for your faithful generosity.



Ways to Give

Volunteer!

Assisting in Worship

[Sunday Worship Volunteer Opportunities](#) are now open! We're looking for Ushers, Greeters, Communion Assistants, Lectors, Acolytes, and Videographers to help on Sundays.

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

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

St. James Staff

Rev. Bill Ridenhour, Pastor [Email](#)

Jill Irvin, Financial Administrator [Email](#)

Dr. Kevin Estes, Director of Music Ministries & Organist [Email](#)

Holly Sloop, Communications Coordinator [Email](#)

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator [Email](#)

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian [Email](#)

Kim Haberman, Congregation President [Email](#)

Contact Us

 Phone: (704) 786-0166

 Website: www.sjnc.net

 Email: info@sjnc.net

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