

and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. <sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

<sup>2a</sup> And Stephen said:

<sup>51</sup>“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” <sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 146\***

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!\*

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

<sup>2</sup>**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,\*  
for there is no | help in them.**

<sup>3</sup>When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,\*  
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help!\***  
**whose hope is in the | LORD their God;**

<sup>5</sup>Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;\*  
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

<sup>6</sup>**Who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,\*  
and food to | those who hunger.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;\*  
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger;\***  
**he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD shall | reign forever,\*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God

chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup>and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (“ALLELULA”), PG 62**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the Fourteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: John 14:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>{Jesus said,} “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON: PASTOR KEN REED**

**\*HYMN: LBW 479 “MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE”**

**\*NICENE CREED, PG 64**

**\*THE PRAYERS, PG 65**

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE, PG 66

## OFFERING

\*OFFERTORY (LET THE VINEYARDS) AND PRAYERS, PG 66-67

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, P.68-70

\*LORD'S PRAYER, PG 71

## HOLY COMMUNION

\*LAMB OF GOD, PG 72

\*POST-COMMUNION HYMN (THANK YOU LORD), PG 72

\*BENEDICTION, PG 74

\*HYMN: LBW 389 "STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS"

*\*Silent Reflection as the candles are extinguished*

## DISMISSAL

## POSTLUDE

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
And in Memory of Bill's 7th Anniversary in Heaven  
And in Honor of Bill and Wilma's 71st Wedding Anniversary  
Given by:  
Wilma Hedrick*

**Ministers:** All Members of St. James

**Pastor:** Pastor Ken Reed Phone: 704-796-1764

**Email:** kenreed803@gmail.com

**Pastor's Hours:** Monday (off)

**Council Vice Chair:** Wesley Stinson Phone: 828-469-8704

**email:** wstinson714@gmail.com

**Church Office:** 828-464-1953

**Email:** secretary@stjameslutherannewtonnc.com

**Secretary:** Sherrie McKean, (Mon. - Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm)

**Organist:** Lisa Burch

**Music Director:** Kristy Painter

**Acolyte:** Peggy Hernandez, Emma Dixon

**Crucifier:** Victor Paquin

**Lay Reader Coordinator:** Wesley Stinson

**Greeters:** Dennis & Marilyn Craig

**Ushers:** Mickey & Connie Bell, Sharon Sipe, Betty Hawn

**Communion Assistants:** Wesley Stinson, Brent Stewart

**Altar Care:** Robin Burgess, Tanya Stinson

**Newsletter Editor:** Susan Hullet, 828-464-1234, sghullet@aol.com

## ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

1942 St. James Church Road

Newton, NC 28658

### Attendance last Sunday:

Worship: 82

Sunday School:

**Last Week Giving: \$ 4,614.00**

**Year to Date Giving: \$ 97,313.92**

**Weekly Budget Amount: \$ 5,965.25**

**Year to Date Budget: \$101,409.25**



**St. James Lutheran Worship**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3rd, 2026

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(\*) congregation stands

PRELUDE

\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS, PG 56

\*HYMN: LBW 358 "GLORIES OF YOUR NAME ARE SPOKEN"

\*GREETING, PG 57

\*KYRIE, PG 57

\*HYMN OF PRAISE, PG 59, "GLORY TO GOD"

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; 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 CHILDREN'S SERMON

**First Reading: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60**

<sup>1</sup>Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase,