

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Margaret Garrison
Communion Assistant: Elizabeth Hurley
Acolytes: Joshua Rinker, Jacob Rinker,
Kyleigh Hughes, Jackson Hughes
Ushers: Mike Downs, Al Brown Jr., Sid Hughes,
Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss
Greeter: Esther Circle
Building Supervisor: Wendell Overby

PRAYER LIST

Brad Baker; Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Emma DePaulis; Anne Fridlund; Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Tom Grady; Linda Jones (family of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Tom Ridenhour; Geoff & Pam Seige (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by Kelley Carpenter and Kim Haberman to the glory of Jesus Christ, in loving memory of their parents, Jo and Don Eng.

2025

SUNDAY MINISTRY SIGN-UPS

Sign up to be a Communion Assistant, Lector, Videographer, or Acolyte in 2025! All Sundays in the new year are now posted. Sign up by scanning the code or visiting the website.



**The Nativity of our Lord
December 24, 2024**

**Choir and Organ Prelude
10:30pm**

**The Holy Communion
11:00pm**



**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.

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Doxology: Text and music adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website umcworship.org. Email: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Dec. 23 – Lauren Irvin

Dec. 25 – Bub Craver

Dec. 26 – Todd Walker

Dec. 28 – Beth Downs

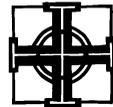
CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 22	8:45am	Congregational Breakfast
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	10:00 am	Worship
Monday, Dec. 23	10:30 am	Quilting
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve at St. James	
	5:30pm	Family Service
	10:30pm	Musical Prelude
	11:00pm	A Carol Mass
Wednesday, Dec. 25	<i>Christmas Day – Church Office Closed</i>	
Sunday, Dec. 29	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship

SALVATION ARMY MEAL WEEK

St. James is committed to covering dinners **Sunday 1/19 – Saturday, 1/25** at the Salvation Army Night Shelter. If you can provide a meal, please sign up at the link:

<https://sjnc.net/special-event-sign-ups>



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

A CHORAL AND ORGAN OFFERING

I

Pastorale
(from *Christmas Concerto, Op. 3, No. 12*)

Francesco Manfredini

II

And the Glory of the Lord
(from *Messiah*)

G. F. Handel

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
Isaiah 40:5*

III

Nativity Carol

John Rutter

*Born in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so.*

*Far away, silent he lay,
Born today, your homage pay,
Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.*

*Cradled by mother so fair,
Tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky.*

*Wise men from distant far land,
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare,
Hearts with his warmth he fills.*

*Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe,
Make me thy love to know.*

IV

Ave Maria

Franz Schubert

Beth Downs, soprano

*Ave Maria, gratia plena.
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

V

There Shall a Star Come out of Jacob
(from *Christus*)

Felix Mendelssohn

*There shall a star come out of Jacob,
And a scepter shall rise out of Israel.
With might destroying princes and cities!*

*As bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams,
Of light and consolation.
Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting,
Truth imparting gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!
Numbers 24:17*

VI

Pastorale

(from *Christmas Concerto in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8*)

Archangelo Corelli

VII

Gesu Bambino

Shannon Nesbit, soprano
Wes Watts, tenor

Pietro Yon

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night
Was born the child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of love and light.*

*The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced,
And at his blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.*

*O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its King of love and light.*

*Let every voice acclaim his name,
The grateful chorus swell,
From paradise to earth he came
That we with him might dwell.*

VIII

Thou Shall Know Him When He Comes

Hal H. Hopson

*Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by any din of drums,
Nor his manners, nor his airs,
Nor by any thing he wears.*

*Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by a crown nor by a gown,
But his coming known shall be,
By the holy harmony
Which his coming makes in thee.
Thou shalt know him when he comes.*

Music at St. James

Dr. Kevin L. Estes, Director of Music Ministries and Organist.

The Parish Choir

Soprano: Patsy Black, Beth Downs, Jenny Estes, Beth Huss, Lee-Ann Miller,
Shannon Nesbit

Alto: Betsy Ballard, Deb Black, Glenda Poole, Donna Stephenson

Tenor: Elizabeth Hurley, Kim Miller, J'Ericson Newby, Wes Watts

Bass: Judah Estes, Luke Estes, Doug McAnulty, Chris Miller, Jim Miller, Billy
Sumner

Guest Musicians

Trumpets - Anne Linebarger, Sam Santiago

Trombones - Luke Estes, Judah Estes

Percussion - Brice Burton

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: #45 O Come All Ye Faithful

Harmony Scores for all carols are found in the green LBW hymnal.



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



Refrain
 Oh, come, let us a - dore him, oh, come, let us a - dore him,



oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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 KYRIE: #42 Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - - men

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you.**

P Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only 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 HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria in excelsis Deo
(from *Gloria*)

Vivaldi

Sung by: The St. James Parish Choir

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Glory to God in the highest!*



THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE ANTHEM

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Gardner

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance:*

*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance:

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance:

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance:

THE SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: #71 Angels We Have Heard on High

As the acclamation is sung, the congregation lights their candles.

The Gospel is processed to the center of the sanctuary.

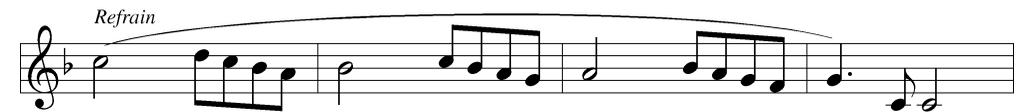
The people turn toward the center with their lighted candles. The light radiates and illumines the Good News of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she

gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

*As the Gospel is recessed, the choir will first sing an introduction,
followed by the people joining in the singing of “Silent Night.”*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Please extinguish your candle.

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #60 Hark the Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer-cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king!”

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 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 kneel or sit as able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all people in their daily life and work, for families, friends and neighbors and for those who are alone, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this community, the nation and the world. For all who work for freedom, justice, and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the just and proper use of God's creation, for the victims of poverty, fear, injustice and oppression, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God, for all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all people who are in danger, sorrow or any kind of trouble, for those who minister to the sick, the friendless and the needy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and the prayers of our hearts for all in need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, 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 ANTHEM

What Sweeter Music

Rutter

*What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!*

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,

*And give the honor to this day,
That sees December turned to May.*

*Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn,
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth,
To heaven, and the under-earth.*

*We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart.*

*Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honor; who's our King,
And Lord of all this reveling.*

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE DOXOLOGY

The Offertory is the Doxology set to the familiar Christmas carol tune, The First Noel.

D Bm A A7 D/F# G D A7 D A7

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all

7 D G A⁷ D A⁷ D A⁷ Bm A A⁷
 crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye
 12 D/F# G D A⁷ D A⁷ D G A⁷ D A⁷ D
 heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
 18 A⁷ D Bm F#m D G A⁷ D A
 No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,
 22 Bm D/A G D A⁷/E D/F# D/A A⁷ D
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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 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.
 In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
 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
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this the end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who

fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said; Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

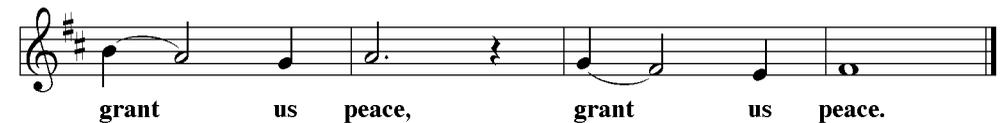
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. 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.

*The congregation is invited to sing carols during distribution.
An interlude will be played between carols.*

#65 Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

#40 What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

#41 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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 O God, in this meal we have been given a foretaste of the feast that is to come. Help us always to be alert to your gifts in our midst; 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: #39 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive its King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Toccata on "Antioch"

Craig Phillips

