

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Kim Haberman

**Communion Assistant:** Beth Huss

**Acolyte:** Joshua Rinker

**Ushers:** Mike Downs, Al Brown Jr., Sid Hughes,

Bill Hardister, Hunter Huss

**Videographer:** Laurie Miller

**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**

The altar flowers are given by Kelley Carpenter and Kim Haberman in honor of the members of St. James, the staff, the parish choir, Dr. Kevin Estes and Pastor Bill Ridenhour for their dedication to the church and their service.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE**

2025 Offering envelopes are ready for pick-up on the table behind the sacristy (office hallway). If you did not receive a box and would like one, contact Jill Irving.

**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 Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Sunday, December 22, 2024**

**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

Dec. 23 – Lauren Irvin  
Dec. 25 – Bub Craver  
Dec. 26 – Todd Walker  
Dec. 28 – Beth Downs

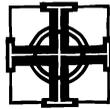
### CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

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		<b>Christmas Eve at St. James</b>
	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.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION



Welcome

Prelude

*Please stand.*

### THE INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

### THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

*Silence for reflection self-examination.*

*Please sit or kneel, as able.*

P Most merciful God,

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 Our indifference toward your coming,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our desire to control time and seasons,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our failure to be alert to signs of your presence in our midst,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P Our injustices toward people you came to save,

C **we confess to you, Lord.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

### THE ENTRANCE HYMN: Blessed be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre- pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;  
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm  
 that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

**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**

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** **A - men**

## PRAYER AT THE ADVENT WREATH

**P** Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C** Amen.

*As the Advent Wreath is lit the congregation sings,  
verses 1-4 of "Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel."*



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on  
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's  
4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



*Please sit.*

**THE FIRST READING:** Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

Quia respexit (from Magnificat)  
Shannon Nesbit, soprano  
Hannah Wetherholt, oboe

Bach, J. S.

*Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae;  
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent.*

*For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
Behold, from henceforth, I will be called blessed.*

**THE SECOND READING:** Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” [

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”]

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please sit.*  
**THE SERMON**

**Pastor Bill Ridenhour**

*Please stand.*  
**THE HYMN OF THE DAY: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

*A harmony graphic is not available. Please see #30 in the green LBW hymnal.*



1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re-lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for-ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;



dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

**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.

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; 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 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

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day  
    , Tambourine  
    , Side Drum

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 OFFERING

*Please stand.*

### THE DOXOLOGY

*For Season in Advent, the Offertory is the Doxology.  
The text is set the familiar carol, "The First Noel."*

D Bm A A<sup>7</sup> D/F# G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup>  
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all

7 D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> Bm A A<sup>7</sup>  
crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye

12 D/F# G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D  
heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

18 A<sup>7</sup> D Bm F#m D G A<sup>7</sup> D A  
No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A<sup>7</sup>/E D/F# D/A A<sup>7</sup> 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, almighty and everliving God.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness.

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, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

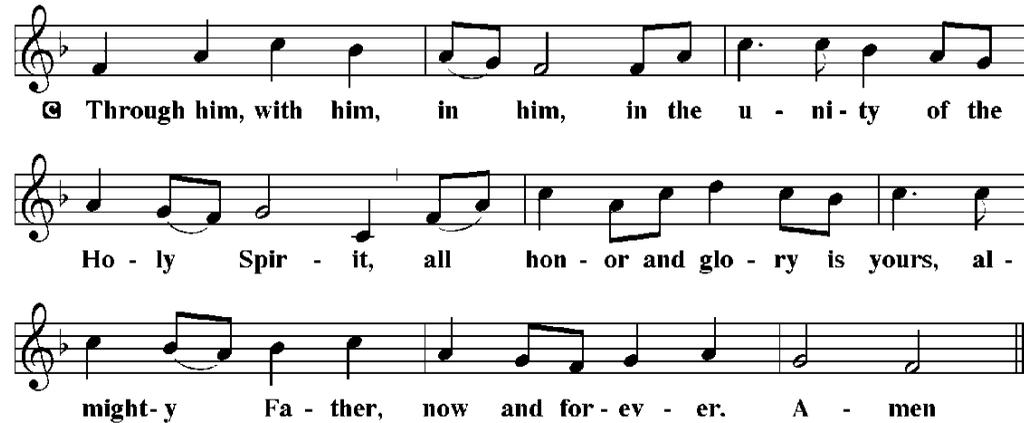
P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

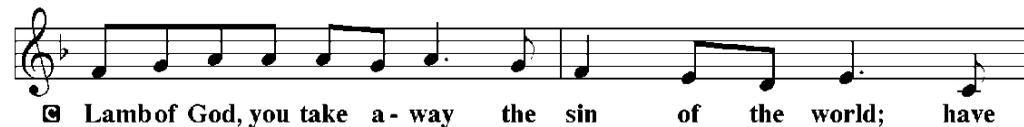


☞ Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the  
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -  
might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

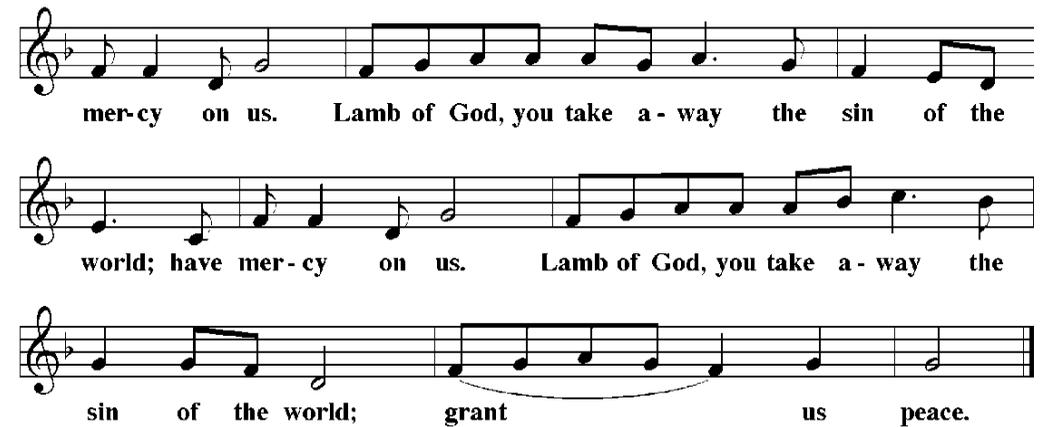
### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*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.*

### COMMUNION MUSIC

*Name, Instrument*

*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: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (Next Page)

### THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

### Postlude



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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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1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.