

Saint James Lutheran Church

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A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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

Welcome!

St. James is a house of prayer where all people can come to know the compassionate heart of Jesus. We are a community of Christians where you can belong before you believe. At Saint James the beauty of worship ancient and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us together as discover the sacred in the heart of the city. Our worship includes and ancient contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home oriust exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 30, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

Welcome!

Newcomers and visitors, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

Although there are customary postures (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

Children are most welcome in worship at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building.

The First Aid Kit and the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

If you are interested in membership to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

Restrooms are available on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

Pew Pads are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com @stjamesnc

St. James YouTube Channel Go to www.youtube.com search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

RALEIGH RINGERS IN CONCERT: Sunday, May 7 at Christ Providence in Charlotte at 4:00 pm. Be sure not to miss this internationally acclaimed group in concert. Tickets are \$20. See Ring Out for

RITE OF CONFIRMATION: We will be celebrating the Rite of Confirmation for 5 of our youth on Sunday, May 14 at the 10:00 worship service.

GRADUATION SUNDAY: We will be recognizing our high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 4. If you have someone in your family graduation, please let the church office know.

NEW MEMBERS: Pick up a directory insert to include our new members in your church directory. Inserts are located in the narthex.

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more information.

GATHERING

WELCOME

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Sheep May Safely Graze

Johann Seb. Bach

Congregational Responses in **Bold**

(Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

Silence is held for reflection and self-examination

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.

Amen.

(Stand)



GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

With

thee

praise to

the

Spir - it

ev -

er

be.

And also with you.

Lord, all

KYRIE



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia,

Let us pray, O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

al - le

Amen.

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING ACTS 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

A reading from Acts, the second chapter.

The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 (Chanted by Choir)

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

- ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

SECOND READING 1 PETER 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

A reading from 1st Peter, the second chapter.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that

you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

esus said: "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate.

Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Craig

HYMN OF THE DAY

Next Page

NICENE CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.



(Kneel or sit, as able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Today, we especially pray for Deacon Deborah Johnson and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Unity Lutheran Church in Hickory, NC. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever. Be with those who mourn, and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen

(Stand)

SHARING OF THE PEACE (This can be done verbally with no physical contact, if desired) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Sit)

William Harris

(Stand)

OFFERING

(Offering plates presented at the altar)

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us; we are bold to pray,

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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

(Sit)

All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion at Saint James. If you desire to receive Communion, please proceed to the altar by way of the center aisle. The ushers will direct you. You will receive a wafer and a cup of wine. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. After communing, please use the outside aisle to return to your seat. Communion will be brought to persons in the pews who are unable to come forward to the altar. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so.



POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen from "The Easter Song of Praise"

Richard Shepherd

SENDING HYMN Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing GELOBT SEI GOTT



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH PO Box 684 CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026 CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166 WEBSITE www.sinc.net DIRECTORY Members of Saint James......Ministers The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith......Bishop SAINT JAMES STAFF Rev. Craig Saltzer, Interim Pastor csaltzer@triad.rr.com 336-225-7889 Keith Sutton, Parish Administrator keith@sinc.net Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator iill@sinc.net Scott F. Foppiano, Organist / Director of Music scottfop@gmail.com Mike Holt, Youth and Family myholt1957@vahoo.com Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian tfh1990@vahoo.com Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator krad3700@gmail.com CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL Debbie Davis, President Jon Miller, Vice Pres., Mutual Ministry Chris Miller, Secretary, Social Ministry Kenny Propst, Treasurer Chip Blackwelder, Property Kim Haberman, Evangelism Samantha Hillegass, Parish Fellowship Elizabeth Hurley, Worship & Music Beth Huss, Stewardship Frank Irvin, Finance/Christian Ed

Pat McDonough, Youth

Wendell Overby, Property

Dee Pieschel, Social Ministry

OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:30-4:00

F 8:30-1:00

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS Please email all information to the church office by Wednesday 10:00 am to keith@sinc.net BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK 01-May Anna Grace Craver 03-May Charlotte Glatz 03-May Edwin Glatz 03-May Elizabeth Harris 03-May Joy Lineberger 04-May Thomas Baker 04-May Deedee Gilbert 04-May John Kuly 04-May Trent Propst 05-May Julie Burroughts 05-May Michael Cartwright 05-May Sarah Propst 06-May Kimmie Brooks 06-May Bryson Ziegler ASSISTING IN WORSHIP Lector/Intercessor: Beth Huss Communion Assistant: Ann Blackwelder Acolyte/Crucifer: Finley Stephens Greeter: Samantha Hillegass Ushers: Wendell Overby, Frank Irvin, Tony Folino, Nick Lovelace, Jason Pittard **Building Supervisor:** Samantha Hillegass Videographer: Keith Sutton

PRAYER LIST Unity Lutheran Church. Hickory, NC Patsy Black Tom Grady Jimmy Propst Tom Ridenhour Martha Summers Jim Weisel Marga Beville Betty Miller Glenn and Marte Copeland, friends of Al and Dee Pieschel CALENDAR THIS WEEK Sunday, April 30 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:20 am Parish Fellowship 4:00 pm Youth Gathering Monday, May 1 10:20 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00 pm Esther Circle Tuesday, May 2 10:30 am Mary Magdalene Circle 5:00 pm Executive Council 6:00 pm Property Wednesday, May 3 7:00 pm Parish Choir 9:30 pm College Online Thursday, May 4 6:00 pm Handbells Sunday, May 7 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Evangelism 4:00 pm Youth Gathering