



SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024
ST. JAMES LUTHERAN
CHURCH
FISHERSVILLE, VA

INTRODUCTION

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.
Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.
We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.
We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.
Turn us again to you.
Where else can we turn?
Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.
Amen.

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into
abundant life.
Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: “Holy, Holy, Holy” (LBW 165)

GREETING

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

KYRIE

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

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

☩ 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.

☩ 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. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

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

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

☩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. . .

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

Isaiah 6:1-8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

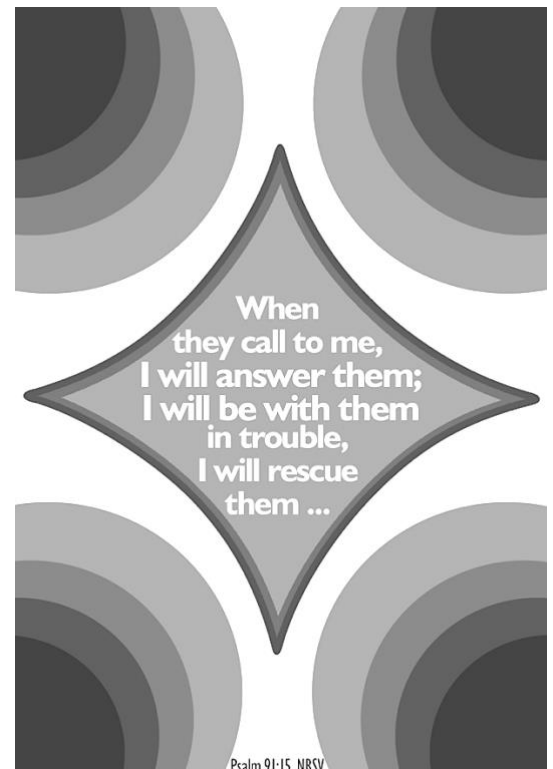
Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM 91 (In honor of those who have lost their life in the military)

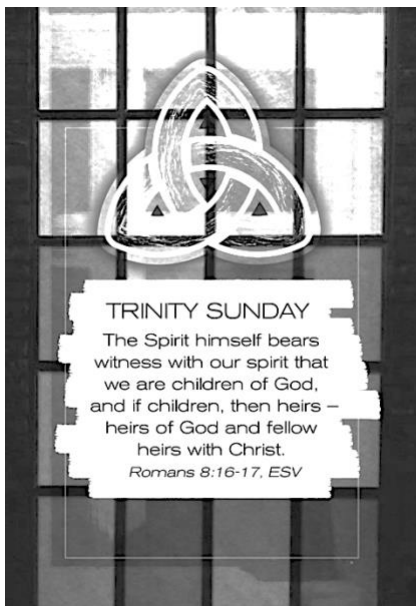
- ¹You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
²**will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."**
³For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter
and from the deadly pestilence;
⁴**he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.**
⁵You will not fear the terror of the night
or the arrow that flies by day
⁶**or the pestilence that stalks in darkness
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.**
⁷A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
⁸**You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.**
⁹Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,
¹⁰**no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.**



Psalm 91:15, NRSV

- ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
- ¹² **On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**
- ¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
- ¹⁴ **Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.**
- ¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble;
I will rescue them and honor them.
- ¹⁶ **With long life I will satisfy them
and show them my salvation.**

Second Reading:



In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

Romans 8:12-17

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Here ends the reading.

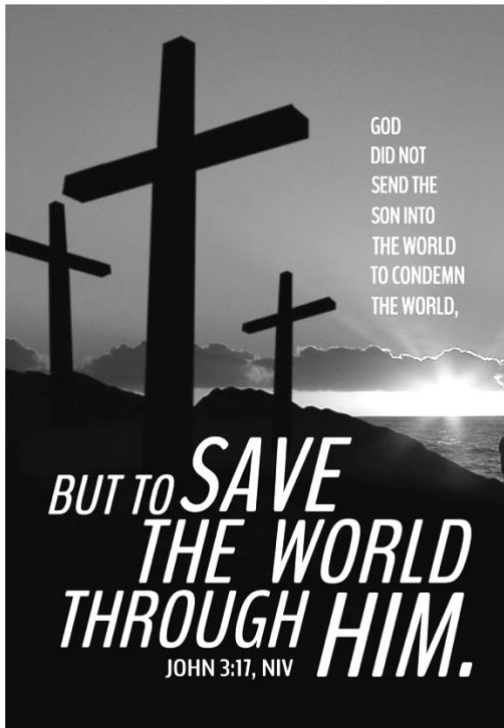
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: John 3:1-17



Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.



¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON: Rev. Gordon Putnam

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Father, Most Holy” (LBW 169)

Installation of Leaders in the Congregation

The following people have been elected by St. James Lutheran Church to the Church Council. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Ivan Diehl, Lynda Diehl, Gene Giltner, Debbie Snyder, Steve Straw, and Paul Rohal.

Reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been elected for leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church. You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the

mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

I now declare you installed as council members of St. James Lutheran Church. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

Abba God, you have brought us into your family, claiming us as beloved children. Bless your family of faith with gifts of cooperation and graciousness. Be with our church council this year that their wisdom and energy may be used to your glory and the benefit of all. Increase our hospitality toward all expressions of faith and teach us to honor our shared humanity. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your love and power burst forth in the flashes of lightning, the dance of the wind, and the deeply rooted trees of the forest. Sustain fragile and interconnected ecosystems, that they flourish for generations to come.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Give your blessing of peace to the nations. Shelter all who risk life and livelihood to protect others from violence, conflict, and injustice. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who have lost their lives in war and conflict. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Strengthen bonds between parents, children, and families of all varieties. We pray especially for adoptive and foster families, multi-generational households, and blended families. Grant gifts of nurture and patience to all caregivers. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The Spirit bears grateful witness to all children of God who have now come into their inheritance among the saints. As they lived with hope in your gift of eternal life, so strengthen us in faith, that we recognize your eternal presence even in this mortal life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are a God of love and not of condemnation. Quiet the hearts of all who struggle with shame, regret, or questions of self-worth. Teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing We especially pray for Norma, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Zeby, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Bill, Josh, Mike, Melvin, Joe, Charles and Peggy. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord.)

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

DIALOGUE

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 him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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 have revealed your glory as the glory also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit: three persons, equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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



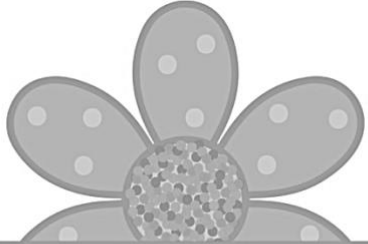
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

	
MAY	
BIRTHDAYS	
28 th	Kaleb Bartley
30 th	Paul Rohal

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.



6 th	Cecilia Shott
27 th	Joyce Dull
30 th	Missy Leach

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen.


CLOSING HYMN: "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" (WOV 752)

BLESSING

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



May
26th Tammy Jones

June
2nd Sherie W-Rohal
9th Anne Putnam
16th
23rd Bambi Straw
30th

Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt), Jerry Hill and Bill Bayes (friends of Pastor Gordon and Anne), Josh Thornhill (Norma Turak's grandson-in-law), Mike Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder), and Melvin Glass (friend of Ivan).

Prayer Concerns

Joe McCune (friend of Ronnie), Charles Driver (Sam and Lynda's neighbor), Betty Diehl and Peggy Desimore (friend of Norma).

Community Conversations

- May flowers are given by Debbie Snyder and Becky Dick.
- June flowers will be given by Flora Williams.
- May 28th Quilting at 1pm.
- June 2nd Our worship is going outside, weather permitting. Remember your lawn chair.
- June 4th Open Circle meets at Sherie's house at noon for lunch before our meeting.
- June 11th Quilting at 1pm.
- June 12th Church Council at 9:00 am.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- The choir will resume practice in the fall.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - May—Gene Giltner
 - June—Joyce Dull

70th Wedding Anniversary

Kenneth and Joe Price celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary on May 30. This anniversary requires more than just a simple celebration. A "platinum" wedding anniversary represents seven decades of experiences, relationships, wisdom, and adventures in their personal and ministerial lives. They have uniquely touched and shaped the lives of not only their family and friends but of the individuals they met and churches they served along this same path of married life.

Let's shower them with cards mailed to their home address:
12 Woodland Drive
Staunton, VA 24401

Pastor Gordon Putnam
434-760-0263
Grputnam1949@gmail.com
Pastor Carl Trost
Hannah Pingel, Pianist
Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

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