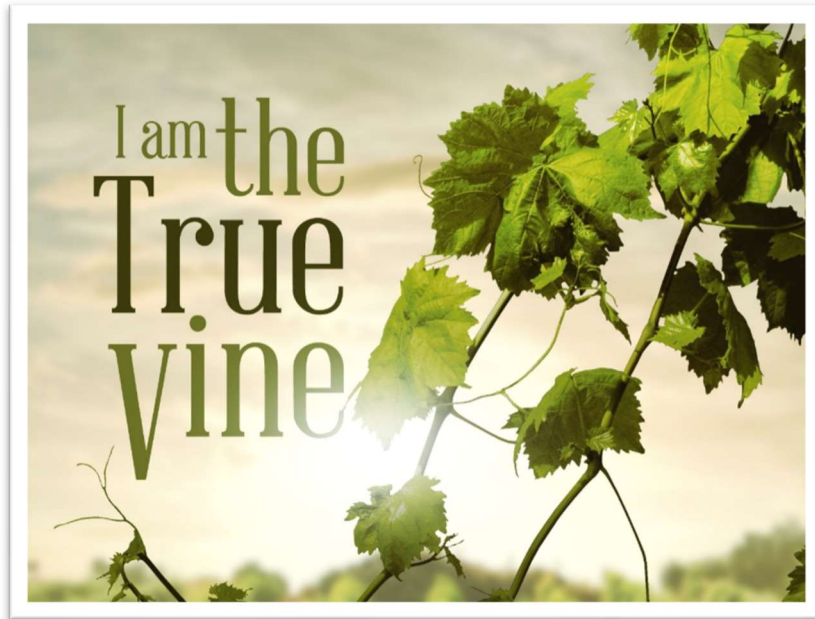


# Saint James Lutheran Church

April 28, 2024

## Fifth Sunday of Easter



### The Rev. John Locke

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Fayetteville, NC 28305  
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Guest Musician : Amy Stovall

### Worship Leaders

	April 28	May 5
Assisting Minister	Jane Boelke	Jordan Slaymaker
Lectors	Nancy Oliver	Kathy Brown
Communion Assistant	Delores Schiebe	Jane Boelke
Ushers	Tonie Neal, James Peterson	Gary & Joan Eissing
Greeter	Joan Eissing	Barbara Azzarelli
Acolyte	Nate Stockham	Aaron Thomas
Rover	Rob Whitt	Dan Hewins
Worship Nursery	Heather VanDervoort, Kathleen Heinrich	Colleen Tichich, Erika Stockwell

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Here is life-giving water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.  
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.  
We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**GATHERING HYMN**      *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!*    ELW 377

### 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*We sit.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### PSALM Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Setting 3)



**GOSPEL:** The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

Pastor John

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*We Know That Christ Is Raised*

ELW 449

**APOSTLES CREED**

We profess our faith using the Apostle’s Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Names are listed at the end of the bulletin)*

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

God of grace,  
**Hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

The peace of God be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share this peace as a sign of our baptismal unity as children of God. The “exchange of peace” (also commonly called “sharing the peace” or “passing the peace”) is an act of reconciliation that serves as a transition point between the Word and Meal portions of the liturgy.*

*We sit.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*



Your support of the ministries of St. James, as well as the wider church, is appreciated. You may donate with cash or check (you may use an envelope from the back of the pew). You may also scan the QR code above with your cell phone, and donate digitally. Thank you for your generosity.



**ANTHEM**      *Now the Green Blade Rises*

*We stand.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.  
**Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### 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 our thanks and praise.**

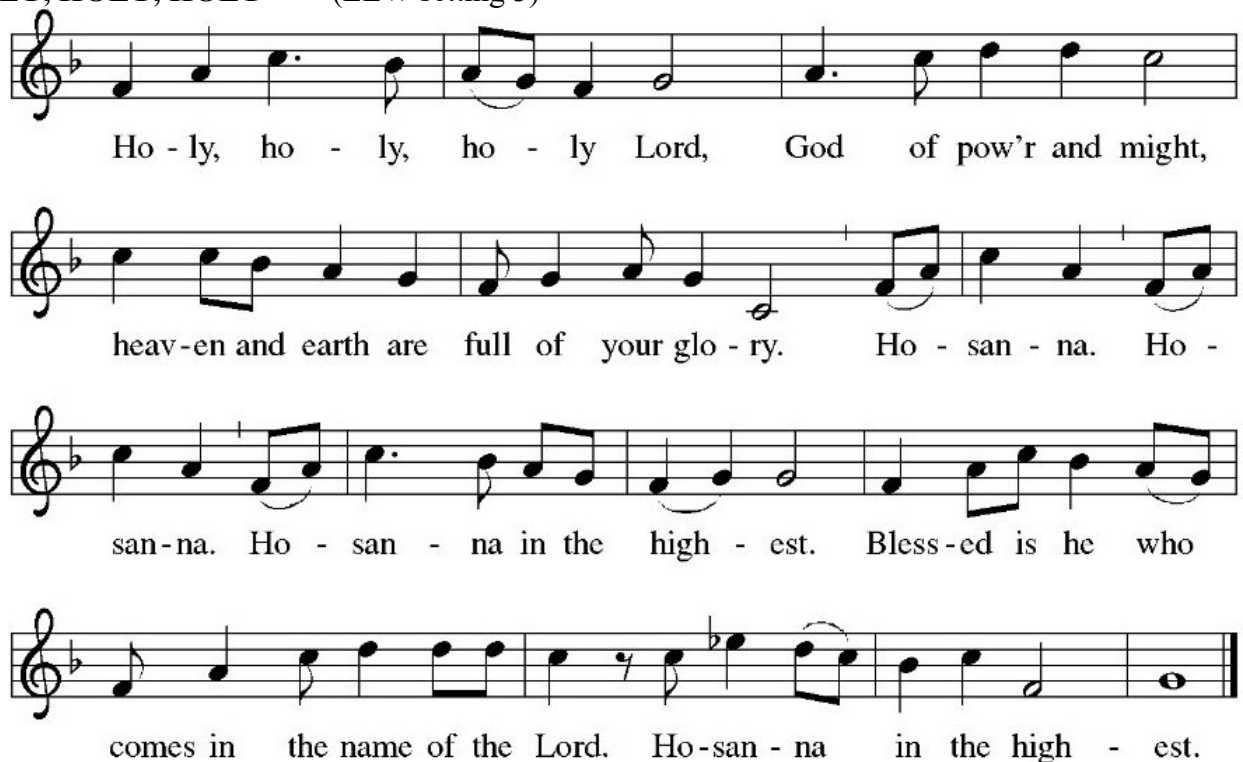
## PREFACE

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,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW setting 3)



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 AT THE TABLE

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

He is your Word, inseparable from you,  
through whom you created all things,  
and in whom 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 was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.  
He, our Lord Jesus, 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.

He is the one 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, given 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 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.

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

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 whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.**



## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

*The assembly may be seated.*

### COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

*All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available for those who prefer. We will distribute bread and wine by individual cup. Children and others not communing may fold arms across their chest, and they will receive a blessing from the communion minister.*

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

### COMMUNION SONGS

*Lamb of God (Setting 3)*

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.



1 To Christ be - long, in Christ be - hold God's  
 2 The brood - ing Spir - it moves un - seen as  
 3 Re - joic - ing in God's prom - ise strong, our



won - ders still un - fold: the bur - ied  
 liv - ing wa - ters stream to quench all  
 trea - sure and our song, in faith we



grain springs forth a - gain with fruit one hun - dred - fold.  
 thirst and bring to birth a new com - mu - ni - ty.  
 cling, and glad - ly sing: to Christ we now be - long.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, with  
 The bind - ing shroud is here re - leased, the  
 In Christ a - bide, in Christ be - hold the



Christ from death we rise, drawn through the  
 veil of sin and grief, and in their  
 world be - loved and whole. In love re -



night by dawn - ing light in - to a - bun - dant  
 place a wreath of grace and robes of joy and  
 main, by love pro - claim God's won - ders still un -



life, in - to a - bun - dant life.  
 peace, and robes of joy and peace.  
 told, God's won - ders still un - told.



## Congregational Prayer Concerns

The list in the weekly bulletin is intended to be for persons in immediate crisis. Generally those names will be moved to the newsletter after 3 weeks.

The newsletter has our long-term prayer list which is updated as you tell us.

**Members**

- Joe Lehner
- Beth Sessoms
- Amy Allison
- Stella San Miguel
- Audrey Orose
- Kathleen Heinrich
- Gary Eissinger
- Joseph San Miguel

### Friends & Family

- James Rose
- Robert Barnes
- Samantha Ryan
- Jeff Ryan
- Will Brown
- Wolfgang Uhl
- Chelsey Sabota
- Sayda Lawrence
- Judy Lundblad
- Brenda Tinney
- Ashley Littman
- Heather Loyd
- Tim Cannon
- Congratulations to Lisa & Josh Law on the birth of their son, Isaac!

### People at Home or in Care facilities (restricted mobility)

- Charlotte Davis
- Claudia Doyle
- Brenda Killett

### Our military members (\*deployed)

- ◆ Earl Stockham
- ◆ Jessie Hewins
- ◆ Joshua Trogdon
- ◆ Rob Whitt
- ◆ Bella Fish
- ◆ Kalie Steenrod
- ◆ David Oliver
- ◆ Tristan Bonde
- ◆ Dan Gibson
- ◆ Sarah Fox
- ◆ Jacob Rea
- ◆ Zach Turner\*



**YARD SALE** May 18th from 7:00 - 1:00. Mark your calendar!

Proceeds will go towards the Youth Gathering Trip to New Orleans this July



**We are accepting donations in the Annex.**

Mo & We: 9-12

Thursday: 6-8 pm

Sat: 9-12

Sunday: After worship



*Her Story is in The Stars*

Four Biblical women ..  
Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba  
*How do their stories connect?*

**A one-day Bible Study  
with Anna Lisa Johannessen**

**Saturday, May 4 ... 8:30am - 2:30pm**  
St. James Lutheran Church  
Fayetteville, NC

[Register today!](#) Lunch provided –  
\$10 donation suggested

Start time: 8:30 am

There is a clipboard in the Foyer