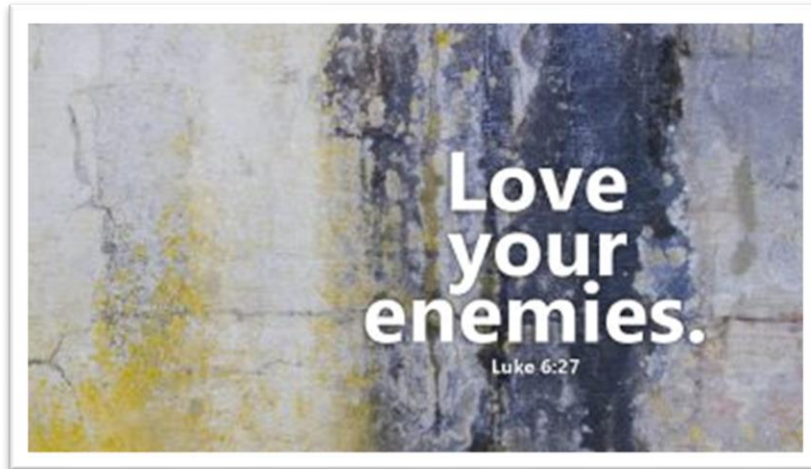


# Saint James Lutheran Church

February 23, 2025  
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



## The Rev. John Locke

704-530-9969 (cell)  
1424 Morganton Rd.  
910-484-8052 (office)

[jpl406@gmail.com](mailto:jpl406@gmail.com)  
Fayetteville, NC 28305  
[www.saintjamesfay.org](http://www.saintjamesfay.org)

**Music Director: Mark Tollefsen**

**We welcome Rev. Peter Law, Co-President and Preacher**

<b>Worship Leaders</b>		
	<b>February 23</b>	<b>March 2</b>
Assisting Minister	Jane Boelke	Allan Winter
Lectors	Matthew Shealey	Anna Lisa Johannessen
Communion Assistant	Sue Rink	Jane Boelke
Ushers	Sharon VanPelt, Joan Eissinger	Tonie Neal, James Peterson
Greeter	Kathy Brown	Barbara Azzarelli
Acolyte	Nate Stockham	Hannah Rea
Rover	Ed Samuelian	Verena & Christopher Min
Worship Nursery	Kathleen Heinrich	Colleen Tichich, Erika Stockwell

## GATHERING

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

### PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME

*We Stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our creator,  
our protector,  
our wellspring of life.  
**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**  
**Forgive us for the ways we act**  
**with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**  
**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;**  
**we resist your call to oppose injustice;**  
**we give in to scarcity and fear;**  
**we assume the worst about one another.**  
**Cleanse us from our faults**  
**and release us from their grasp.**  
**Show us your lovingkindness.**  
**Restore our hearts and repair your world,**  
**that we may live in Christ's ways.**  
**Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:  
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine."  
In † Christ, you are forgiven.  
In the Spirit, you are made free.  
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
live anew as beloved children of God.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* ELW 835

### 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 Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father 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 First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' "

<sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

<sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by evildoers;

do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither like the grass,  
and like the green grass fade away.**

<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the Lord and do good;  
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup> **Take delight in the Lord,  
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,  
and see what God will do.

<sup>6</sup> **The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light  
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

- <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off,  
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.
- <sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**
- <sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall possess the land;  
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- <sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord;  
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**
- <sup>40</sup> You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Setting 3)

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.

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

**Luke 6:27-38**

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Peter Law

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Baptized and Set Free*

ELW 453

## **THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR ISAAC DANGER LAW**

### **PRESENTATION**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

We present Isaac Danger Law for baptism.

*The sponsors for Isaac present him for the sacrament of Baptism:*

Josh and Lisa, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Isaac Danger baptized into Christ?

Response: We do.

As you bring Isaac to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,  
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in his hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture him in faith and prayer,  
so that he may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Isaac in the Christian faith and life?

Response: We do.

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors:*

Karen and Halsey, do you promise to nurture Isaac in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: We do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support Isaac and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**We do.**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

*The assembly stands.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **BAPTISM**

Isaac Danger Law, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*Congregation's affirmation*

**You belong to Christ,  
in whom you have been baptized.  
Alleluia.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Isaac with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Isaac Danger Law, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.  
Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*We sing vs 1 & 4 of "Baptized and Set Free" as family returns to their seats.*

- 1 We are people created,  
chosen by God.  
Then we're washed, ever gently,  
in mercy and love.  
Sin has power no more.  
Jesus opened the door  
to a fountain bringing healing,  
and wholeness and more.
  
- 4 Now with praise and thanksgiving,  
we join the song.  
All are welcome! We gather  
to sing loud and strong.  
Not enslaved, but set free!  
From now on, all will be  
one in Jesus, one in water,  
baptized and set free!

*We stand*  
*The service continues with the prayers of intercession.*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (*Names are listed in the back 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**     *Jesus, the Light of the World,* arr. George Elderkin

*We stand.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.  
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always.  
**Amen.**

**MEAL**

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

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE**

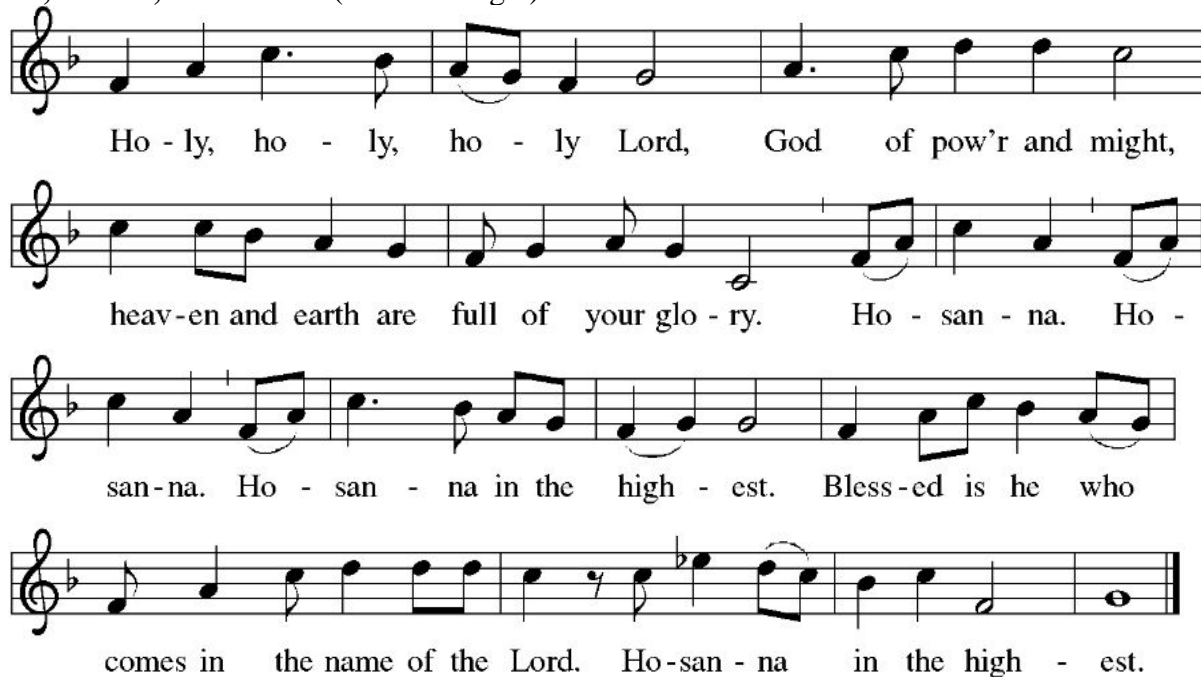
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



## 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.  
By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling  
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,  
that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.  
And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all 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

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.

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 unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
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 joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*The assembly may be seated.*

### **COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS**

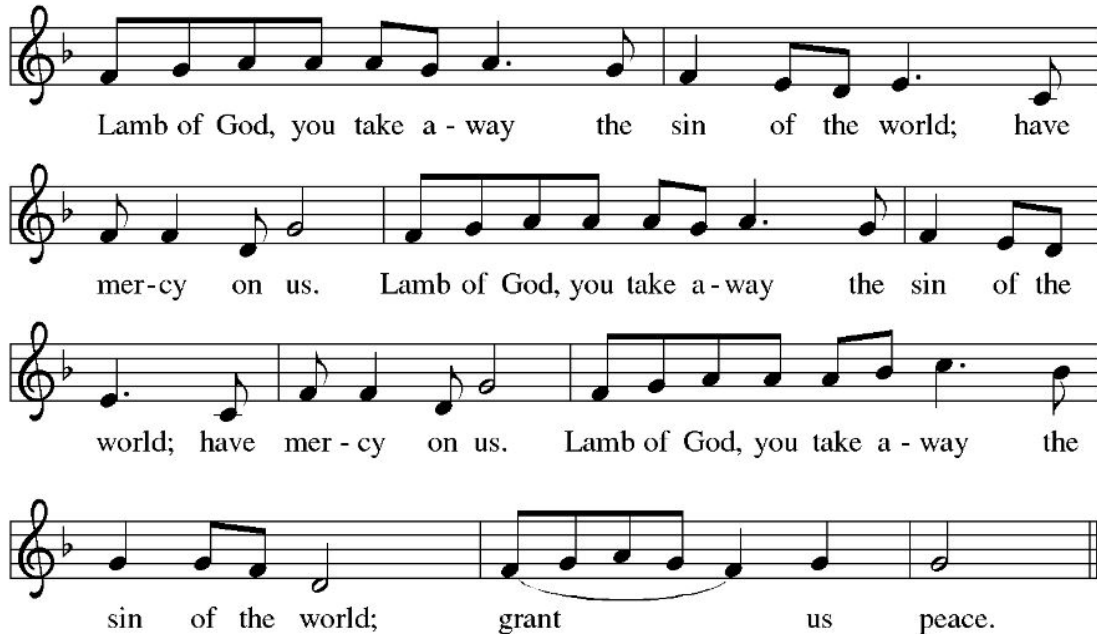
*All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are 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.

*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*  
*I Come with Joy*

ELW 445  
ELW 482

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *We remain seated.*

Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,  
**Amen.**

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

*We stand.*

### BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God  
✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *Soft and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

ELW 608

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

