

Saint James Lutheran Church

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven; whatever
you bind on earth will be
bound in heaven, and
whatever you loose on earth
will be loosed in heaven.

MATTHEW 16:19



The Rev. John Locke

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Musician: Alyssa Hall

Worship Leaders		
	August 23 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 30 14 th Sunday after Pentecost
Assisting Minister	Jacky Hummel	Jane Boelke
Lector	Holden & Daniel Linkous	Diana Vittoe
Communion Assistant	Sue Rink	Tonie Neal
Ushers	Agnes Rybar, Georgette Miller	Hannah Rea, Joan Eissinger
Greeter	Kathy Brown	Linda Stellfox
Acolyte	Willow Linkous	Ian Gibson
Rover	Dave Runkle	Todd Burns
Worship Nursery	Erika Stockwell, Amber Habermehl	Tonie Neal, Kathy Brown

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

We stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

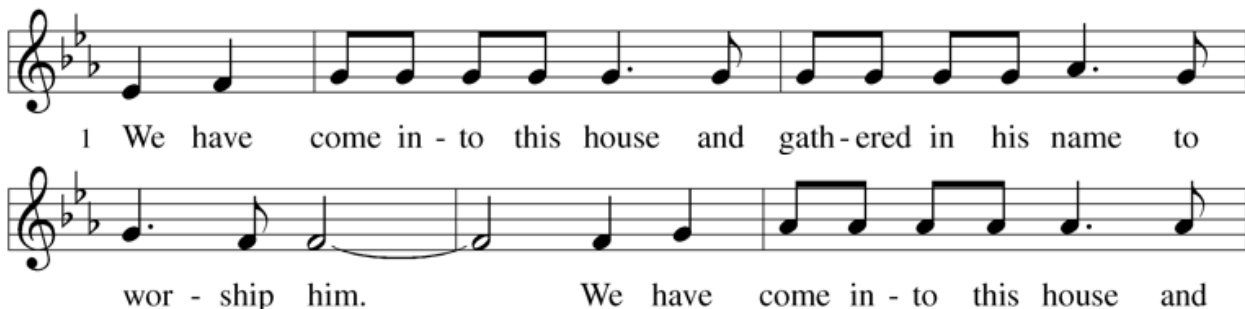
Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

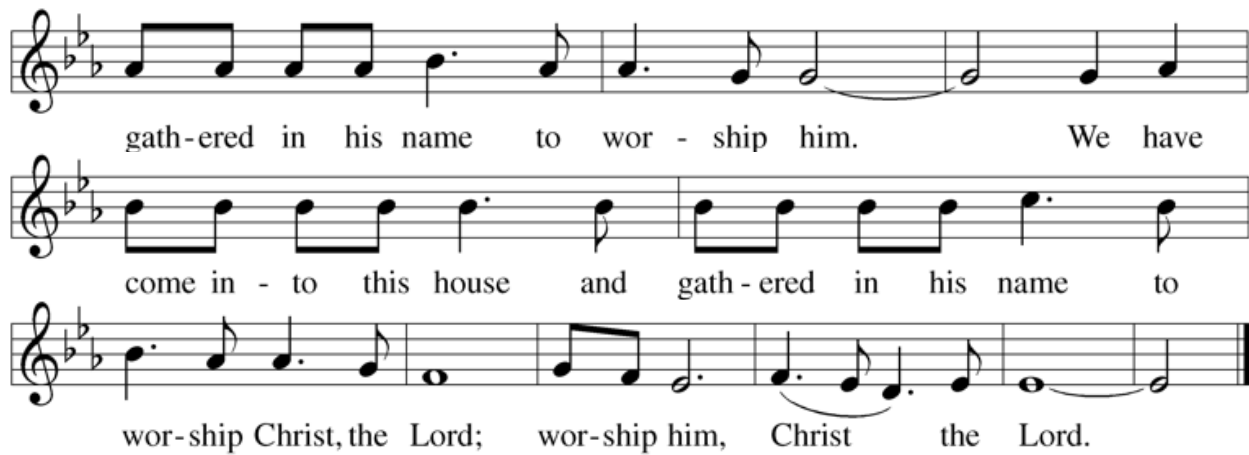
Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *We Have Come into His House* TFF 136



1 We have come in - to this house and gath - ered in his name to
wor - ship him. We have come in - to this house and



2 So forget about yourself
 and concentrate on him and worship him.
 So forget about yourself
 and concentrate on him and worship him.
 So forget about yourself
 and concentrate on him and worship Christ, the Lord;
 worship him, Christ the Lord.

3 Let us lift up holy hands
 and magnify his name and worship him.
 Let us lift up holy hands
 and magnify his name and worship him.
 Let us lift up holy hands
 and magnify his name and worship Christ, the Lord;
 worship him, Christ the Lord.

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 together.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
 you who seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
 and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
 and to Sarah, who bore you,
 for he was but one when I called him,
 but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

PSALM 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.

⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

SECOND READING **Romans 12:1-8**

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Setting 8)

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

GOSPEL The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor John

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

ELW 596

APOSTLES CREED

We join with the Great Communion of Saints in confessing our faith, using the words of the Apostles 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 of those on the congregation's prayer list are listed in the back of the bulletin)

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

**Merciful God,
receive 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.



Support of the ministries of St. James, as well as the wider church, is appreciated. To donate with cash or check use an envelope from the back of the pew or scan the QR code to donate digitally. Thank you for your generosity.



ANTHEM *Blessed Be the Name!*

We stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

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.

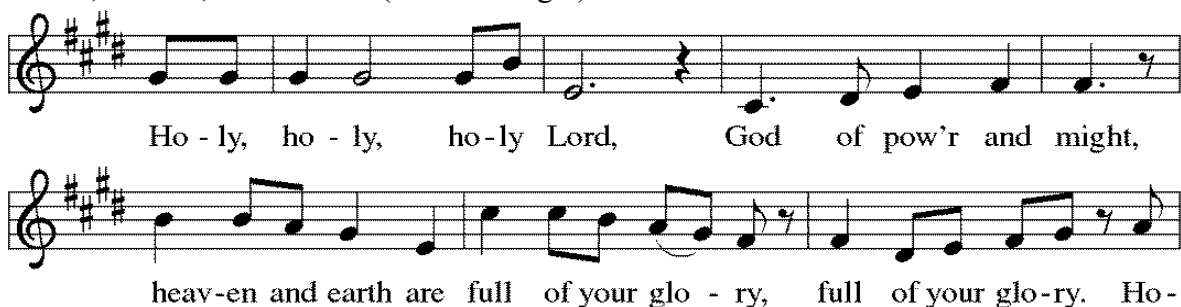
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

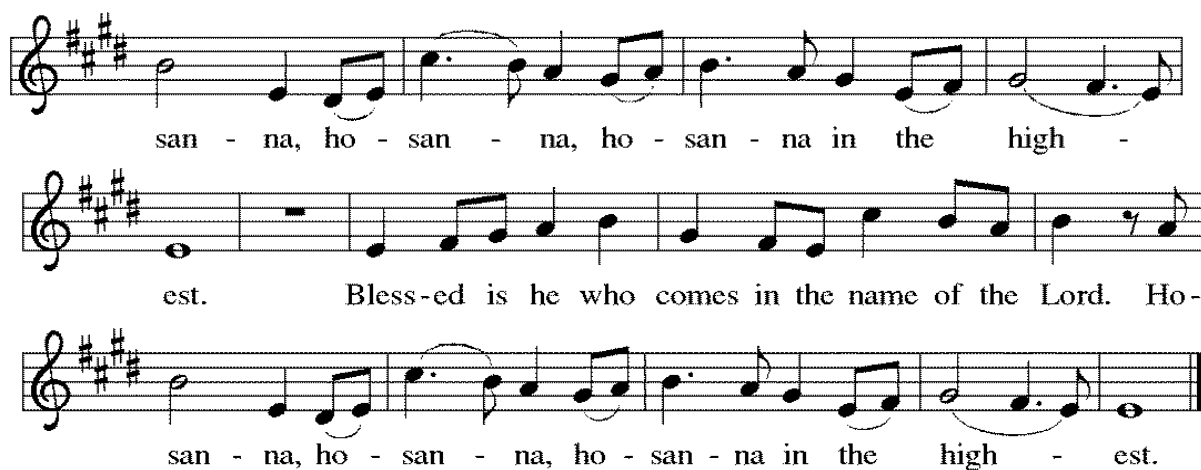
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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 8)





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.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional Version)*

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

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!
Thanks be to God!

We sit.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

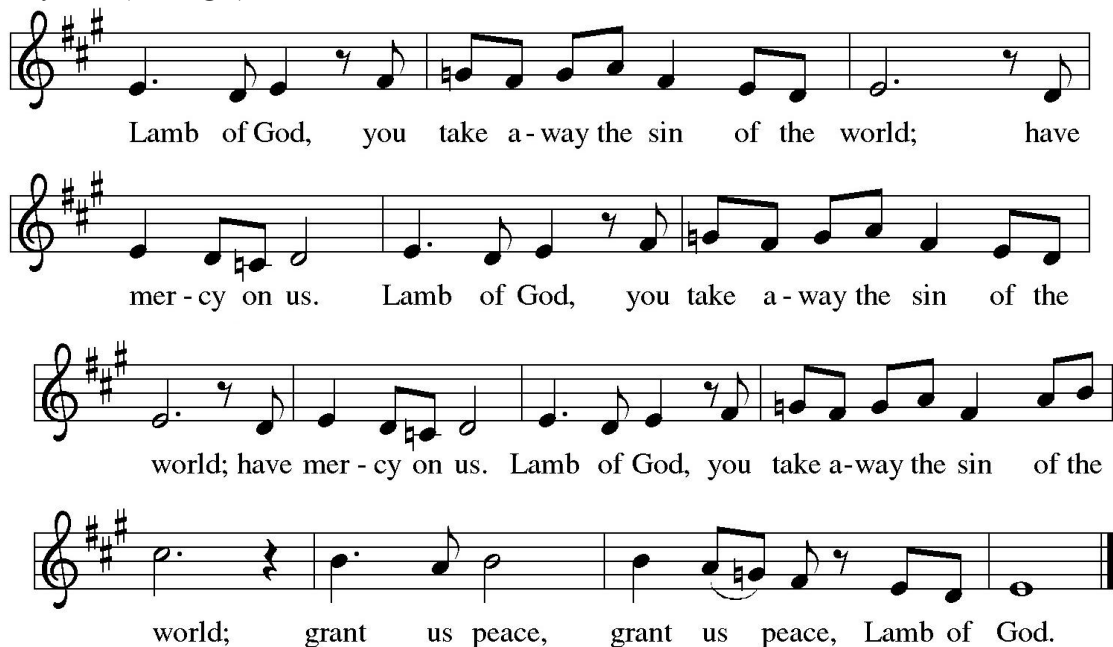
All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are 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 8)



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
We Are an Offering

ELW 623
ELW 692

We stand.

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
 ✠ one God,
 bless, heal, and hold you
 today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *We All Are One in Mission* ELW 576

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

August 23, 2026

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 · Beth Sessoms · Larry Schiebe · Philip Williams · Anna Lena Andersen · Cayla Chaplin
· Gary Eissinger

Friends & Family

· Diane Stultz · Peter Lundell · Gregg Nazario · Sandy Pangle · Stasha · Alan Carlson · Katie Maxwell
· Charlotte Choice and family · Sara Brown · Mindy Quinby · Morgen Jensen · Yvonne Wheeler
· Buddy Prevatte · Betty Beale · James Rose · Ethan Thompkins · Erik Liedig · Simone Ryan · Sharon Decatur

People at Home or in Care facilities: · Charlotte Davis · Brenda Killett · Carolyn Uchtorff · Betty Kern

Our military members (*deployed)

· Earl Stockham · Dan Gibson · Joshua Trogdon* · Bella Fish · Hochang Min · Alex Habermehl
· Robert James · Matthew Porter* · Derek Carlson · Howard Hogan* · Justyce Crecelius* · Zach Fuhr
· Addie Piatz*

Ministry at St. James ... August 23 - 30, 2026

Sun. Aug 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only)
10:00 am Worship and Blessing of the bookbags
11:30 am Choir Practice

Mon. Aug 24

9:00 am Quilting Ministry (Annex)

Tue. Aug 25

6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747
7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom

Sun. Aug 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only)
10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Choir Practice
11:30 am Congregation Council meeting



To celebrate our 90th anniversary, a small snippet of our history will be featured in the bulletin each week.

In 1943 a beautiful set of ecclesiastical stained glass windows was donated to the church by the Minges family. The original 8 windows were dedicated on Palm Sunday, April 2, 1944. They were made by the Henry Keck studio in New York at a cost of \$4000.00. The 1960 expansion of the nave made room for another window The Good Shepherd window was given in memory of J. W. Coon. Spend some time today admiring the windows and read information about each one located on its windowsill.



Social Ministry Outreach

In August we are collecting for the Alms House Kid's Assistance Program Plus (KAPP)
The ALMS HOUSE coordinates with the Hope Mills area school social workers to provide packs of food items each Friday for those children who might otherwise have nothing to eat over the weekend.

If you would like to help provide food for these children, see the list in the Gathering Space.



Save the Date: God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 13th.

"God's Work. Our Hands." is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) annual day of service, designed to celebrate the church's mission and engage members in acts of service within their communities



St. James Lutheran Church

"Men's Retreat"

Theme: Rest for Your Souls (Matthew 11)

Friday & Saturday

October 16 & 17, 2026

**Camp Agape & Conference Center
Gerhard Cabin**

- **What to Bring:** Bible, Paper, Pen or Pencil, your favorite book...other than the Bible, clothing appropriate for light outdoor activities, overnight bag.
- **NO COST** to all attendees!

St. James Lutheran Church Men's Ministry, Lutheran Men in Mission, is sponsoring a Men's Retreat, October 16 to 17. Our Retreat will be held at Camp Agape, a short 45-minute drive north of Fayetteville. Come join us for a weekend of fellowship, food, some light outdoor activities and spiritual growth. The sign-up sheet and informational flyers can be found on the message board near the Men's Bible Study area or contact the Church Office or Todd Burns. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity!!!

For more information contact Todd Burns, (910) 308-5431, burnst37@gmail.com