



**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 14, 2015**

Welcome to St. James/Santiago Apóstol Lutheran Church

We're glad you're here! Our mission is to help you grow in your relationship with God and with all of God's people. Our worship services are designed to gather us as God's people, to hear God's Word, receive Jesus in bread and wine, and join us with God's people of all times and places. We pray that you will be blessed and encouraged by worshiping here. No matter who you are, God knows you and God loves you. If you are a visitor or guest, we warmly invite you to join our faith community. If you want to know more, please speak to our pastors or a member of our Steering Committee. Below is some information you may find helpful during and after worship.

Children and their families are vital to our life and ministry at St. James/Santiago Apóstol. Children are always welcome in worship. In the cry of a baby, or the fussiness of a toddler, we hear a new voice that speaks to God, reminding us that children are a blessing and a joy. If children ever need a break from worship, we have a nursery in the front hallway by the front doors.

Holy Communion. All God's children are welcome at the table of the Lord. God loves you, and welcomes you to the Lord's Supper, whether you are a new Christian, a returning one, or someone who is exploring who and what God might mean in your life. Please don't hesitate to come forward and share in the meal with us: there is room for everyone, especially for YOU.

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. We serve it two ways, either by intinction or by individual cups. For Communion by intinction, you will receive a piece of bread or wafer, and dip the bread or wafer in a common cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Instead of dipping the bread, you also have the option to eat, and then drink from a common cup.

For individual cup Communion, you will receive a piece of bread to eat, and then choose a cup to drink containing wine (red) or grape juice (white). We offer the common cup as well. We also have gluten-free wafers for those with dietary restrictions. Children who do not yet commune and anyone who does not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you desire a blessing, please ask the pastor for one, or simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would like a blessing instead of bread and wine. Please feel free to use the altar rail for prayer after receiving the blessing or Holy Communion.

Offerings. We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes ministry possible. The offering at this service will support St. James/Santiago Apóstol Lutheran Church and its outreach ministries in this neighborhood of Oak Forest/Garden Oaks/North Houston. A portion also goes to our national church body for mission and ministry around the world.

Restrooms are located in the front hallway by the front doors.

Learning Hour/Fellowship Time. During the time between our worship services, you are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, juice, hospitality and fellowship. We also offer Learning Groups for adults and children, so please ask anyone how to join a class or small group at any time.

If you ever need a Pastor, both Pastor Arthur (713.725.6760) and Pastora Adriana Johnson-Rivas (832.512.7652) prefer that you call them directly on their cell phones. If you know of someone who is scheduled for surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know. If there is an emergency, if you would like a pastoral visit at home, or if you simply have questions about life, faith, or getting more involved, calling us directly on our cell phones is always the best way to reach us.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 14, 2015

10:00 A.M.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) – Setting Three
P = Presiding Minister, A = Assisting Minister, C = Congregation

INTRODUCTION

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

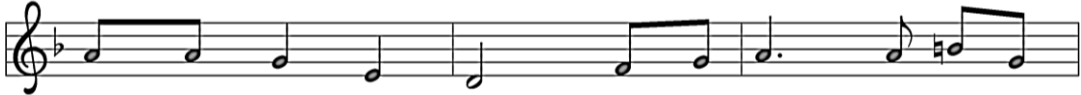
C: Amen.

C:

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.



HYMN OF PRAISE:

C:



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's 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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22–24

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

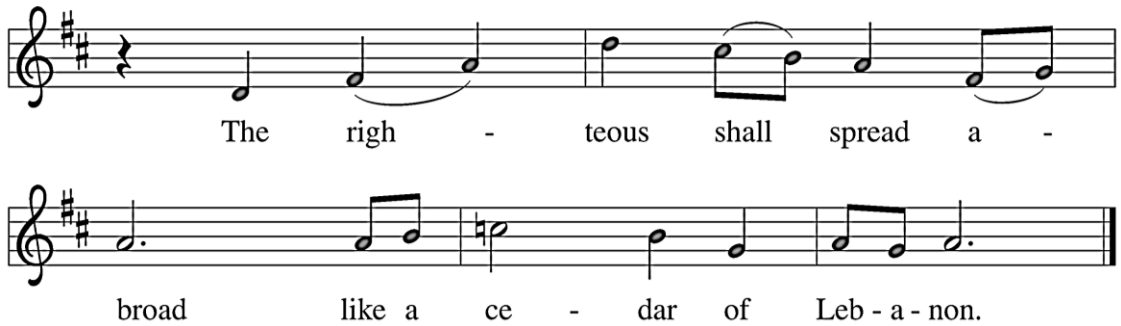
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15

C:



It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;
to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;
on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.

For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands. R

The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;

they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;
that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice. R



SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6–10;14–17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

The congregation sings the Gospel Acclamation during the Gospel Procession.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

C:

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: Mark 4:26–34

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

C:



SERMON: *Pastor Arthur Murphy*

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW#635

C:

We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.



APOSTLES CREED:

P: Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we have been baptized:

C:

**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

A: Trusting the Spirit's power, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: Gracious God, you reveal yourself in word and water, bread and wine. Show us your will as we worship and send us forth as signs of unexpected grace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Life-giving God, the trees sing of your faithfulness. Give growth to trees and shrubs, grasses and all flowering things, that their beauty may flourish for their sakes and ours. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of wisdom, you provide for all peoples and nations. We pray for governments and international organizations, for all who shelter refugees and strive for peace and justice. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of love, you know our hurts and failings. We pray for those who are homeless, unemployed, imprisoned, hungry, and sick especially. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Faithful God, you prosper the work of our hands. We pray for the outreach ministries of this congregation especially. We trust your Spirit moving through and among us even when we do not see the fruits of our labors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We remember in thanksgiving the saints who have gone before us. Anchor us in the triune God, confident in the abundant life you promise. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers, gracious God, and those prayers known only to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The ministers and the congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you." After the peace is shared, the congregation sits.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY:

ELW#465

C:

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



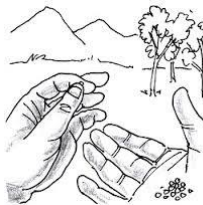
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.



Please stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

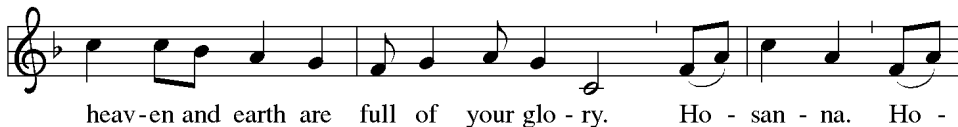
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of ev'ry nation and tongue. 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:

THE SANCTUS

C:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: 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 COMMUNION

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

O Living Breath of God



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:

Refrain



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers for communion. All God's children are welcome at the table of the Lord. We serve communion two ways, either by intinction or by individual cups. For Communion by intinction, you will receive a piece of bread or wafer, and dip the bread or wafer in a common cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Instead of dipping the bread, you also have the option to eat, and then drink from a common cup. For individual cup Communion, you will receive a piece of bread to eat, and then choose a cup to drink containing wine (red) or grape juice (white). We offer the common cup as well. We also have gluten-free wafers for those with dietary restrictions. Children who do not yet commune and anyone who does not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Please stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

C: O God, our life, our strength, our food,
we give you thanks for sustaining us
with the body and blood of your Son.

By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world,
that more and more we will give you praise
and serve your earth and its many peoples,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace

C: Amen.



C:

There in God's Garden

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it starves it, its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE **WELCOME, EVERYONE!**

We welcome all our guests today. Please speak to the pastor if you have special concerns or wish to discuss becoming a member of this community by baptism, affirmation of baptism, or transfer of membership from another Christian congregation.

KEEP OUR FRIENDS & RELATIVES IN PRAYER

Sally Burgess	Linda Bernice Martinez
Charles Cernik	Patricia Nash
Orie Clark III	Louise Richter
Grady Green	Herminia Rivera
FJ Hoffman	Kelly Simmons
Pr. Fred de Oliveira	Kimberly Tessier
Charla Largent	Mic Tessier
John Largent	Terry White
Margaret "Candy" Largent	Phyllis Zendejas

STEWARDSHIP CORNER	
ATTENDANCE AVERAGE	
FIRST SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	33
June 7, 2015	23
TOTAL TO DATE	28
SECOND SERVICE	
Average Total To Date	38
June 7, 2015	28
TOTAL TO DATE	33
WORSHIP TOTAL:	61
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Total to Date	\$63,135.85
June 7, 2015	\$2,485.00
Synod Support	\$2,916.66
Total to Date	\$68,537.51
2015 Budget	
	\$175,000.00
Gap to Date	\$106,462.49
\$15,000 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	
Goal	\$15,000.00
Pledges / Donations	\$12,200.00
Gap To Date	\$2,800.00
Thank you for your support!!	

ASSISTING IN MINISTRY

Presiding Minister	Pastor Arthur Murphy	Cantor	Meghan Garvin
Assisting Minister	Vickie Faulkner	Organist	Sergei Savitski
Altar Care	Maria Grimsley	Usher	Rose Rivera
Acolyte	Eliseo Gonzalez	Teller	Stephen Gould
Crucifer	Alexander Saavedra		

UPCOMING EVENTS

**MON., JUNE 15 –
FRI., JULY 3**

Three weeks of Camp Hope Rodeo!
Please review our Rodeo supply list and donate if you can. Or, simply make a special money offering by cash or check, and write for “Rodeo supplies” on the check or offering envelope. Thank you!

Please check out our church website: www.stjames.ch



St James Church ELCA

Community Page about Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA

LIKE us on Facebook!