

**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
December 15, 2019  
Third Sunday of Advent**

**Worship every Sunday  
10:45 AM**

**Welcome**

***We welcome all visitors who come to worship with us today.  
We are delighted that you have come to share in the prayer  
and praise of our Lord and invite you to return and add your  
voice to ours in holy celebration. If you have a special need or  
prayer write it on the prayer card in the pew rack and place it  
in the offering plate. Before you leave us today, we ask that  
you please sign our guest book.***

**Pastor: REVS. SCOTT & CAROL CUSTEAD  
Church Organist/Choir Director: PATRICIA McCONNELL  
Administrative Assistant: Tim Surkovich**

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**St. James Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament by the Holy Spirit.**

Announcements: If you cannot read the hymns, you can turn to the hymn in the red ELW hymnal in the pew racks.

Prelude: Alleluia J.S. Bach  
*(We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship)*

PLEASE STAND

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*An extended silence may be kept.*

Merciful God,

**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.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

**Amen.**

*We Gather*

\*GATHERING SONG: Prepare the Royal Highway  
*(next page)*

ELW 264

## Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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### \*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.

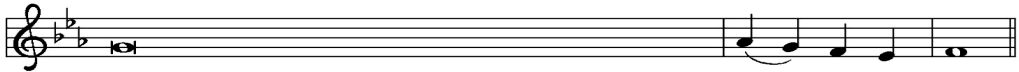
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



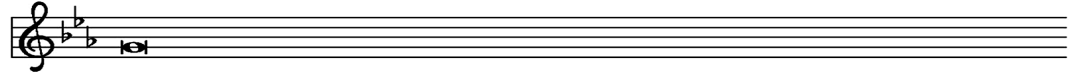
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



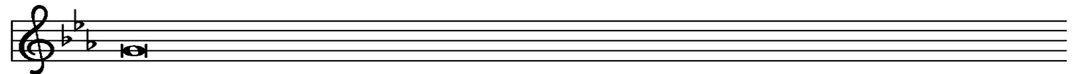
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men, a - men.

# Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



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: Let us pray.

**Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen**

**\* LIGHTING OF 3RD ADVENT CANDLE**

**\*Candle Lighting Hymn Alleluia! Hurry, The Lord Is Near**  
**Sing Only Verse 3**

# ALLELUIA! HURRY, THE LORD IS NEAR

REFRAIN *Fast and urgent* (♩. = ca. 60)

Em D Em D C D Em D/E Em Am

Al - le - lu - ia! Hur - ry, the Lord \_ is near. Al - le - lu - ia,

D G Am7 Bm7

1-4	Final
Em D/E to Verses	Em D/E Em

*Fine*

al - le - lu - ia! Hur - ry, the Lord \_ is near. near. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Sound \_ the trum - pet, the Lord \_ is near;  
 2. Earth \_ has longed \_ for his \_ ap - proach:  
 3. Go out to meet \_ him, shout \_ his name:  
 4. He is the might - y one, he is the Word: } Hur - ry, the Lord \_ is near;

1. see, \_ he comes \_ to save \_ us all.  
 2. straight - en the road, \_ smooth \_ the path.  
 3. his might - y king - dom shall nev - er end.  
 4. God ev - er - last - ing, Prince \_ of Peace. } Hur - ry, the Lord \_ is near!

*D.C.*

## *We Listen to the Word*

### **First Reading:**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM**

**146:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah**

**ANTHEM: Who Will Make Him Welcome**

**Second Reading:**

**James 5:7-10**

A reading from James.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

## The Gospel of the Lord.



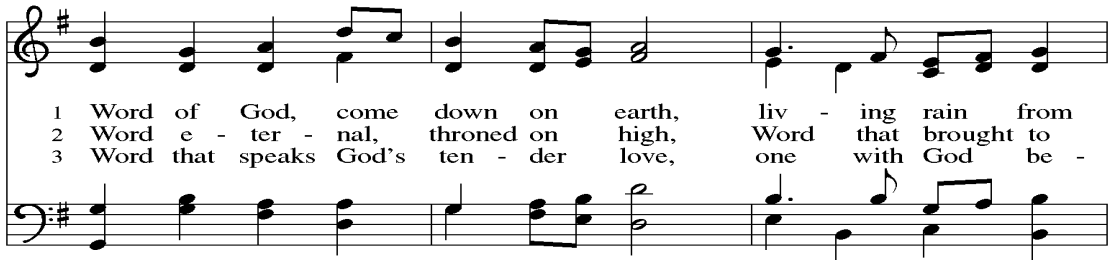
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

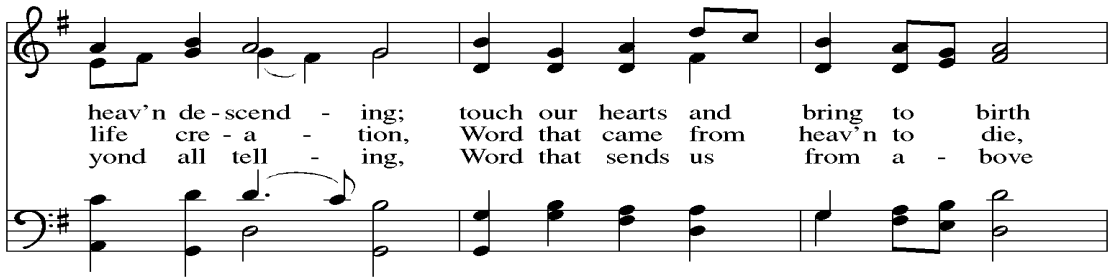
### *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day: Word of God, Come Down on Earth ELW 510  
(next page)

# Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673

Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent, [www.selahpub.com](http://www.selahpub.com).

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## **\*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

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*(Petitions are offered for the Church, the world, the nations, and all who are in need.)*

....Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

(after final petition)

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## *We Offer Our Gifts*

Offertory: Of the Father's Love Begotten arr. Winston Cassler

\*Offertory Hymn: We Give Thee but Thine Own  
(next page)

# We Give Thee but Thine Own

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'We Give Thee but Thine Own'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The first system of music is for the first line of the hymn: '1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;'. The second system of music is for the second line: 'all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.'. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style, with chords and single notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

**\*Offering Prayer:**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## *We Are Sent*

### \*Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

\*Sending Song:  
(*next page*)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELW 311

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

\*Postlude:

O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee

arr. Paul Manz



## Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!  
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.  
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to  
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,  
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and  
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are  
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from  
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 pre - cious in your sight.  
 hill to val - ley flow.  
 king - dom with out end.

# **\*Announcements\***

**IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,**

**In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastors Scott & Carol Custead**

**Phone: 814-254-3072 Email: [scustead@atlanticbb.net](mailto:scustead@atlanticbb.net) or [ccustead@atlanticbb.net](mailto:ccustead@atlanticbb.net)**

The church office email is [stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com) The church's  
website is [www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)

On Facebook—St. James Lutheran Church—Altoona, PA

## **REMINDER AND IMPORTANT**

***BULLETIN ADDITIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN  
TUESDAY AT 10:30 AM.***

***For corrections, please contact the church  
office secretary Tim Surkovich, I'm in the office  
Monday-Thursday 9-1.***

**\*\*\*\*IF AN ARTICLE FOR THE KIRCHENBLATT CANNOT BE  
SUBMITTED BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH, PLEASE CALL AND  
RESERVE A SPACE FOR YOUR ARTICLE SO THAT THE  
KIRCHENBLATT CAN BE FORMATTED AHEAD OF TIME TO  
PROVIDE SPACE FOR ALL THE CONGREGATIONAL NEWS.\*\*\*\***



## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

<b>KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE</b>	<b>DEC 15TH 12 PM</b>
<b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>	<b>DEC 17TH 10:30AM</b>
<b>MIDWEEK ADVENT LUNCH SERVICE</b>	<b>DEC 18TH 12 PM</b>
<i>*Held at Bethany Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin</i>	
<b>MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE</b>	<b>DEC 18TH 6:30 PM</b>
<i>*Held at Bethany Lutheran, See announcement in the bulletin</i>	
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</b>	<b>DEC 24TH 7:30 PM</b>
<b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>	<b>JAN 7TH 10:30 AM</b>
<b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>	<b>JAN 9TH 7 PM</b>
<b>UN-DECORATE THE CHURCH</b>	<b>JAN 11TH 10 AM</b>
<i>* Pizza will be served for the workers.</i>	



**Christmas Eve Service  
December 24th 7:30 PM**

**No Service December 25th**



**Church Council will NOT hold meetings in January and February. Our next meeting will be March 5th**

## Our Prayer List:

Tim Surkovich      Joe Yanke      Sylvia Malsatzki

(Names for inclusion on our parish prayer list can be submitted to the church office. The name will remain on the list for one month. At the end of that period please advise the church office, if you would like the name to be continue for another month.)

Those serving in our military

### **Graystone Manor//Bellmeade**

Robert Civils

### **Presbyterian Village in Hollidaysburg:**

Patti Green

### **Allegheny Lutheran Home:**

Janet Kauffman

### **In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck

Glenn Dell

John Wiederkehr



## **SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS  
WILL BE:  
March 1, 2020**

**\*We will NOT be having Sweets and Treats in  
January and February**

**\* We are always looking for volunteers to sponsor Sweets and Treats. If you're interested there is a sign up sheet in the Sunday School Room. Your support is appreciated!**

# Advent

*A Season of Hope  
& Expectation*

## *A Midweek Advent Opportunity*

### *by Bethany Lutheran Church*

Join us at a 12 noon Lunch Service or 6:30 pm Service as we join with the Shepherds in the field, the company of Angels, and Mary and Joseph as we take part in their story which becomes our story. Below you will find the times and locations of our respective services.

\*Trinity Lutheran's Address: 408 N. 6th Street, Altoona PA 16601

<b>Date</b>	<b>12 noon Service</b>	<b>6:30 pm Service</b>
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Bethany Lutheran	Bethany Lutheran



## ***WELCA'S CHRISTMAS PROJECT***

**STARTING NOVEMBER 15th THROUGH DECEMBER 15th**

We will have a wrapped CHRISTMAS BOX IN THE NARTHEX on November 15th and we will be collecting the following items:

women's perfume/or sprays, men's aftershave, adult coloring books and colored pencils. They will be given to R.K. Agarwal M.D. and Family Teen Center and Shelter at 1701 6th Avenue, Altoona. The gifts DO NOT need to be wrapped. The shelter will wrap the gifts. On December 20th they will have a Christmas Party and they will do a gift exchange at that time.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT.**





**St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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