



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
September 27, 2020  
17th Sunday after  
Pentecost**

**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: Allegretto L. Van Beethoven  
(*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*

## Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy  
2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and  
hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélémon, 1741–1808

**\*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 Spoken:**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

**Lord, have mercy**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen, amen.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

**God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## *We Listen to the Word*

### **First Reading:**

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-3**

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity,

they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

<sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

## Second Reading:

## Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## *Gospel Acclamation*

**Alleluia Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**\*GOSPEL:****Matthew 21:23-32**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

## **\*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*

\*Offering Prayer:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with the gifts we have offered. 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.

**A: 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:** Rejoice, for Christ Is King!  
(*next page*)

ELW 430

### **\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

### **C: Thanks be to God!**

**\*Postlude:** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

L. Van Beethoven

## Rejoice, for Christ Is King!

1 Re - joice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;  
4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody in the treble staff consists of quarter and eighth notes, while the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:  
and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff includes some dotted notes and rests, and the bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment.

*Refrain*  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -

The third system is marked as the 'Refrain'. The melody in the treble staff features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, and the bass staff continues with a simple accompaniment.

joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

The fourth system concludes the piece. The treble staff has a few longer notes, and the bass staff provides a final accompaniment.

# **\*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.\*\*\*\***

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Worship will happen on Sundays at 10:45 AM,  
following the guidelines in recognition of the  
continuing coronavirus pandemic.  
All other activities and events are cancelled  
until further notice.**

## **Our Prayer List:**

Shirley Manbeck      Joe Yanke      Jean Bickel      Tim Surkovich

(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

### ***Homewood***

Sylvia Malsatzki

### ***Allegheny Lutheran Home:***

Janet Kauffman

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

Deborah Manbeck  
John Wiederkehr



*As we worship during this ongoing Covid19 pandemic, please remember these things to help keep us all as safe as possible:*

- Wear a face mask, and keep the 6 foot social distance and refrain from shaking hands.
- Sit in the pews marked with the blue tape.
- Leave your bulletin where you have been sitting in order to help the janitor to know where to disinfect.
- The offering plate is in the back. Please leave your offering there. The ushers will not be collecting it.
- We will not be sharing the peace with each other during the service.
- Thank you for your patience and understanding.

**OTHERS WEAR A  
FACE COVERING  
TO PROTECT YOU.**



**PLEASE  
WEAR YOUR  
FACE COVERING  
TO PROTECT  
OTHERS.**

*St. James Evangelical  
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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.