



**St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church
November 29, 2020
1st 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: O Come, Emmanuel A. Maekelberghe
(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

Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;

So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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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 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.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

*** LIGHTING OF 1ST ADVENT CANDLE**

***Candle Lighting Hymn People East (Verse 1)**

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might
tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the
mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any
God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are
like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us
away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of
our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we
are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that
are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your
strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people
pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from Corinthians.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:**

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

***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: Flying Wide the Door ELW 259
(*next page*)

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*Postlude: From Heaven Above To Earth I Come

Fling Wide the Door

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He - is - the rock of, our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version
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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 or ccustead@atlanticbb.net**

The church office email is stjamesaltoona@gmail.com The church's
website is 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:

Tim Surkovich

Carol Weaver

Edith Trinks

(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.**

Announcements and Upcoming Events

**POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE TODAY
DECORATE CHURCH**

*** No Pizza, Wear Masks, Social Distancing**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

*** COVID-19 Guidelines**

UN-DECORATE THE CHURCH

*** No Pizza, Wear Masks, Social Distancing**

**NOV 29TH 12 PM
DEC 5TH 9:30 AM**

DEC 24TH 7:30 PM

JAN 9TH 10 AM







Christmas Poinsettias

Bless our Sanctuary and your home this Christmas with a beautiful red poinsettia! For each \$7.75 you contribute to the St. James Flower Fund, a flower will be placed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and will be available for you to take with you following our Christmas Eve Service. If you would rather donate the flower for a shut-in or friend of St. James, you may indicate that choice on this order form.

Please complete the form and return it to the church. **The deadline for poinsettia orders and payments is Sunday, November 29, 2020.** Thank you for your generosity in this endeavor!

Your Name _____
(as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

This donation is made:

In Honor of: _____

Or

In Memory of: _____

Amount of Contribution: _____

Number of Christmas Poinsettias: _____

Envelope Number: _____

Please check one:

_____ Yes, I do want to take the poinsettia (s) home with me.

_____ No. I don't want to take the poinsettia (s). I would like them to be given to a shut in or friend of St. James

*St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

**1407 Eighth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602**

814-944-6835

**stjamesaltoona@gmail.com
www.stjamesaltoona.org**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.