



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
November 15, 2020  
24th 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: Aria In D 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*

## Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, as sol - diers of the cross,  
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; the trum - pet call o - bev;

lift high his roy - al ban - ner; it must not suf - fer loss.  
stand forth in might - y con - flict in this his glo - rious day.

From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry his ar - my he shall lead,  
Let all his faith - ful serve him a - gainst un - num - bered foes;

till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished and Christ is Lord in - deed.  
let cour - age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.

Text: George Duffield, 1818–1888, alt.  
Music: WEBB, George J. Webb, 1803–1887

**\*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.

**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## *We Listen to the Word*

### **First Reading:**

**Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

A reading from Zephaniah.

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." <sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. <sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. <sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. <sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**90:1-8, 12**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:

<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.

<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

## **Second Reading:**

## **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

A reading from Thessalonians.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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 25:14-30**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

**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: Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715  
(*next page*)

### **\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

\*Postlude: Flourish Dale G. Rider

# Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone

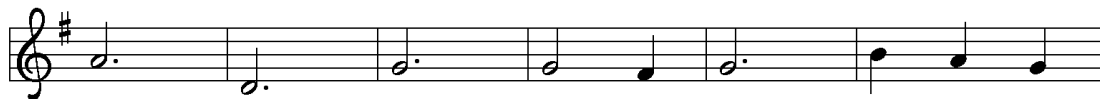


your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.

## *Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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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](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:**

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

**WELCA DOOR DECORATION DEADLINE**

**POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE**

**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 22ND 12 PM**

**NOV 29TH 12 PM**

**DEC 5TH 9:30 AM**

**DEC 24TH 7:30 PM**

**JAN 9TH 10 AM**





## St. James WELCA women are at it again!

It will soon be the holiday season and time to think of the folks in the Allegheny Lutheran Home. Many of these residents feel overlooked and forgotten. Many have family, friends and relatives who can not visit due to COVID regulations. Furthermore, many will have no one to bring them holiday blessings. We have all seen photos and videos of families and friends with tears running down their cheeks as they and their loved ones touch palms through thick glass. How do we not cry for them? They get no hugs or kisses, no contact for months on end.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Now is the time for the St. James family to think of those in the Lutheran Home. It may be one of us some day.

WELCA is asking for you to bring a small door decoration. It's not the price of the item, it's the thought that goes into selecting this small gift. There are many door decorations available at your local Dollar Store.

This gift giving project has been arranged by St. James WELCA and the Lutheran Home Activities Coordinator. It is also a Thrivent Helping Hands Project.



**REMINDER: ALL DOOR DECORATIONS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 22.** THIS WILL ENABLE THE STAFF AT THE LUTHERAN HOME TO DECORATE RESIDENT DOORS FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON.



Blessed Lord, whose love knows no national boundary  
We pray to you today for our nation:  
Help us to celebrate what is good and strong and just  
Help us to reject what is divisive and unfair.  
Give us the understanding that everything about America—  
Its land, its people, its history, its future  
Are all treasures to be loved,  
Not belongings to be hoarded.

Blessed Lord, whose love transcends time and space  
We pray to you today for our nation:  
For our cities that teem with movement and life  
For our fields that offer peace and grace  
For our people who have come from  
Every other country on the planet  
Whose lives are now entwined together  
Who share the land, the hope, the dream.

Blessed Lord, whose love is in the darkest of nights  
We pray to you today for our nation:  
For those who serve it, in wartime and in peace  
Help those who protect from flood and fire  
From disaster and violence, who staff  
Hospitals and schools and churches:  
Be their strength, their vision, and their solace.

Blessed Lord, whose love is ever fresh and ever new  
We pray to you today for our nation:  
Help us live up to its highest ideals  
And never allow it to aspire to anything less.  
Give our country peace; let us live in joy  
Give our country wisdom; let us live in faith  
Bless everyone who celebrates today  
A nation with generosity of spirit  
And grace of purpose: Amen.

by Jeannette de Beauvoir



## 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*

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.