



# **St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church January 31, 2021 4th Sunday after Epiphany**

**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: Adorn Thyself, O My Soul arr. Sigfrid Karg-Elert  
*(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: God of Grace and God of Glory ELW 705

## God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969  
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

**\*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.

**Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## *We Listen to the Word*

### **First Reading:**

**Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD

replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

The Word of the Lord.

**”Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

111

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.**

## Second Reading:

## 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

A reading from Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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 1:21-28**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.<sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.<sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,<sup>24</sup> and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."<sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!"<sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.<sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."<sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

**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.**



## *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:        God, Whose Almighty Word        ELW 673

*(next page)*

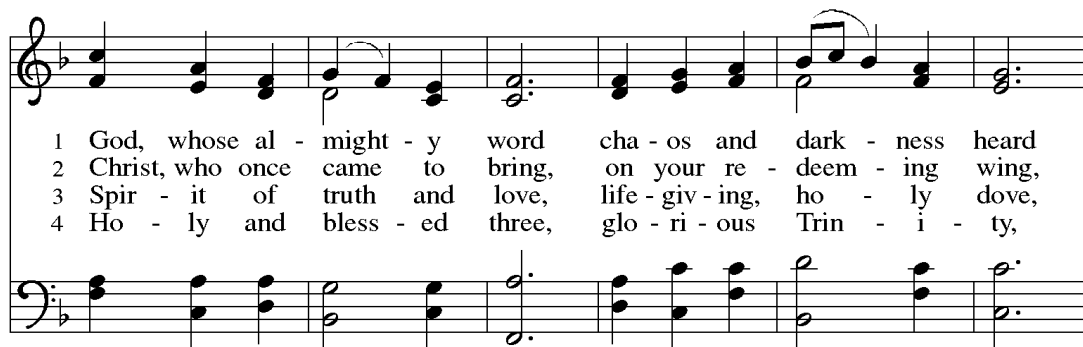
### \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

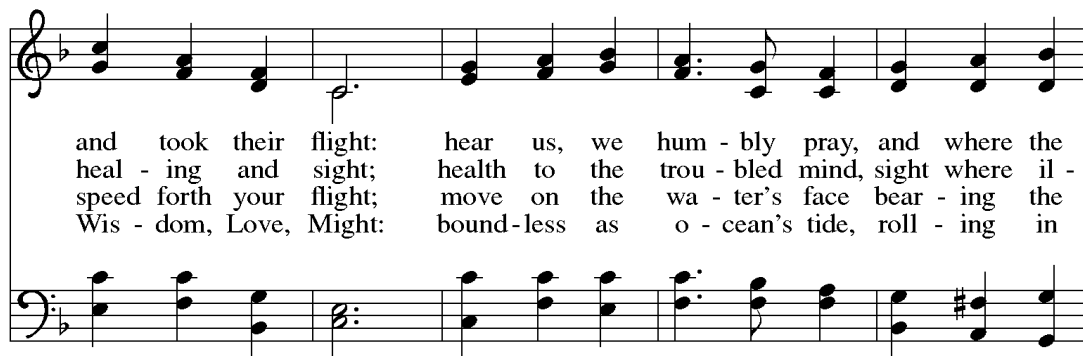
**C: Thanks be to God!**

\*Postlude:            Now Winter Fades From Sight        J.S. Bach

# God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight; hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

# **\*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 is **cancelled** until further notice  
due to the continuing coronavirus  
pandemic.

Also all other activities and events are  
**cancelled** until further notice.

## Our Prayer List:

Tim Surkovich

Carol Weaver

Mike Savino

(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

### ***Grystone Manor//Bellmeade***

Robert Civils

### ***Homewood***

Sylvia Malsatzki

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

Janet Kauffman

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

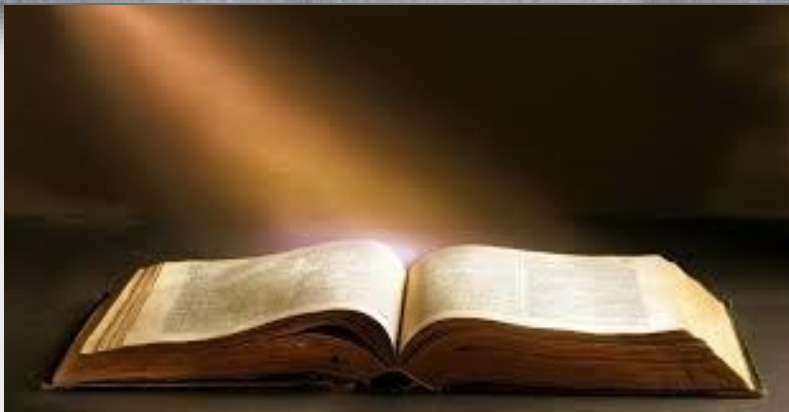
Deborah Manbeck

John Wiederkehr



# Keep THE Faith

The most amazing things in life tend to happen right at the moment you're about to give up hope.



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

God's work. Our hands.