St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday
COMMUNION

Worship every Sunday 10:45 AM

He Is Risen

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.

We celebrate the Lord's supper and invite all baptized Christians to share in this Holy Feast.

Pastor: REVS SCOTT AND 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.

Prelude: Halleluia Chorus G. Handel

(We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship)

We Gather

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle and Easter Proclamation:

P: Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever.

C: Amen.

(In silence the candle is lit.)

P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

P: The light of Christ C: Thanks be to God.

P: Christ is risen! C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*GATHERING SONG: CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

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Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!



Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

*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.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE





*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

ALL: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:
A reading from Acts.

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

- ²Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."
- ¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!
- ¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"
- ¹⁷I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.
- ¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.
- ¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."
- ²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.
- ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

A reading from Corinthians.

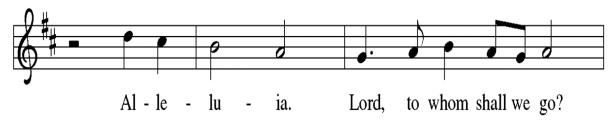
¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





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

Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL:
The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Mark 16:1-8



¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁶But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁵So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord



Sermon

We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day:

The Day of Resurrection!

ELW 361

The Day of Resurrection!



Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche, 1833 *Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Marv and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

and his kingdom will have no end.

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 Hymn NEXT PAGE Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Offering Song



Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your



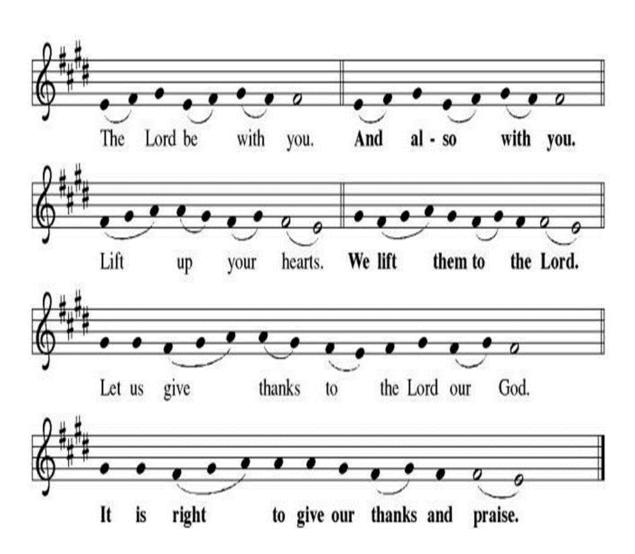
*Offering Prayer:

P: 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.

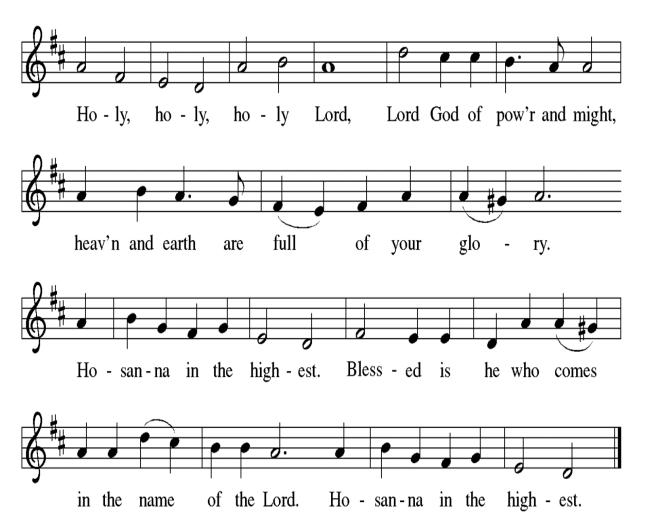
We Share the Feast

*Holy Communion



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



*Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we might receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

For it is our Lord Jesus, who in the night in which he was betrayed took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after the supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me".

*The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Lamb of God



P: Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you once revealed yourself to your disciples.

us

peace,

grant

us

peace.

grant

SOLO: Crown Him The Risen King Bob Hench

of the world;

Communion Distribution

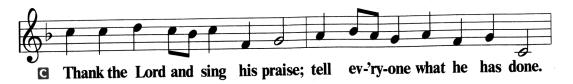
sin

*Post-Communion Blessing

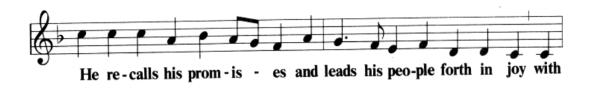
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

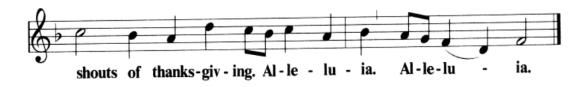
C: Amen

*Song after Communion:









*Prayer after Communion

P: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: 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.**

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done



Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909 Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

The Strife Is O'er Carl Simone Postlude:

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.****



UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL EVENTS ARE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED! EVEN IF THEY ARE LISTED IN THE **BULLETIN OR ONLINE!**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 13 6 PM COVID Guidelines will be in effect!

AS WE GET NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION MEMBERS WILL BE EMAILED OR RECEIVE PHONE CALLS!

Our Prayer List:

Tim Surkovich Ralph Grove Carol Weaver **Evelyn Holsinger**

(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

Inglenook Sr. Apts. Sylvia Malsatzki Robert Civils

Allegheny Lutheran Home: In their own homes:

Janet Kauffman Deborah Manbeck



In the beginning, God created our first parents to live in the Garden of Eden. They knew God, walked with God, and there was no death. They were granted life in perfect communion with the Lord who created both heaven and earth as well as themselves. But by the 3rd chapter of the Bible-Adam and Eve broke the one command that God gave them for their safety; this meant a broken covenant and relationship with God. Sin entered into the world because humans did things their own way, rather than listen to the direction and loving care of their heavenly Father.

The good news is that even though our first parents left the garden, God never left them. The entire story of the rest of Holy Scripture is that of God calling us back to life with God. God is continuously calling all people back to God's eternal life and turning us from sin and our own destruction.

God was so committed to this work of reclaiming leaders like Moses, and David, he sent prophets like Isaiah and Elijah. All of them consistently telling them and us to turn from our evil ways and to follow the path that God has called us to. Frequently, neither they nor we listen.

If we search Holy Scripture we see that God is much more patient than any of us would ever be. Again and again God keeps sending God's Word and messengers to call people out of darkness and into the eternal light.

Eventually, after thousands of years of calling to us, God did an amazing and unexpected thing. The eternal God took on a human body and came to live with us: Jesus. He is the living God who came into our existence to save us from our sin and our own self-destructive behavior.

God did this in Jesus Christ because God loves us. Jesus loves us. We matter, and are personally known, by the Lord who holds all eternity. You are loved more than you can ever know; loved by the creator and the source of all things.

We see that love poured out for us in the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ-- Jesus became flesh to save us. He gave up his body and his blood on the cross. On the cross we see that Jesus Christ loves us so much that he would die for us.

And then, when it looked like sin and death had won, Jesus rose from the dead-- showing us he is more powerful than death. Death cannot hold the one who is the source of all life. This same Jesus has claimed us in the waters of baptism, promises to be with us until the end of the age, and says he will not lose any of us who have been entrusted to his hand.

The one who is more powerful than death is the one who has you and has claimed you. God's answer to the original sin of our first parents was to come to save us from sin, death, and from ourselves.

The Risen Lord Jesus Christ shows us the power and love of God. The power to re-write the rules of reality and make death subject to his will. We see the love of God who stops at nothing to call us back and set us on the right path.

Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! I pray that you are fully aware of the blessed presence of our Lord Jesus as we celebrate his resurrection and his victory over sin, death, and the devil. Happy Easter!

+Bishop Michael Rhyne Easter 2021



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.