

**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
February 5, 2023  
5th Sunday after  
Epiphany  
Communion**

**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.***

**Vice Pastor: Pastor Drew McCaffery  
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:

*(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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*An extended silence may be kept.*

Most 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called 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 the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

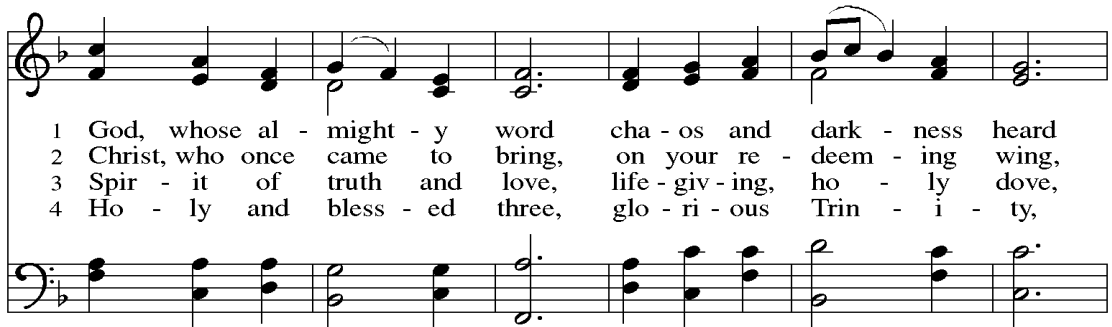
*We Gather*

\*GATHERING SONG: God, Whose Almighty Word

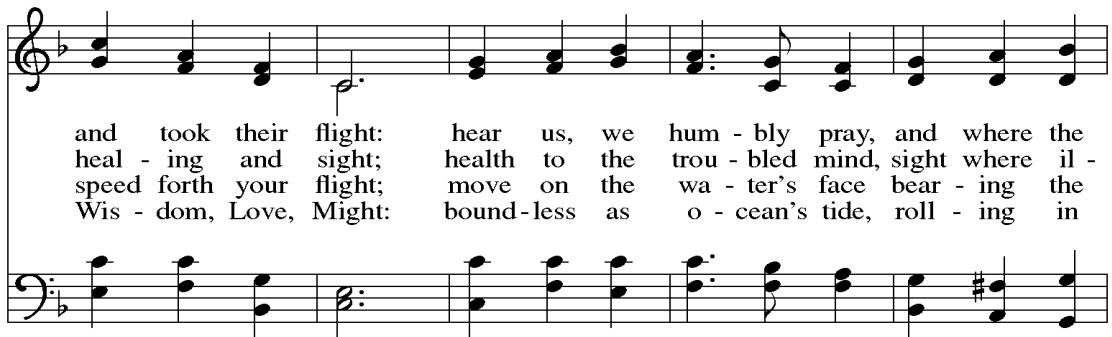
ELW 673

NEXT PAGE

# 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.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.  
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

## \*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.

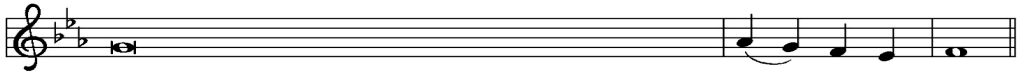
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



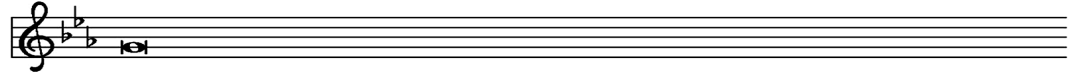
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



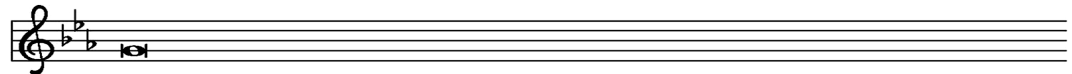
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray.

**Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

*We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[<sup>9b</sup>If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

## **PSALM**

**Psalm 112:1-9 [10]**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup>**Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup>**For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

[<sup>10</sup>**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## **Second Reading:**

**1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to



you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [<sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup>“For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.]

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

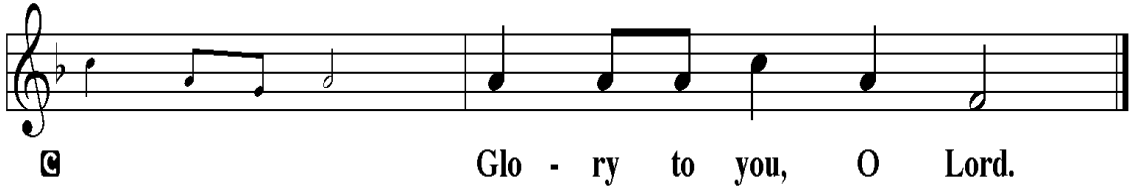
### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**\*GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 5:13-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

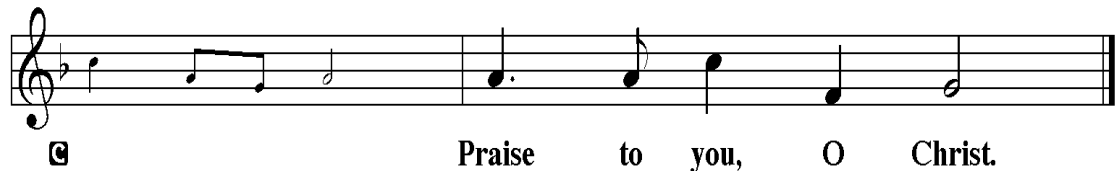


[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



Sermon

# We Respond to the Word

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 815

## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

### Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

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## **\*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 Mary  
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,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

### *A brief silence.*

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice (*injustice such as systemic racism, church sanction of colonialism, church protection of sexual abusers may be named*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for (*the Martyrs of Japan and*) all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## *We Offer Our Gifts*

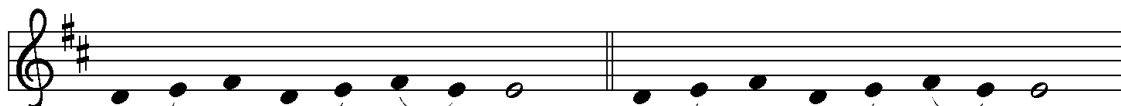
\*Offering Prayer:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the One who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

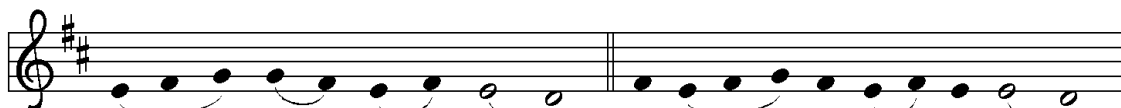
C: **Amen.**

## *We Share the Feast*


\*Holy Communion



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



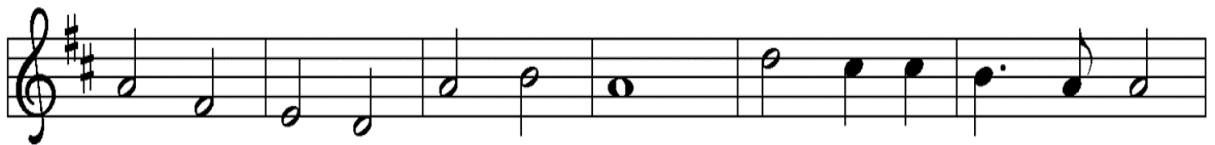
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P:** 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*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.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## \*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.**



\*Invitation to Communion

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

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Distribution—The Communion cups are opened at this time. Remove the Communion wafer from the cup—**P**: Body of Christ given for you.

Remove wrapper from Wine cup—**P**: Blood of Christ shed for you.

\*Post-Communion Blessing

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

**C: Amen**

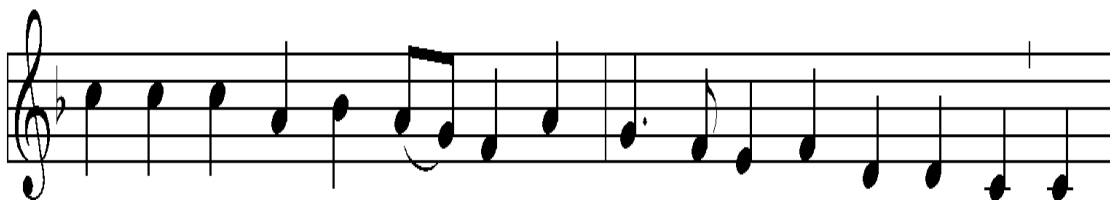
\*Song after Communion:



☒ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

**P:** Let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

**C: Amen.**

## ***We Are Sent***

### **\*Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. 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!**

Recessional:

# 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  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

## *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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# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,**

In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Drew McCaffery

Work: 814-944-7560 Cell: 814-538-9036

Email: [pastordrew0604@gmail.com](mailto:pastordrew0604@gmail.com)

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. \*\*\*\***

### **Our Prayer List:**

Tim Surkovich

Debbie Thomas

Jeff Bickel

Steve Ligthner

Carol Weaver

Donna Foster

Jean Bickel

Donna Wilt

Carolyn Feather

Bill Dambeck

Judy Dambeck

Bill Wilt

(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

### **Homewood**

Sylvia Malsatzki

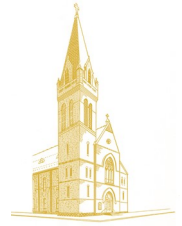
### **Allegheny Lutheran Home:**

Janet Kauffman

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

Deborah Manbeck





## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

<b>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b>	<b>FEB 22 12 PM</b>
<b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 1 PM</b>
<b>LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 1 7 PM</b>
<b>SWEETS AND TREATS</b>	<b>MAR 5 10 AM</b>
<b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 8 1 PM</b>
<b>LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 8 7 PM</b>
<b>POTLUCK</b>	<b>MAR 12 12 PM</b>
<b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 15 1 PM</b>
<b>KIRCHENBLATT ARTICLE DEADLINE</b>	<b>MAR 15 12 PM</b>
<b>LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 15 7 PM</b>
<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>MAR 19 12 PM</b>
<b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 22 1 PM</b>
<b>LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 22 7 PM</b>
<b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 29 1 PM</b>
<b>LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY</b>	<b>MAR 29 7 PM</b>
<b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>	<b>APR 5 1 PM</b>
<b>LENTEN SERIES @ BETHANY</b>	<b>APR 5 7 PM</b>
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE</b>	<b>APR 6 7PM</b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE</b>	<b>APR 7 2 PM</b>
<b>ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT</b>	<b>APR 30 3 PM</b>



# WHAT'S HAPPENING!!



## NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

March 19, 2023

SWEETS



TREATS

## SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS  
WILL BE

March 5, 2023

\* We are always looking for volunteers to sponsor Sweets and Treats. If you're interested there is a sign up sheet in the Sunday School Room. Your support is appreciated!



POTLUCK DINNER

The next Potluck Dinner is

March 12, 2023



# WELCA NEWS

A big thank you to Peggy Thatcher and her grant from Thrivent for the great Christmas luncheon at Perkins. We all had a great time. The good conversations, food and games were enjoyed by all of us. We collected many gifts for the Hope Drop In at St. James.

**thrivent**<sup>®</sup>

*Thank You!*

A thank you to John Kessler for installing the handrails on both sides of the entrance at the fellowship door entrance. They are much appreciated and greatly needed. Great job, John!



## Allegheny Chorale



## Spring Concert

St James Lutheran Church

Sunday April 30th

3 PM







## **Bible Study News**

As we continue our journey of faith, we continue with diving deeper into our faith through our two bible study opportunities as we join with our friends at Bethany Lutheran.

**Wednesday Bible Study (Every Wednesday at 1pm in the Basement Fellowship Hall at Bethany Lutheran):** We are on the final few chapters of Romans which has provided us with wonderful conversations on what is seen as one of the more powerful books of the New Testament (outside of the Gospels, of course). We are taking a minor Christmas break but returning on January 11<sup>th</sup> to finish our series on Romans. Once Romans is completed, we are planning to start a study on the Gospel of John. Keep an eye out for those details

**Faith on Tap (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Marzoni's in Greenwood, 6pm):** Faith on Tap is a series in which we gather for a time of fellowship, food, and time of diving deeper into our faith. These series can range from specific series in the Bible to a book study. Our group will be returning on February 7<sup>th</sup> with a BRAND NEW STUDY as we will begin a series on Love. In Ancient Greek, love expands into 4 different categories with their own meaning. For the months of February and March, we will dive deeper into these 4 loves and how they may help us express the gift of love for those around us. See you at Marzoni's!



## **Ash Wednesday-February 22nd at 12 pm**

As we prepare for the Lenten journey to the cross, we begin with the mark of ashes. These ashes remind us, we return to dust as we came from dust. I think by placing ashes in the sign of the cross, we are reminded outwardly of the sins which Jesus takes to the cross. It is at the cross, our sins (which vary greatly person to person) die in Jesus's final moments. Not only does Ash Wednesday start the season of Lent, but it serves as a reminder to us of our ongoing commitment to the implications of the Resurrection in our own lives. This implication leads to our death in which we will be reborn through the Resurrection of Christ. The cross of ash on individual's heads serves as that visual reminder.

Join us on February 22nd at \*insert worship time for the beginning of our journey to the cross. Pastor Drew will be hosting "Ashes to Go" at Greenbean Coffee House at 715 6<sup>th</sup> Ave from 7am-10am. If this time does not work for you or if you are unable to come to the evening service, please let Pastor Drew know and we can figure out a separate time. We pray your journey in Lent this year, will be a journey which you experience the cross in a new way.





## **Lenten Series: For By Faith**

What is faith? As we read from Hebrews 11, we understand it this way, “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the convictions of things not seen.*”

During this Lenten series, we will share in the journey of faith from various figures in the Bible while also considering our own journey of faith. Our friends at Bethany Lutheran are inviting us to join in this dinner church style worship where we will share in a meal, have discussions, and consider our own journey of faith as we move towards the cross. These events will take place on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in Bethany’s basement. You are welcome to park in the parking lot (at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> St & 4<sup>th</sup> Ave) and then enter through the basement door to the fellowship hall.

For those who will be unable to join us physically, due to whatever reason, you are invited join via Bethany’s Youtube channel (search Bethany Lutheran-Altoona in the search bar) where there will be a reflection from Pastor Drew, along with some reflection questions at 7pm. As we begin this Lenten journey may we feel the presence of Christ as we gather near the cross.



# SYNOD YOUTH MISSION TRIP

July 1st-July 8th

## JOIN US AS WE DO DISASTER RELIEF IN SARASOTA, FLORIDA



### Disaster Clean Up

We will help remove and possibly rebuild designated areas, working with Lutheran Disaster Response, which were hit by Hurricane Ian in Sept 2022.



### Engage in your Faith

Every evening, we hope to explore the local community with various excursions which may include some beach fun, sunset worship, devotions, provided by Luther Springs Camp Counselors.



### Hand out Meals

We will hand out meals to the local community.



### Explore the Community

We also hope to explore Sarasota through snorkeling trip, sunset dolphin excursion or a boat outing. \*Dependant on availability



**FOR YOUTH (AGES 15-18)  
REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE  
IN JANUARY**

**IF INTERESTED, CONTACT PASTOR  
DREW MCCAFFERY**  
pastordrew0604@gmail.com



**Allegheny Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## *Synod Assembly Nominations*

**Where is the Holy Spirit calling you?**

Prayerfully consider how you can serve your Synod

### Synod Council

*2 Year Term:* 1 Lay Male, 1 Youth (Age 15-18)

*3 Year Term:* 1 Lay Female, 1 Lay Male, 1 Clergy

### Discipline Committee

*4 Year Term:* 1 Lay Male

*5 Year Term:* 1 Lay Female, 2 Clergy Female

*6 Year Term:* 1 Lay Female, 1 Clergy Male

### Consultation Committee

*3 Year Term:* 1 Clergy Female

*5 Year Term:* 1 Clergy Male

*6 Year Term:* 1 Lay Female

### Mission Endowment Committee

*3 Yr. Term:* 2 Clergy/Lay, Male or Female

**For further questions or information about the various positions,  
please contact Pastor Drew McCaffery  
([pastordrew0604@gmail.com](mailto:pastordrew0604@gmail.com))**

## Duties of respective committees

**Synod Council** (3 Yr. Term by Assembly Vote, Youth-2 Yr Term)  
*Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote. Meetings are held Bi-Monthly (every other month) or if a special meeting is called by Bishop and/or council members.*

**Consultation Committee** (6 Yr. Term by Assembly Vote)  
*The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ordained ministers and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection . The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of this Constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws. Committee is on call at the request of the Bishop.*

**Discipline Committee** (6 Yr Term by Assembly Vote)  
*From the ELCA Constitution: There shall be set forth in the bylaws a process of discipline governing officers, ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service, congregations, and members of congregations. Except as provided in 20.18. or 20.19., such process shall assure due process and due protection for the accused, other parties, and this church. Since synods have responsibility for admittance of persons into the rostered ministries of this church and have oversight of pastoral and congregational relationships, the disciplinary process shall be a responsibility of the synod on behalf of this church. Committee is on call at the request of the Bishop.*

# Thirty-Fifth Annual Allegheny Synod Assembly

# NOMINATIONS FORM

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Please "X" below all positions of interest. (Number) = Number Elected for that position

<p><u>Synod Council - 3 Yr. Term</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female (1)  <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Male (1)  <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy – Male or Female (1)</p> <p><u>Synod Council-2 Yr. Term</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Male (1)*  <input type="checkbox"/> Youth-Age 15-18 (1)</p> <p><u>Consultation – 6 Yr. Term:</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female (1)</p> <p><u>Consultation – 5 Yr. Term:</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy – Male (1)*</p> <p><u>Consultation – 3 Yr. Term:</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Female (1)*</p>	<p><u>Discipline – 6 Yr. Term:</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female (1)  <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Male (1)</p> <p><u>Discipline – 5 Yr. Term:</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Female (1)*  <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Female (2)*</p> <p><u>Discipline – 4 Yr. Term:</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Male (1)*</p> <p><u>Mission Endowment Fund Committee:</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yr. Term (2) Clergy/Lay – Male or Female</p> <p><i>*Terms have been adjusted due to no fulfillments in previous assembly election(s)</i></p>	INSERT DIGITAL PHOHERE
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Last Name:	First Name:	Middle Int.:
Street Address:	City/State/Zip:	
Telephone:	Email:	
Congregation:	Congregation	
Current Occupation:	Previous Occupation:	
Year of Birth:	Education:	
Church Service Position / Years of Service <i>(Please print legibly or type if not completed online. List no more than 5):</i>		
Significant Community Service <i>(Please print legibly or type if not completed online. List no more than 3):</i>		
In 100 words or less, describe your unique talents that you could contribute to the position(s) of interest above. <i>(Please print legibly or type if not completed online.)</i>		
Are you willing and able to fulfill the duties of this position? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with the help of God		

The Nominations form must be completed by **April 24th, 2023** to be included in the Assembly packet. Any received after that date (up until 4PM Monday, April 24th, 2023) will be uploaded digitally at the Assembly.

Please send completed form with picture to the Allegheny Synod, ELCA, Attention: Pr. Drew McCaffery, Nominations Chair, 701 Quail Avenue., Altoona, PA 126602 or email to via email to [pastordrew0604@gmail.com](mailto:pastordrew0604@gmail.com) with Attention: Pr. Drew McCaffery, Nominations Chair.

*St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

**1407 Eighth Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602**

**814-944-6835**

**[stjamesaltoona@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com)  
[www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.