



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
August 20, 2023  
12th 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.***

**Vice Pastor: Pastor Drew McCaffrey  
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 Toccata In Seven John Rutter  
(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.**

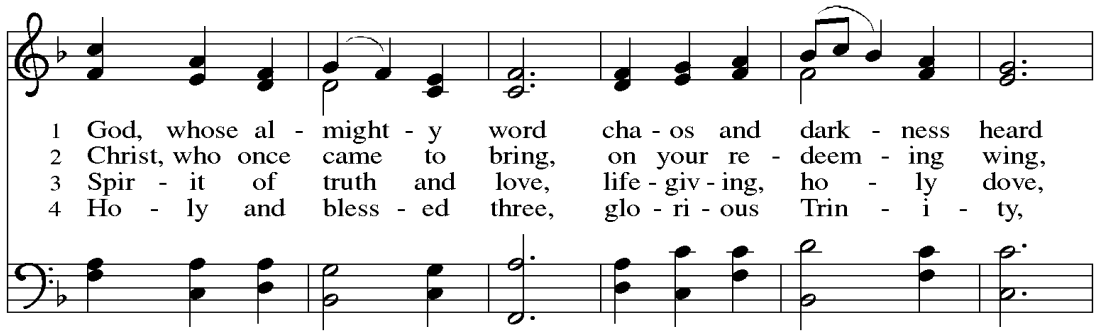
*We Gather*

\*GATHERING SONG: God, Whose Almighty Word

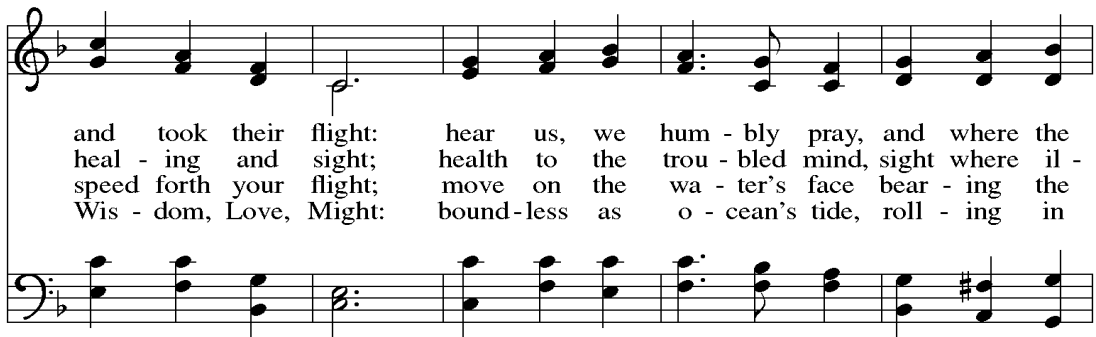
ELW 673

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# 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.

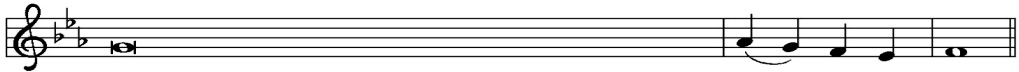
KYRIE



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.



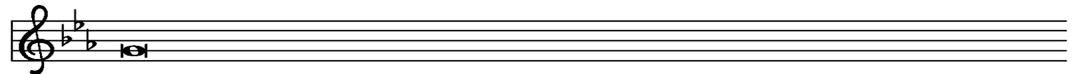
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

# Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

**God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

*We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalms 67**

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

## Second Reading:

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A reading from Romans.

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



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

## \*GOSPEL:

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



☩

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[<sup>10</sup>[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: <sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” <sup>13</sup>He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” <sup>16</sup>Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” <sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

## The Gospel of the Lord.





## *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 617

### We Come to You for Healing, Lord

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of  
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and  
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through  
4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through  
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your  
reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -  
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of  
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of  
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.  
mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.  
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.  
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.  
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

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## **\*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.**

## **\*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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry (*especially name/s of specific ministries*). Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors (*especially Bernard of Clairvaux, whom the church commemorates today*). Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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'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:  
*NEXT PAGE*

O Zion, Haste

ELW 668

\*Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional

Postlude In C

John Troutman

# O Zion, Haste

1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,  
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion  
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,

to tell to all the world that God is light;  
that God, in whom they live and his move, is love;  
make known to ev - 'ry heart and his sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing  
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion  
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,

one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.  
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.  
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

*Refrain*  
Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,

tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

# 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



## **Our Prayer List:**

Tim Surkovich	Debbie Thomas	Jeff Bickel	Bill Wilt
Staff Sgt John Hiles	Donna Foster	Jean Bickel	Donna Wilt
Carolyn Feather	Bill Dambeck	Judy Dambeck	

(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

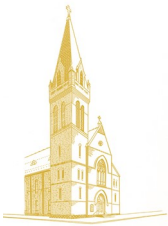
## **Allegheny Lutheran Home:**

Janet Kauffman

## **In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck





## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

<b>WELCA LUNCHEON POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE</b>	
<b>AWSO DAY OF RENEWAL</b>	<b>AUG 26 8:30-1:30</b>
<b>POTLUCK</b>	<b>SEP 17 12 PM</b>
<b>SWEETS AND TREATS</b>	<b>OCT 1 10 AM</b>
<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>OCT 8 12 PM</b>



*St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.