

**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
October 15, 2023  
20th 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**

**ALL LITURGY AND MUSIC RIGHTS RESERVED  
REPRINTED UNDER AUGSBURG FORTRESS LITURGIES LICENSE  
#31114  
REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE.NET #A-723225**

**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 Wunderbarer Konig arr. Barbara Harbach  
(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.**

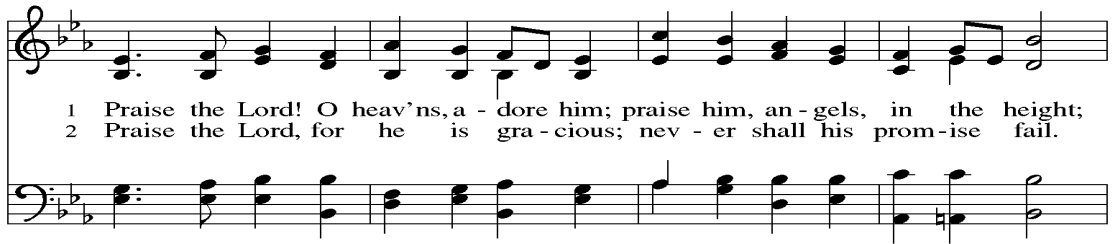
*We Gather*

\*GATHERING SONG: Praise the Lord! O Heavens


ELW 823

NEXT PAGE

# Praise the Lord! O Heavens




1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;  
2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail.



sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.  
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;  
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;



laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.  
heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

Text: *Foundling Hospital Collection*, London, 1796  
Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809

## \*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.

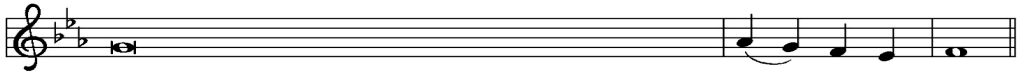
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



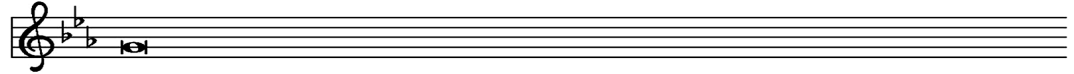
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



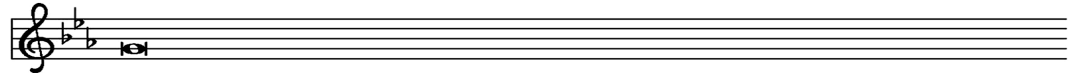
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

**Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

***We Listen to the Word***

**First Reading:**

**Isaiah 25:1-9**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

<sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

<sup>4</sup>For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

<sup>5</sup>the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### Second Reading:

### Philippians 4:1-9

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

<sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 22:1-14**

**The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.**



**G**

**Glo - ry to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.



<sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.”

### The Gospel of the Lord.

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The notes are grouped into four measures: the first measure contains G4, A4, and B4; the second measure contains C5, B4, and A4; the third measure contains G4, F4, and E4; and the fourth measure contains D4. The piece concludes with a double bar line. Below the staff, the lyrics "Praise to you, O Christ." are written in a serif font, with the words aligned under the corresponding notes.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

# We Respond to the Word

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 778

## The Lord's My Shepherd

1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
2 My soul he doth re-store a-gain, and me to walk doth make  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
4 My ta-ble thou hast rich-ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;  
5 Good-ness and mer-cy all my life shall sure-ly fol-low me,

in pas-tures green; he lead-eth me the qui-et wa-ters by.  
with-in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com-fort still;  
my head thou dost with oil a-noint, and my cup o-ver-flows.  
and in God's house for-ev-er-more my dwell-ing-place shall be;

He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me the qui-et wa-ters by.  
with-in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com-fort still.  
My head thou dost with oil a-noint, and my cup o-ver-flows.  
and in God's house for-ev-er-more my dwell-ing-place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650

Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895-1984

Arr. © Oxford University Press.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **\*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

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world (*local natural areas may be named*), that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. (*We pray especially for . . .*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy (*especially Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church*), that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through 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 shines 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, Whose Glory Fills the Skies ELW 553  
(next page)

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

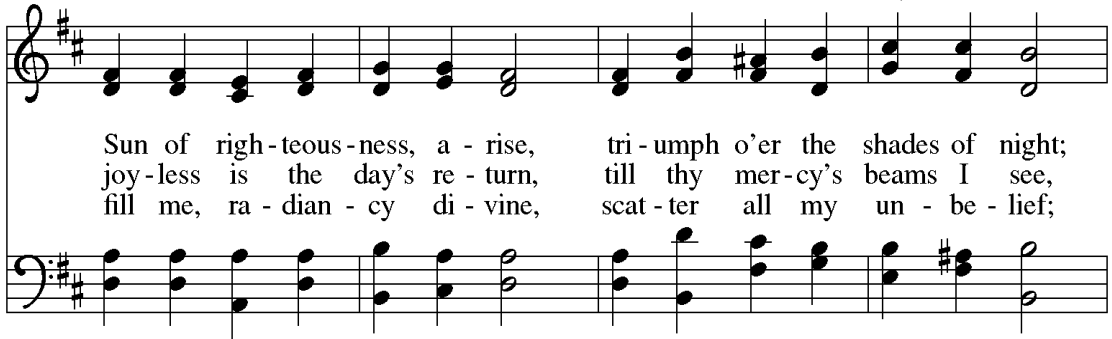
**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional: Soli Deo Gloria Roger Wilson

# Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

# 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

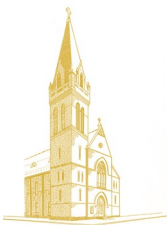
## **Allegheny Lutheran Home:**

Janet Kauffman

## **In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck





## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

**OCTOBERFEST  
WELCA MEETING**

\*Greenbean Coffee House 715 - 6th Avenue, Altoona (See Insert)

**REFORMATION SUNDAY  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
SWEETS AND TREATS  
ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**OCT 22 12 PM  
OCT 28 9:30AM  
OCT 29  
NOV 12 12 PM  
DEC 3 10 AM  
DEC 3 3 PM  
DEC 10 12 PM**



*Thank You to Sharon Lightner  
for providing Sweets and Treats  
on October 1st*

**The Allegheny Chorale presents their 39th Season  
Christmas Concert**



**St. James Lutheran Church**

**December 3, 2023**

**3PM**





SWEETS



TREATS

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

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS  
WILL BE  
DECEMBER 3, 2023  
Provided By: Jean Bickel**

\* 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!



REFORMATION SUNDAY

**Reformation Sunday is around  
the corner. Wear Red on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Reformation Sunday is a special day for those of us in the Lutheran Church. We as Lutherans and many Protestant Churches celebrate on the Last Sunday of October "Reformation Sunday" where Martin Luther called for a conversation of the Church. We celebrate this moving of the Holy Spirit by wearing RED for

the day. See you on October 29<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the Spirit which continues to move in the Church.



## Bible Study Update

**Faith on Tap (NEW SERIES ALERT)**- We just finished our series by Kate Bowler. We are switching gears to do a book study on Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. A description about Rohr's book-*In the first half of life, we are naturally preoccupied with establishing ourselves; climbing, achieving, and performing. But as we grow older and encounter challenges and mistakes, we need to see ourselves in a different and more life-giving way. This message of falling down - that is in fact moving upward - is the most resisted and counterintuitive of messages in the world's religions.* Join us on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month at Marzoni's in Greenwood at 6p.

**Wednesday Bible Study:** We are continuing our series on the Gospel of John. Join us at 1pm on Wednesdays, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall!

*We hope you will take part in our various Bible Study offerings.*



*October 22, 2023*

**Dinner will be served following the Worship Service.  
Dinner to include Sauerkraut, Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Kneadles  
(German Bread Dumpling) with Gravy, Hot German Potato  
Salad, Hot Dogs & Rolls, applesauce and drinks.**

**We are asking members to bring a side dish, vegetable or dessert.**

***Hosted By: Robin and John Kessler***



*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.