



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
February 25, 2024  
2nd Sunday in Lent**

**Worship every Sunday  
10 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.***

**Pulpit Supply: Vice Pastor Drew McCaffery  
Church Organist/Choir Director: Patricia McConnell  
Guest Pianist: Cathy Thompkins  
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

**CONFESSIO 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:

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

NEXT PAGE

# In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing, light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872  
Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

## \*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.

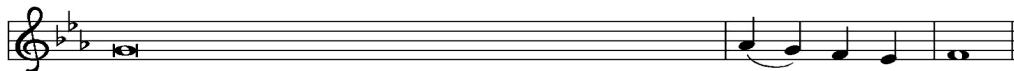
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



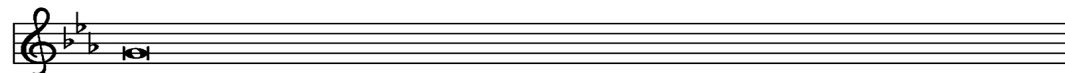
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



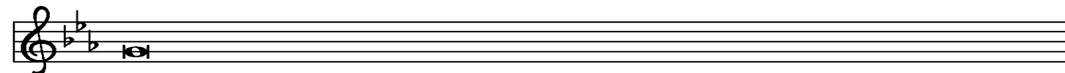
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**P:** Let us pray.

**O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### *We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

<sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 22:23-31

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow <sup>l</sup> down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## Second Reading:

Romans 4:13-25

A reading from Romans.

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

<sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

<sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be."

<sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

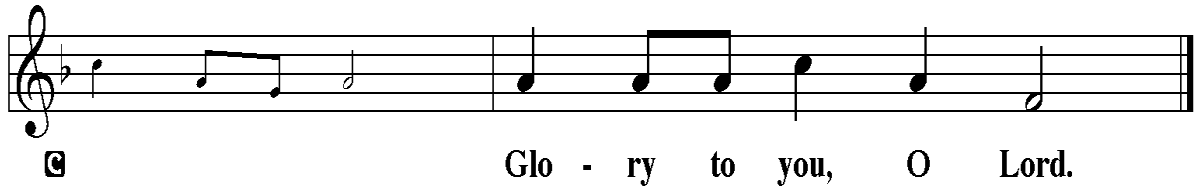
\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**Mark 8:31-38**

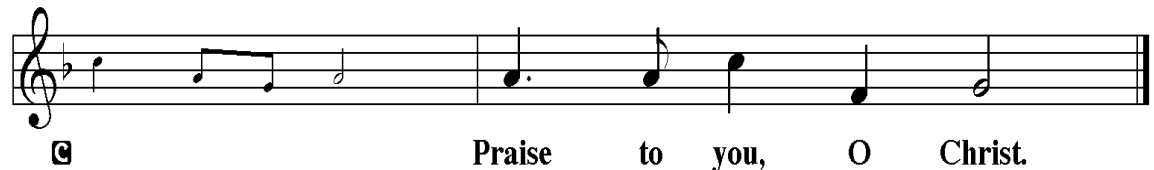
The Holy Gospel according to Mark.



<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



Sermon



# *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 667

## Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are as follows:

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,  
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight  
3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,  
"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;  
per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;  
nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for - sake the past, and come this day,  
his strength shall bear your spir - it up,  
for you the Lord en - dured the cross  
those who hum - bly bear the cross  
and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."  
sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.  
to save your soul from death and hell.  
one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877. alt.  
Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848; arr. hymnal version  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others (*especially Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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 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:

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW 250

*NEXT PAGE*

\*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional

# Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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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



## **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	
The Family of Janet Kauffman			

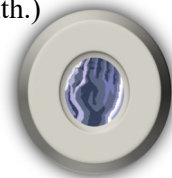
(Names for inclusion on our parish prayer list can be submitted to the church office. The name will remain on the list for one month. At the end of that period please advise the church office, if you would like the name to be continue for another month.)  
Those serving in our military.

## **Homewood:**

Sylvia Malsatzki

## **In their own homes:**

Deborah Manbeck





**UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>POTLUCK DINNER</b>	<b>TODAY</b>	<b>FEB 25 12 PM</b>
<b>BIBLE STUDY @ BETHANY</b>		<b>FEB 28 1 PM</b>
<b>MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ ST JAMES</b>		<b>FEB 28 6 PM</b>
<b>SWEETS AND TREATS</b>		<b>MAR 3 10 AM</b>
<b>MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ ST JAMES</b>		<b>MAR 6 6 PM</b>
<b>EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE</b>		<b>MAR 7 12 PM</b>
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING</b>		<b>MAR 10 12 PM</b>
<b>MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ BETHANY</b>		<b>MAR 13 6 PM</b>
<b>MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE @ BETHANY</b>		<b>MAR 20 6 PM</b>
<b>PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP</b>		<b>MAR 24 10:45</b>
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE</b>		<b>MAR 28 6 PM</b>
<b>*Combined Service with Bethany, a meal will follow worship</b>		
<b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ ST JAMES</b>		<b>MAR 29 2 PM</b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ BETHANY</b>		<b>MAR 29 7 PM</b>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE</b>		<b>MAR 31 10:45</b>
<b>ALLEGHENY CHORALE SPRING CONCERT</b>		<b>APR 28 3 PM</b>

***REMINDER: Worship Service will move to the Sunday School Room from January 7th to March 24th!***



**SWEETS**



**TREATS**

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

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL  
BE: March 3, 2024**  
Provided By: Diane Shultz

\* 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  
TODAY February 25, 2024**  
**12PM**



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**MARCH 10, 2024**  
**12 PM**

**Allegheny Chorale**

**Spring Concert**



**St James Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday April 28th 3 PM**







## **Bible Study Update**

**Faith on Tap- 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month at Marzoni's in Greenwood**  
On Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, we started a brand new series entitled, "Broken Signposts" which is inspired by *Broken Signpost* by NT Wright. During this series, we will explore various ways in which we do not live up to the ideals of having a more worldly view. This will be an exciting series, which do not have to read prior. We hope to see you there!

### **Description of the book which is inspiring this series:**

In this thoughtful follow-up to *Simply Christian*, today's leading Bible scholar, Anglican bishop, and acclaimed author uses the Gospel of John to reveal how Christianity presents a compelling and relevant explanation for our world.

N. T. Wright argues that every world view must explain seven "signposts", indicators inherent to humanity: justice, spirituality, relationships, beauty, freedom, truth, and power. If we do not live up to these ideals, our societies and individual lives become unbalanced, creating anger and frustration - negative emotions that divide us from ourselves and from God, he contends.

Using the Gospel of John as his source, Wright shows how Christianity defines each signpost and illuminates why we so often see them as being "broken" and unattainable. Drawing on the wisdom of the Gospels, Wright explains why these signposts are fractured and damaged and how Christianity provides the vision, guidance, and hope for making them whole once again, ultimately healing ourselves and our world.

### **Wednesday Bible Studies will be taking a Lenten break**

Our group has decided that Wednesdays, during Lent, will serve as a good time to be in prayer. We plan to come back after Easter as we continue our series on Revelation. Keep an eye out when we will regroup in April.

**CREATED FOR COMMUNITY**  
**A LENTEN DINNER CHURCH SERIES**  
**WEDNESDAYS, 6PM**

**BETHANY**  
 Lutheran Church  
 (200 THIRD AVE, ALTOONA)

**ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 (1407 8TH AVE, ALTOONA)

LOCATION SCHEDULE  
 FEB 21: BETHANY  
 FEB 28: ST JAMES  
 MAR 6: ST JAMES  
 MAR 13: BETHANY  
 MAR 20: BETHANY

**Lenten Series:  
 Created for  
 Community  
 Wednesdays, 6pm**

On Ash Wednesday, we enter into a season together with “the whole church.” It goes to say that we are created for communion with God, one another, and called to live in harmony with creation.” Lent

serves as a time for deepening our sense of community. This Lenten Season, we will take a deeper dive in our sense of community within a variety of avenues (creation, saints, Christ, our neighbors, and those on the margins). We will also have this in a Dinner Church Style format, similar to last year’s Lenten Services. These services will also be shared locations between Bethany & St James, so we ask you refer to our Facebook page or other announcements for the location of the week. We hope you will join us for what will be a wonder experience of food, fellowship, and deeper sense of community.

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 6pm. As we begin this Lenten journey may we feel the presence of Christ as we gather near the cross.

**Schedule & Location of Mid-Week Dates are as Follow:**

Feb 21 <sup>st</sup> -Bethany	Feb 28 <sup>th</sup> - St James
Mar 6 <sup>th</sup> -St James	Mar 13 <sup>th</sup> -Bethany
Mar 20 <sup>th</sup> -Bethany	

# Holy Week 2024 Services

Holy Week is the most sacred week of the Christian Church year. We are asked to remember and experience the week which changed the world and hopefully change us as well. This is a week which we get to experience Christ's passion and see how it isn't just another week on the calendar.

The following services are here to help us experience the kind of love which was shown on the first Holy Week. We hope you are able to attend and experience a closeness of God's love for us and the world.

*All Services are in person or can be found via the Church's Youtube Channel at their designated times. Hope to see you there as we journey to the cross and the empty tomb!*

## **Palm Sunday- March 24<sup>th</sup> 10:45 AM** ***We will return to sanctuary on this day!***



With a joyful noise, we gather at the entrance of Jerusalem waiving our palms. We shout "Hosanna" (save now!) as our cry for a broken world. "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" (Luke 19:38) This service serves as a wonderful opportunity to begin our

## **THE GREAT THREE DAYS (TRIDUUM) Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Morning**

*The Three Days are truly a roller coaster of emotions, seemingly covering the entire spectrum of the human experience. This can be a tough thing to face in church, especially as we see so many worshipers skipping right from Passion/Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. But this range of emotion is one that should be fully embraced as we come together for this holiest of weeks.*

*(Sundays and Seasons 2024,  
Year B, copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress)*



## **Maundy Thursday- March 28th 6:00 PM @ St James Lutheran Fellowship Hall**

*“Lord make our sad divisions soon to cease; draw us all closer, each to each, we plead, by drawing all to you, O Prince of peace.” (ELW 463)*

On this sacred night, we remember the final night which Jesus gathered with the original twelve disciples sharing with them the commandments of Love and Grace through meal and the washing of feet. This is a night which we give thanks for the gift of communion as we are mere hours away from his death on the cross. This service will be celebrated in the Dinner Church Style which we have been using throughout our Midweek Lenten Services. The altar is stripped as we remember Jesus being stripped of his freedom as we hear the words of Psalm 22 preparing us for Good Friday.

## **Good Friday- March 29th 2:00PM** *(Communion will not be celebrated)*



We gather at the foot of the cross to hear the words of Jesus’s agonizing death for us and for our salvation. In this service of remembrance we ponder his trial, his torture, his carrying the cross, his crucifixion and burial through the use of Scripture and hymns. We also hear the final words of Jesus by candlelight and leave in darkness and silence this night.

# The Vigil of Easter-The 1st Service of Easter

March 30th 5:30PM @ St Luke's  
Episcopal (806 13th St)



This is *the* night, the night to be immersed in who we are as God's people. This night overflows with biblical images of a world redeemed in Jesus Christ. We come not to get all the answers, but to be filled to the brim with stories that both refresh and perplex us. At first it could appear that the Vigil is a simple movement from dark to light, from death to life. We await the magic moment when the lights come on and, yes, it is Easter

St Luke's Episcopal Church, has invited us to join them for a community wide Easter Vigil Service with Bishop Scanlan (Episcopal Bishop of Diocese of Central Pennsylvania) Bishop Schmitt (Lutheran Bishop of Allegheny Synod) leading the service. During this service, we gather in darkness as we left Good Friday and hear the stories of hope throughout the Old Testament. We will then travel through the various stories of hope where we will rejoice in the light of a new day as we "ring" in the first "Alleluias!" of Easter. If you have never participated in the Vigil of Easter, you do not want to miss out on one of the most ancient services within the Church.



# EASTER

# VIGIL

*Join  
Us!*



# THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER SUNDAY) March 31st 10:45AM



It has finally arrived!! If you ever wonder if there was a day in which the world was changed, the first Easter was that day. We gather to celebrate Christ being Raised from the Dead!!! Death, sin, fear, cruelty, injustice, and evil no longer have the final say in our lives because the final words belong to Jesus. Christ is risen and we celebrate that freedom!

Worshippers are invited to bring a bell (any shapes or sizes are welcomed) which are to be muffled until announced.

The church will be decorated to celebrate this momentous occasion and will “ring” in moment through the use of bells as we sing the return of “Alleluias.”





## Easter Flowers

Your name (as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

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This Donation is made:

IHO: \_\_\_\_\_

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IMO: \_\_\_\_\_

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Choice of Flowers:

Yellow Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$12)       Red Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$15)  
 8" Daffodils (\$15)       Lilies single stem (\$16)  
 Multi-Color 3 Bulb Hyacinths (\$13.50)

Amount of Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One:

Yes, I do want to take the flower(s) home with me.

No, I do not want to take the flower(s) home with me. I would like them to be given to a shut-in or friend of St. James.

Please use the My Offering envelope in your pew to place your order and payment. Check the Flower Fund box on the envelope and place in the offering plate.

Orders must be received by 12 PM March 7, 2024

*St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

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Altoona, PA 16602**

**814-944-6835**

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.