



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
June 16, 2024  
4th 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: Vater unser im Himmelreich Johann Pachelbel  
(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*

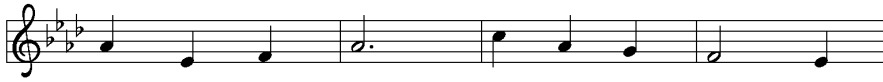
\*GATHERING SONG:

Earth and All Stars!

ELW 731

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# Earth and All Stars!



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!  
3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!  
4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!  
5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!  
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!  
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!  
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!  
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
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**\*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.

**O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Ezekiel 17:22-24**

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;**

<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;

<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how upright the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

## Second Reading:

## 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**\*GOSPEL:**  
**The Holy Gospel according to Mark.**

**Mark 4:26-34**



<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

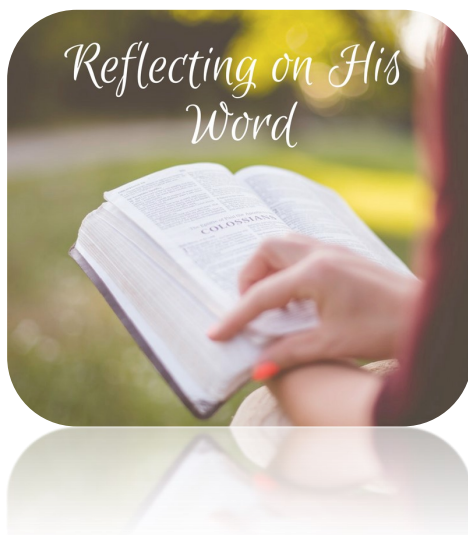


<sup>30</sup> He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” <sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## The Gospel of the Lord



## Sermon



## *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 635

### We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near and seek where you are found:  
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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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

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

*A brief silence.*

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises (*especially*). Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With gratitude, we remember (*the Emanuel Nine martyrs and all*) the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

**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: My Life Flows On in Endless Song ELW 763  
*NEXT PAGE*

\*Dismissal

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

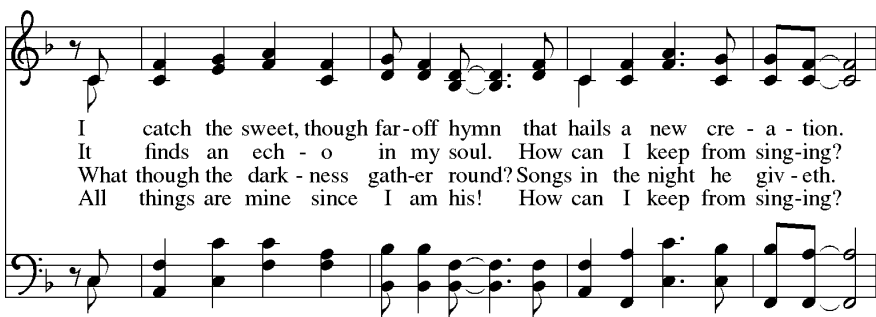
**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional Awake My Soul, And with The Sun arr. Flo Peters

# My Life Flows On in Endless Song

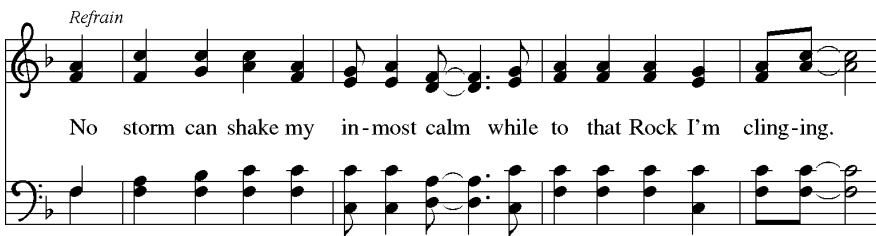


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

# 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

Donna Wilt

Carolyn Feather

Bill Dambeck

Judy Dambeck

The Family of Janet Kauffman

The soul and family of Jean Bickel

(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.)

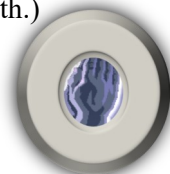
Those serving in our military.

### Homewood:

Sylvia Malsatzki

### In their own homes:

Deborah Manbeck





## UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

**CHURCH PICNIC**  
**SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP**  
**SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**

**JUN 23 11 AM**  
**JUL 28 10 AM**  
**AUG 25 10 AM**  
**SEP 15 12 PM**





## Feeding Partnership with St Luke's Episcopal

Our neighbor, St Luke's Episcopal Church, have been in the process with the sale of their building. The plan is that St. Luke's will be able to continue to worship in their space as part of this sale but some of their other ministries are having to make some changes. In conversation between St James' council and representatives from St Luke's we made sure that St Luke's Monthly Feeding Ministry would continue in our neighborhood. Starting this month, we unfortunately were impacted by the snow in January, St Luke's will be hosting a free community luncheon. If you are interested in helping, please let Pastor Drew know and he will get you in touch with St Luke's point person. Held the 2nd Wednesday of the month. **Next feeding is July 10.**

## Bible Study Update

**Wednesday Afternoon Bible Studies:** Wednesday Bible Study group returned early April at 1pm in the Basement Fellowship Hall, as we have continued our series on Revelation. Some dates we will not be meeting during the summer because Pastor Drew will be gone for various points due to other commitments but this will not hinder our experience. Hope to see there!

**Faith on Tap:** We continue to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month as we will continue our series on Broken Signpost. Hope to see you there!



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**September 15, 2024**

**12 PM**

# **CHURCH PICNIC**

Planning for the church picnic has begun. You can use the sign up sheet on the stand in the narthex or on the foyer bulletin board.

Church Picnic will be held June 23, 2024 at Highland Park, Pavilion #2

## **Summer Picnic Worship!**



With summer upon us, we figured we would enjoy the weather and outdoors as part of worship. We held these picnic worships together, last summer, with our friends from Bethany and will be doing it again, this summer. We will be gathering at Highland Park for these Outdoor Picnic Worship once a month during the summer at 10am as a combined service between Bethany & St. James. Those dates are June 23rd, July 28th, and August 25<sup>th</sup>. We will have an abridged communion worship service and will then enjoy the picnic festivities. The main dish will be provided for these picnics. We are asking for individuals to bring a side and/or a dessert to be shared with those in attendance. We also ask for you to provide your own appropriate beverage. We are also planning to have some form of entertainment once our worship. If something changes with these picnics, we will keep you in the loop. See you on June 23rd at 11:00am at Highland Park!

 Happy  
Father's  
Day! 

*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.