



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
August 18, 2024  
13th 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.***

**Pulpit Supply: Pastor Scott Custead  
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: Morning Has Broken arr. Keith Chapman

*(We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship)*

PLEASE STAND

**CONFESSIOIN 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:

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

NEXT PAGE

# Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

**\*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.

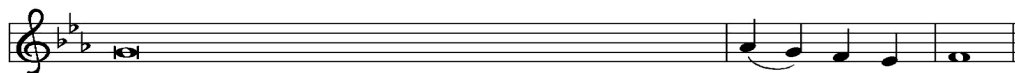
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



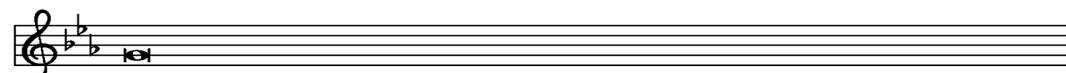
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



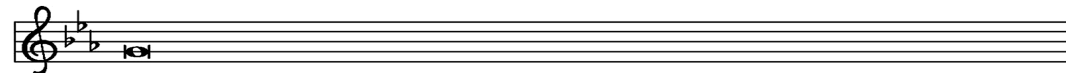
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

**Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### *We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Proverbs 9:1-6**

A reading from Proverbs.

<sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.

<sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.

<sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,

<sup>4</sup>“You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says,

<sup>5</sup>“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

<sup>6</sup>Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 34:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD, for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

<sup>10</sup>**The lions are in want and suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

<sup>11</sup>Come, children, and listen to me; I will teach you reverence for the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>**Who among you takes pleasure in life and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

<sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.

<sup>14</sup>**Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.**

## Second Reading:

Ephesians 5:15-20

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>15</sup>Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise,  
<sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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:

John 6:51-58

The Holy Gospel according to John.



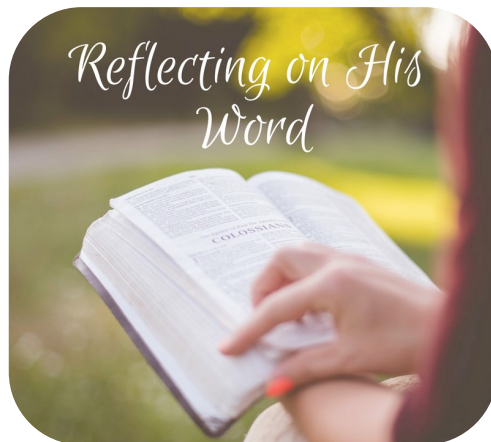
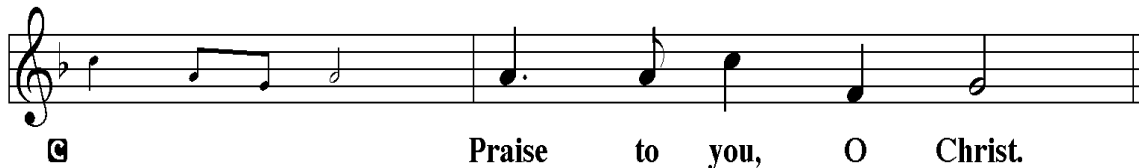
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Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] <sup>51</sup>“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord



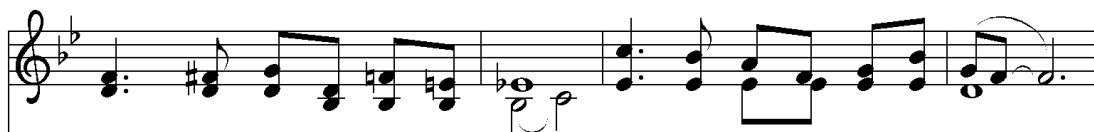


# *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 697

## Just a Closer Walk with Thee



*Refrain* Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;  
1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;  
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?  
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.  
I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore. *Ref.*



Text: North American traditional  
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

## **\*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

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation (*local agriculture may be named*). Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

**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*

Blessing and Honor

ELW 854

\*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional

With Praise And Thanksgiving

Lani Smith

## Blessing and Honor

1 Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and pow'r, wis - dom and  
 2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name; let all the  
 3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy, ev - er de -  
 4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb! Take we the

rich - es and strength ev - er - more, be to the Lamb who our  
 earth sing his glo - ry and fame. O - cean and moun - tain, stream,  
 scend - ing the love from on high; bless - ing and hon - or and  
 robe and the harp and the palm; sing we the song of the

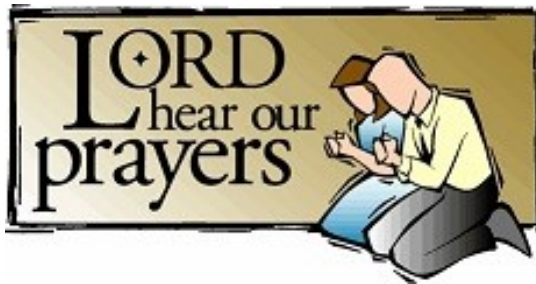
bat - tle has won, whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the  
 for - est, and flow'r ech - o his prais - es and tell of his  
 glo - ry and praise— this is the theme of the hymns that we  
 Lamb who was slain, dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to

throne; whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne!  
 pow'r; ech - o his prais - es and tell of his pow'r.  
 raise; this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.  
 reign; dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to reign!

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,**  
In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact  
Work: Cell:  
Email:

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:

**LUTHERAN DAY @ THE CURVE**  
**SUMMER PICNIC WORSHIP**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OCTOBERFEST**

**AUG 18 6 PM**  
**AUG 25 10 AM**  
**SEP 15 12 PM**  
**SEP 29 12 PM**





## NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

September 15, 2024

12 PM



## 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 August 25th at 10:00am at Highland Park!





*September 29, 2024*

**Dinner will be served following the Worship Service.  
Dinner to include Sauerkraut, Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Kneadles  
(German Bread Dumplings) 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*





# Sunday Blessings

(Psalm 100:2)

Serve the LORD  
with gladness; come  
before his presence  
with singing.

Have a Blessed Sunday



# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.