



**St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church
September 22, 2024
18th 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: Jay Buchanan
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: My God, How Wonderful You Are Arr. Stephen Gabrielsen

(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.

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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, and Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

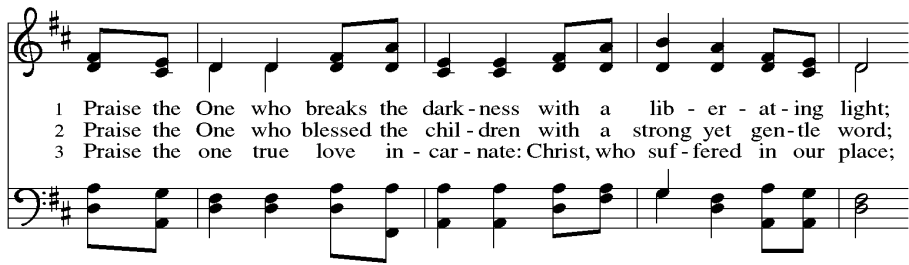
We Gather

*GATHERING SONG: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

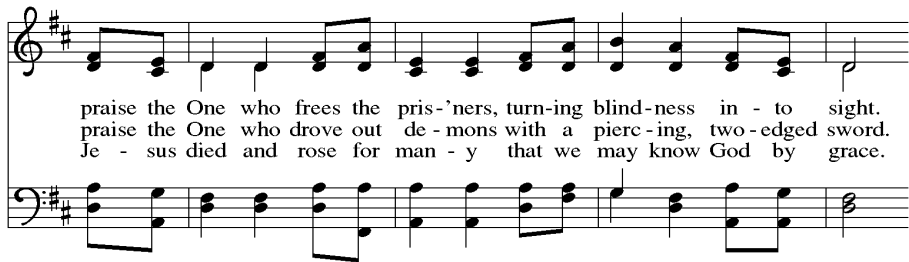
ELW 843

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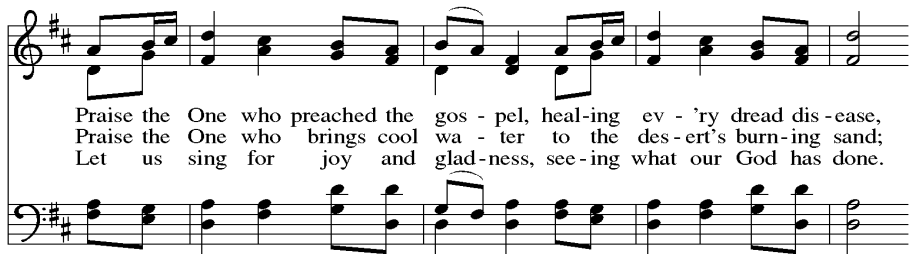
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



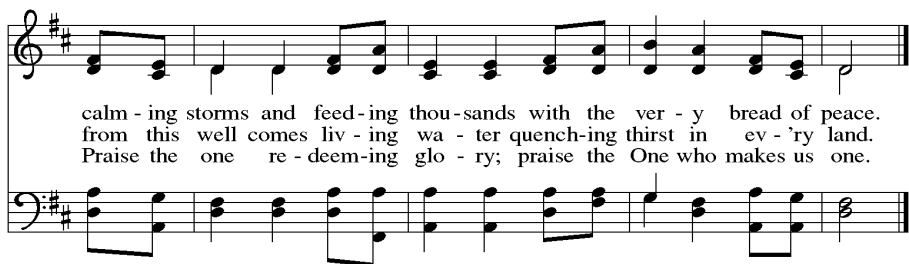
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
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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.

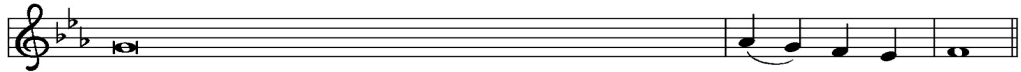
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



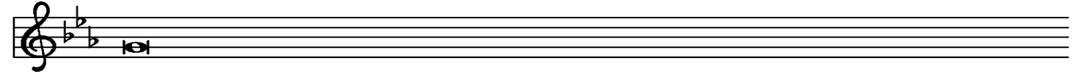
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



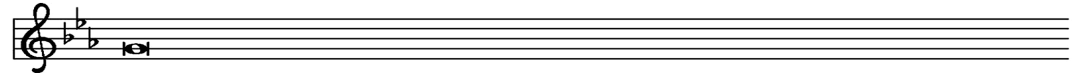
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Jeremiah 11:18-20

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 54

¹Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.**

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, those who have no regard for God.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble, and my eye looks down on my enemies.

Second Reading:

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

A reading from James.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



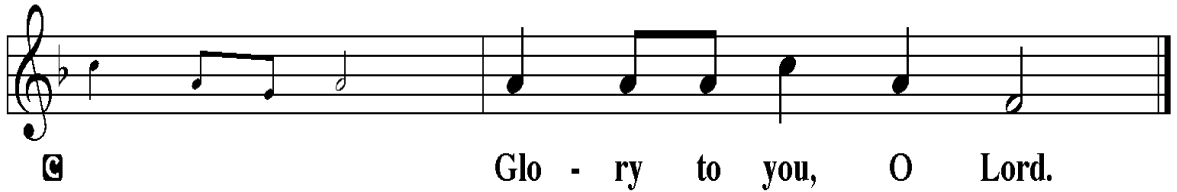
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



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

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

Mark 9:30-37



³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Gospel of the Lord



Sermon

We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 818

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

***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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation (*specific ministries may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer (*especially*). Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, 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: O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us ELW 431
NEXT PAGE

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional

Taste and See

Moore/Childs

O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us

1 O Christ, what can it mean for us to claim you as our
 2 You came, the im - age of our God, to heal and to for -
 3 Though some would make their great - ness felt and lord it o - ver
 4 You chose a hum - ble hu - man form and shunned the world's re -

king? What roy - al face have you re - vealed whose
 give, to shed your blood for sin - ners' sake that
 all, you said the first must be the last and
 nown; you died for us up - on a cross with

praise the church would sing? As - pir - ing not to
 we might rise and live. To break the law of
 ser - vice be our call. O Christ, in work - place,
 thorns your on - ly crown. But still, be - yond the

glo - ry's height, to pow - er, wealth, and fame, you
 death you came, the law of love to bring: a
 church, and home, let none to pow - er cling; for
 span of years, our glad ho - san - nas ring, for

walked a dif - f'rent, low - ly way, an - oth - er's will your aim.
 dif - f'rent rule of righ - teous - ness, a dif - f'rent kind of king.
 still, through us, you come to serve, a dif - f'rent kind of king.
 now at God's right hand you reign, a dif - f'rent kind of king!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: ALL SAINTS' NEW, Henry S. Cutler, 1824-1902
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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,
In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Eli Hess
Work: 814-943-3972

The church office email is stjamesaltoona@gmail.com The church's
website is 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	
The soul and family of Earl Walters			

(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:

**OCTOBERFEST
SWEETS AND TREATS
COUNCIL MEETING**

***Pizza provided**

POT LUCK DINNER

CONGREGATION MEETING

DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

***Pizza provided**

ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT

***Refreshments afterwards**

SEP 29 12 PM

OCT 6 10 AM

OCT 8 5:30 PM

OCT 20 12 PM

NOV 10 12 PM

DEC 7 10 AM

DEC 8 3 PM





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



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING



Tuesday October 8, 2024

5:30 PM

***Pizza Provided**

***NOTE: Day and Time Change**

SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.



**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
BE: October 6, 2024
Provided By: Shirley Manbeck**

* 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!



**The next Potluck Dinner is
October 20, 2024**

12:30 PM

Congregational Meeting



The **Annual Congregational** meeting
will be held:

NOVEMBER 10, 2024

after the service. There will be nominations for council members and then the election for council. The budget will be discussed and then anything else that the congregation may bring to our attention.



**The Allegheny Chorale presents their 40th Season
Christmas Concert**



St. James Lutheran Church

December 8, 2024

3PM



**We ask the congregation to please contribute cookies for the social
after the concert. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.**

**Farewell for
Bishop Paula**

Sunday, October 6

Drop in between 3:00 and 5:00 pm
Evangelical Lutheran, Duncansville

Light refreshments will be served

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.