



# St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church December 29, 2024

## 1st Sunday Of Christmas

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: Rev. 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: The First Noel Arthur Foote

*(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: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW 288

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# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

**\*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.

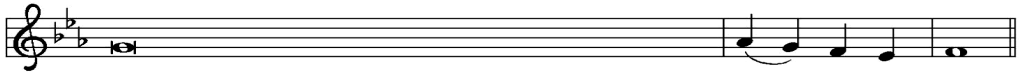
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



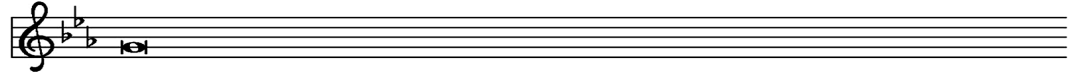
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



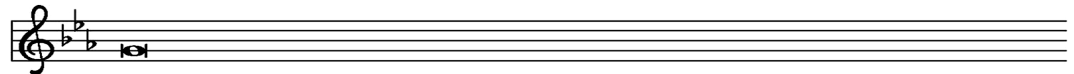
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

**Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

A reading from 1 Samuel.

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO:**

**The Angel's Lullaby**

**Bob Hench**

**PSALM**

**Psalms 148**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

## Second Reading:

**Colossians 3:12-17**

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

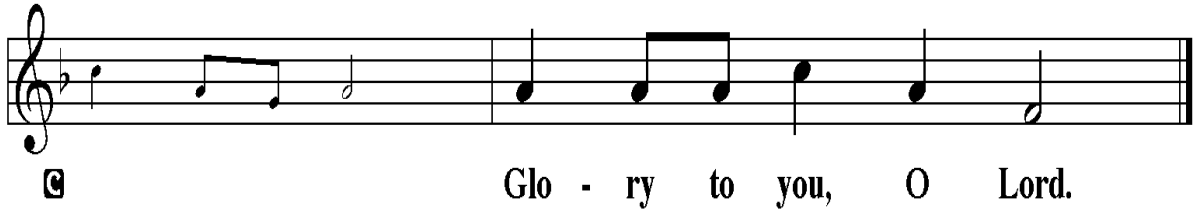


You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**Luke 2:41-52**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.



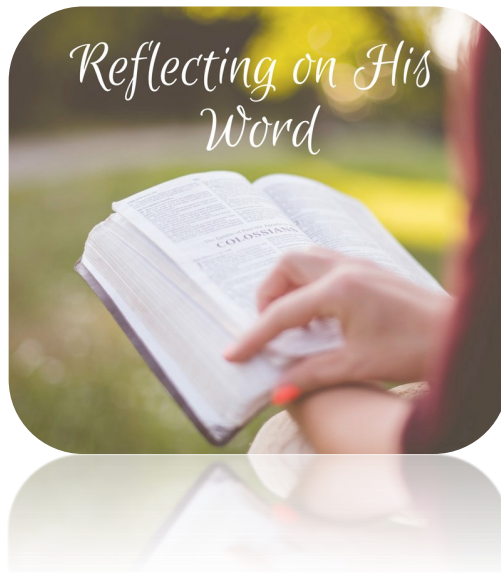
<sup>41</sup> Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup> He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**





Sermon



# *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 296

## What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.  
The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!



## **\*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

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders (*specific institutions or instructors may be named*) in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands (*places of war and conflict may be named*). God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill (*especially*). Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

For the ministry of this place (*the local congregation or ministry setting may be named*), we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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:                      Go Tell It on the Mountain                      ELW 290  
*NEXT PAGE*

\*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional:                      Angels From The Realms Of Glory                      Arr. Louise Stairs

# Go Tell It on the Mountain



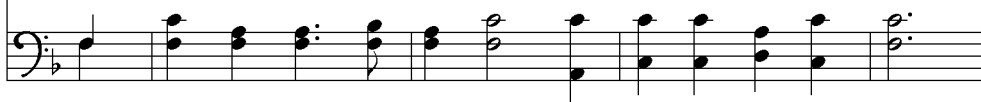
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

# 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](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	Jeff Bickel	Bill Wilt
Staff Sgt John Hiles	Donna Foster	Donna Wilt
Carolyn Feather	Bill Dambeck	Judy Dambeck
The soul and family of Debbie Thomas		The soul and family of Debra Morgan

(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:

### UN-DECORATE CHURCH AFTER CHRISTMAS

**JAN 4 10 AM**

*\*Pizza served afterwards*

### SWEETS AND TREATS

**JAN 5 10 AM**

### ST JAMES WELCA SERVICE PROJECT ENDS

**JAN 14**

### COUNCIL MEETING

**JAN 14 5:30PM**

*\*Bring your own dinner*

***REMINDER:*** *Worship Service will move to the Sunday School Room from January 5th to March 23rd!*

## SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH.



OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL  
BE: January, 2025

Provided By:

\* 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!



ST JAMES  
WELCA

 We  
CARE

"LOVE IS A  
FOUR LEGGED WORD"



ST JAMES WELCA INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE!

**WHEN:** December 7, 2024 –January 14, 2025

**WHAT:** Dog and cat food, treats, pet toys and small blankets.

**WHO:** Our congregation!

**WHERE:** Please bring your donations to the church and place them under the ST JAMES WELCA Tree

*Did you know our Humane Society is a "NO KILL NETWORK!"*



Please Help Us



**Un-Decorate Church  
after Christmas  
January 4, 2025 10 AM**

**The more help we have the  
faster we can get done!  
Pizza will be served  
afterwards!**

Blessings to You in the New Year  
May peace fill your world,  
May love fill your home  
With contentment and happiness, too—  
In wonderful ways  
May this year of new days  
Be filled with sweet blessings for you.  
Happy New Year



*St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.