



# St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church January 12, 2025 Baptism of Our Lord

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: Peggy Thatcher  
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: Deep River arr. Janet Linker  
*(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.*

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:

Baptized in Water

ELW 456

NEXT PAGE

# Baptized in Water

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his  
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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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.

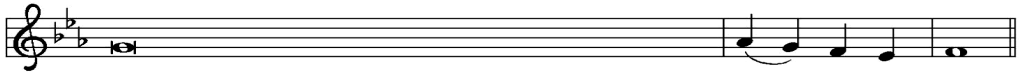
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



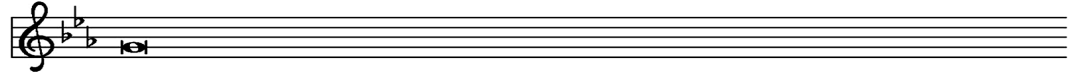
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



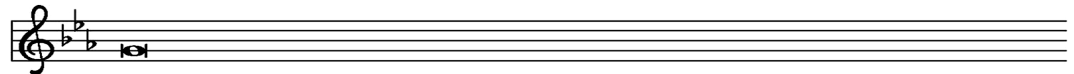
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

**Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through 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:**

**Isaiah 43:1-7**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## **Second Reading:**

**Acts 8:14-17**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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 3:15-17, 21-22**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

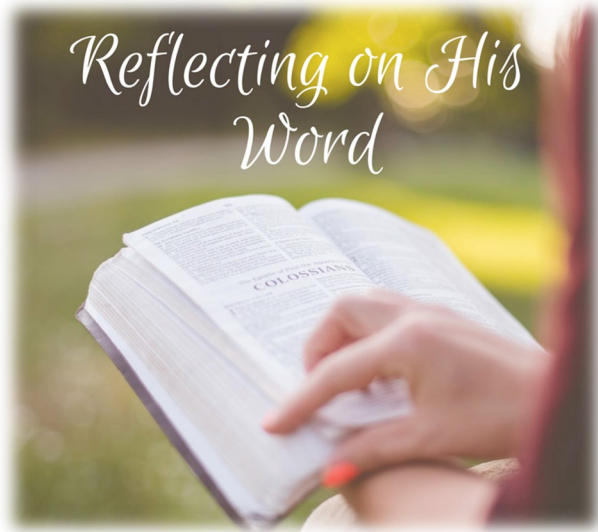
<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**





Sermon



# *We Respond to the Word*

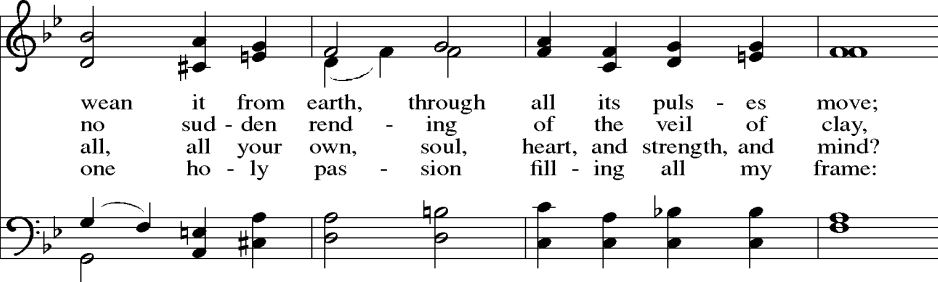
\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 800

## Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay;  
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.  
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

## **\*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.**

## **ANNIVERSARY OF BAPTISM**

**P.** Remember your baptism and be thankful. **C.** Amen

**P.** In Baptism, God brings us into His family and calls us His own. In baptism, God gives us the gifts of faith, love, forgiveness, and strength and asks us to respond in faithfulness to Him and serve others.

**ALL.** LET US PRAY

**P.** Gracious Lord, we thank you for the new life that You have given us through Baptism. **C:** Amen

## **POUR WATER IN BAPTISM FONT**

**P.** As members of St. James Lutheran Church will you faithfully participate in this ministry by your prayers, presence, gifts, and service to each other and to others.

**C.** I will

(Each person will receive drops of sprinkled water by use of a pine branch)

**P.** May you live in grace and peace. **C:** Amen



## Prayers of Intercession

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans (*local bodies of water may be named*). Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery (*especially*). Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**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: Crashing Waters at Creation

ELW 455

*NEXT PAGE*

\*Dismissal

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

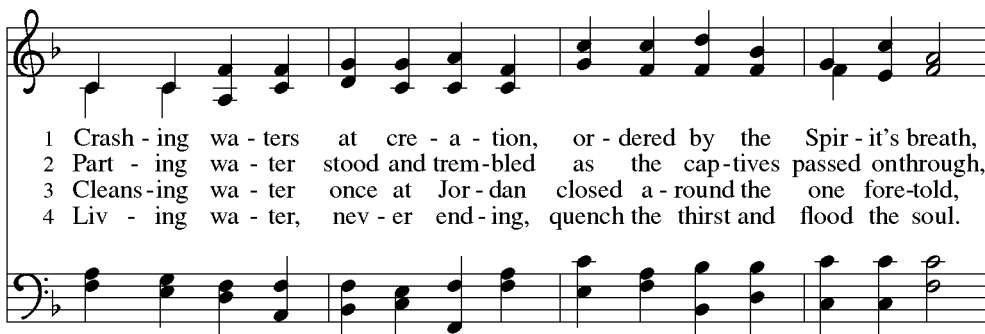
**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional

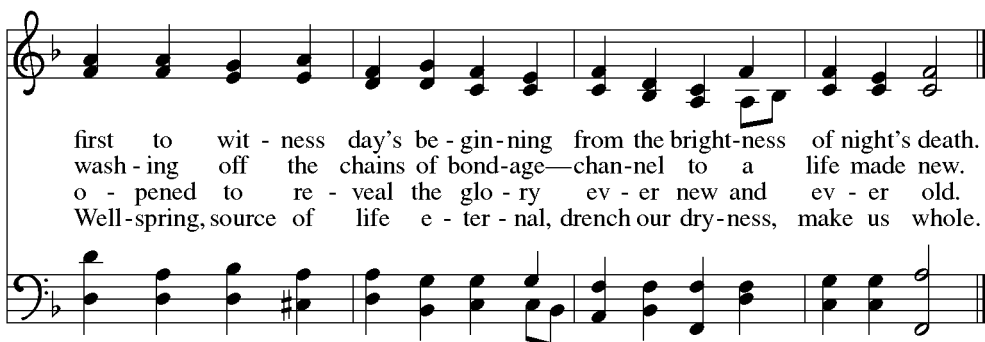
On "Ar hyd y nos"

arr. Janet Linker

## Crashing Waters at Creation



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,  
2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem-bled as the cap-tives passed on through,  
3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,  
4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age — chan - nel to a life made new.  
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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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](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:**

**ST JAMES WELCA SERVICE PROJECT ENDS**

**JAN 14**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**JAN 14 5:30PM**

*\*Bring your own dinner*

**ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH**

**Feb 12 12 PM**

*\* Hosted by St James Lutheran*

**Held 2nd Wednesday of each month in the  
St James Social Hall**

**Sweets and Treats**

**Mar 2 10 AM**

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

*Thank  
you*



*The congregation of St. James extends a warm thank you to  
Shirley Manbeck for providing Sweets and Treats on  
January 5th. Thank You Again!*

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

## SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH.

SWEETS



TREATS

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL  
BE: March 2, 2025

Provided By: Sharon Lightner

\* 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!

## NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

January 14, 2025

5:30 PM

*\*Bring your own supper!*

Church  
Council



## ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

February 12 12 PM

\* Hosted by St James Lutheran  
Held 2nd Wednesday of each month in the  
St James Social Hall

COMMUNITY  
LUNCH



# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.