



# **St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**April 27, 2025**

**2nd Sunday of Easter**

**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: Christ The Lord is Risen Today Arr. Lani Smith  
(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: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

ELW 369

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# Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia! 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia! 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia! 4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia! Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia! sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia! God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia! all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia! of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia! when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia! at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia! now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia! met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia! now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.  
Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

## \*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.



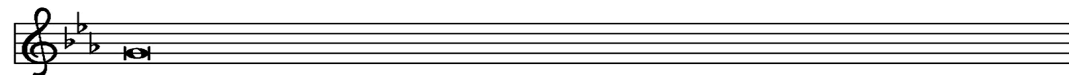
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



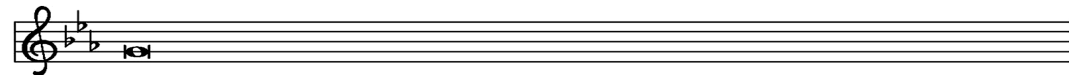
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, 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:**

**Acts 5:27-32**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalms 118:14-29**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> “This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> **Hosanna! O LORD, save us! We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; we bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> **The LORD is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

<sup>29</sup> **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God’s mercy endures forever.**

## **Second Reading:**

## **Revelation 1:4-8**

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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 20:19-31**

The Holy Gospel according to John.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."



<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## **The Gospel of the Lord.**



Sermon

# *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 386

## O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing



2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,  
3 An an - gel clad in white they see,  
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;

*Insert stanzas 5-8 if desired.*

9 On this most ho - ly day of days,



the faith - ful wom - en went their way  
who sits and speaks un - to the three,  
a - mong them came their mas - ter dear,

be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise:



to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!  
"Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!  
and said, "My peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!

to God your hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

*After the final stanza*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard,  
that they had seen the risen Lord,  
he doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;  
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.  
Alleluia!

6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see,  
and look upon my hands, my feet;  
not faithless, but believing be."  
Alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen,  
and yet whose faith has constant been,  
for they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia!

## **\*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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities (*current issues of concern may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen 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: Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing ELW 389  
*NEXT PAGE*

\*Dismissal

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

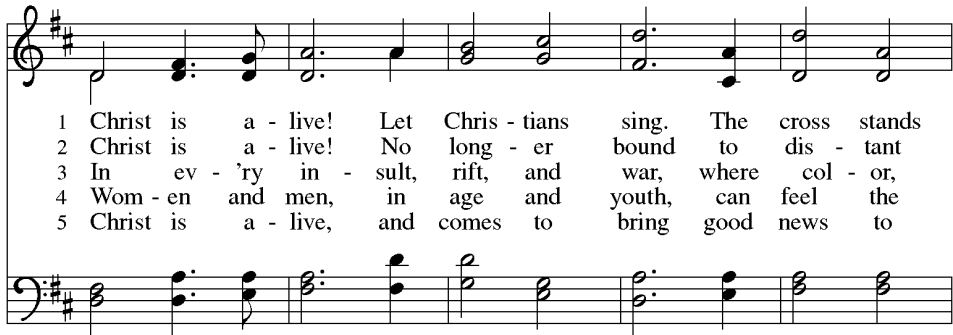
**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional

Thine Is The Glory

G.F. Handel

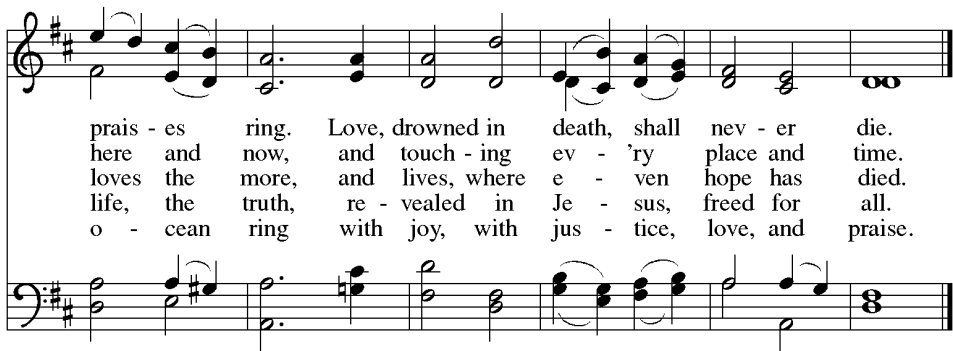
## Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

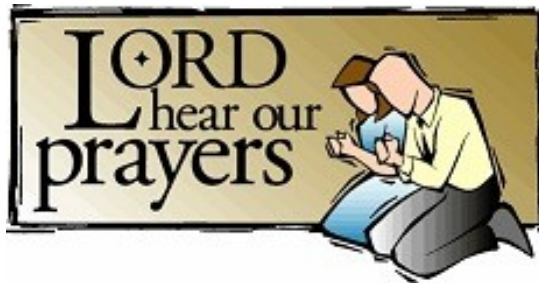
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# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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:**

**Allegheny Chorale Spring Concert  
Sweets and Treats**

**Apr 27 3 PM**

**May 4 10 AM**

**ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH**

**May 14 12 PM**

**\* Hosted by St James Lutheran**

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

**Church Picnic**

**Jun 22 11 AM**

**\*Highland Park Pavillion #1**





**SWEETS**



**TREATS**

## **SWEETS AND TREATS**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF  
EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL  
BE: May 4, 2025**

**Provided By: Donna and Bill Wilt**

\* 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!



**POTLUCK DINNER**

**The next Potluck Dinner is  
May 18, 2025 (Still TBD)**

**12PM**



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**September 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**COMMUNITY  
LUNCH**



**ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH**

**May 14th 12 PM**

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

Free to the public

**Come to the Music  
as we celebrate our**



**Allegheny Chorale**  
~ Anniversary ~

***Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 3pm  
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Altoona***

***Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 7pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
Tyrone***

***Deborah Estright, Director***

**\* Congregation is asked to bring cookies for the reception after the concert.**



# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**1407 Eighth Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602**

**814-944-6835**

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.