

*St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

COMMUNION

Worship every Sunday

10:45 AM

*He Is Risen!*

**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.*

*We celebrate the Lord's supper and invite all baptized  
Christians to share in this Holy Feast.*

**Pulpit: Rev. John Kratz  
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.**

Prelude:

The Strife is o'er

Arr. Wilbur Held

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

## ***We Gather***

- The Lighting of the Paschal Candle and Easter Proclamation:

P: Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

(In silence the candle is lit.)

P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

P: The light of Christ

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

\*GATHERING SONG:

CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

ELW 382

*NEXT PAGE*

## Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

1 Christ is ris-en! Al-le-lu-ia! Ris-en our vic-to-ri-ous head!  
 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;  
 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay  
 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev-er death or hell shall us en-thrall.

Sing his prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ is ris-en from the dead!  
 through the o-pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more;  
 now has found a glo-ri-ous mor-row in the ris-ing of to-day.  
 We are Christ's, in him for-ev-er we have tri-umphed o-ver all.

Grate-ful-ly our hearts a-dore him as his light once more ap-pears;  
 death and hell be-fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic-tor now,  
 See the grave its first-fruits giv-ing, spring-ing up from ho-ly ground;  
 All the doubt-ing and de-jec-tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;

bow-ing down in joy be-fore him, ris-ing up from griefs and tears.  
 an-gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo-ry round his wound-ed brow.  
 Christ was dead, but now is liv-ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
 hail the day of res-ur-rec-tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

*Refrain*

Christ is ris-en! Al-le-lu-ia! Ris-en our vic-to-ri-ous head!

Sing his prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ is ris-en from the dead!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.  
 Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

### \*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.

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE


*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

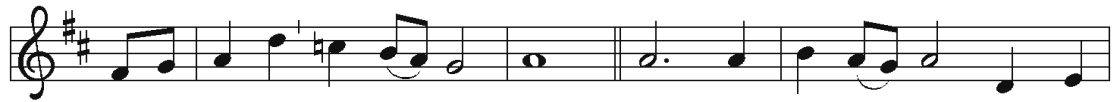


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

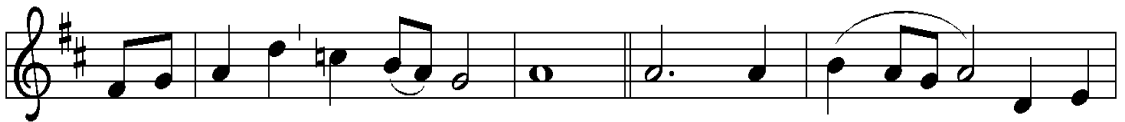


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**P:** Let us pray.

**ALL:** O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM:

## Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

<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.

## Second Reading:

## 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup> for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

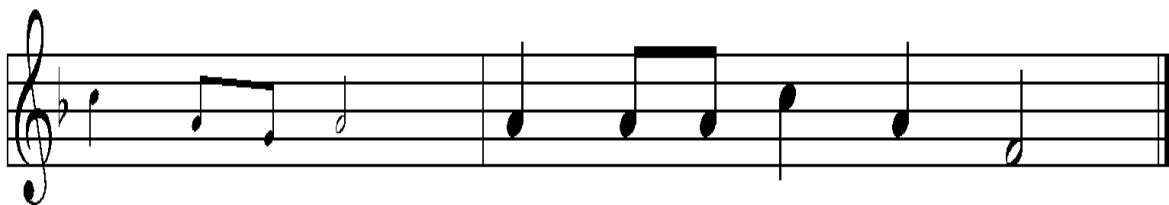


## \*GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Luke 24:1-12**





C

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

## The Gospel of the Lord



C

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

# *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

ELW 373

## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" All on earth with an - gels say;  
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.  
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.  
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?

raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns; and earth, re - ply.  
Lo! The sun's e - clipse is o'er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.  
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.  
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS, Pierre de Corbeil, d. 1222, arr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Arr. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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**\*Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.*

Kindle new life in your church. Encourage all who seek creative ways to share the good news of Christ's resurrection. Bless mission developers and new ministries (*local examples may be named*), that their work plant seeds that flourish. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Nourish new life in all of creation. Shower forests and grasslands, deserts, and mountains with life-giving rains. Grant us delight in your glory that shows forth in all that grows this season. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Empower new life among the nations. As you raised Jesus from the dead, bring new hope for peace and reconciliation in places of war and strife (*places or situations may be named*). Raise up leaders who are steadfast in their commitment to justice and transformation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Bring new hope among all who are in need, especially neighbors without homes or food, and those whose housing or food supply is at risk. Bring healing to all who are fearful, ill, or grieving (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Awaken new life in this place. Open our hearts to ways you are calling us to be at work in the world and our community (*communities and neighborhoods may be named*). Give us courage to boldly share your love for all people beyond our walls. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Trusting in the promises of the resurrection, we remember with thanksgiving our beloved dead. Sustain us with a living hope until we are reunited with them and all the saints at the heavenly banquet. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

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.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## *We Offer Our Gifts*

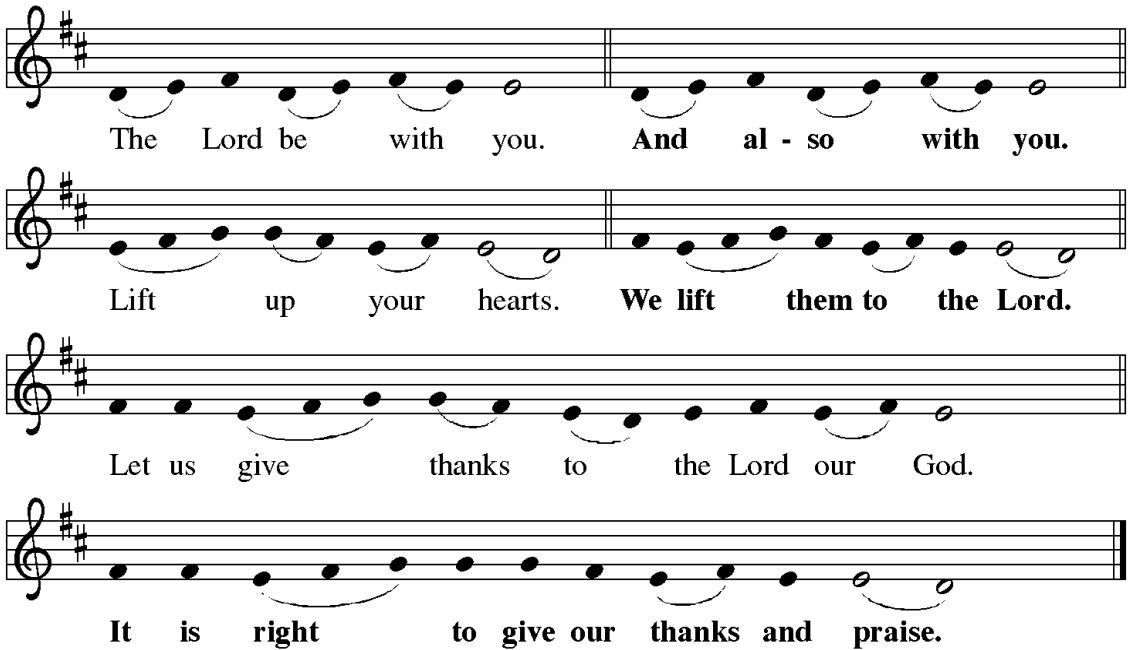
\*Offering Prayer:

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## *We Share the Feast*

\*Holy Communion



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

### \*Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we might receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after the supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### \*The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**



\*Invitation to Communion

P: Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you once revealed yourself to your disciples.

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

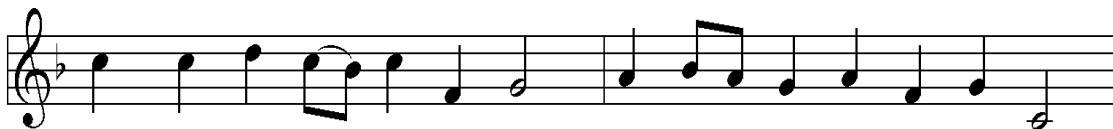
Communion Distribution — please come to the step before altar as led by the Spirit to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

\*Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

\*Song after Communion:



☒ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

\*Prayer after Communion

P: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and  
proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**C: Amen**

*We Are Sent*

\*Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. 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.**

## Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

Postlude: Come, Ye Faithful, Raise The Strain arr. Wilbur Held



## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

### (EASTER SUNDAY)



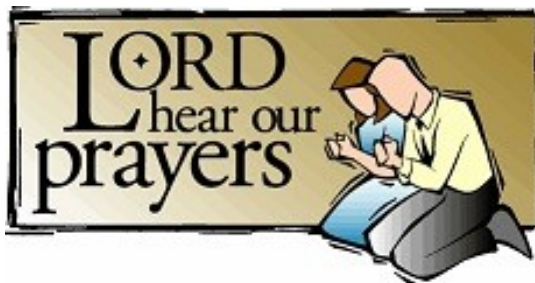
It has finally arrived!! If you ever wonder if there was a day in which the world was changed, the first Easter was that day. We gather to celebrate Christ being Raised from the Dead!!! Death, sin, fear, cruelty, injustice, and evil no longer have the final say in our lives because the final words belong to Jesus. Christ is risen and we celebrate that freedom!



# 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:**

<b>Easter Sunday Service</b>	<b>Apr 20 10:45 AM</b>
<b>Allegheny Chorale Spring Concert</b>	<b>Apr 27 3 PM</b>
<b>Sweets and Treats</b>	<b>May 4 10 AM</b>
<b>ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH</b>	<b>May 14 12 PM</b>
* Hosted by St James Lutheran	
Held 2nd Wednesday of each month in the	
St James Social Hall	
<b>Church Picnic</b>	<b>Jun 22 11 AM</b>
*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 & 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**



**Church  
Council**

**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.**



## **CHURCH PICNIC**

Planning for the church picnic has begun. You can use the sign up sheet on the stand in the narthex or on the foyer bulletin board. Or use the sheet on the next page.

Church Picnic will be held June 22, 2025 at Highland Park, Pavilion #1



# ALLELUIA Christ is Risen!

## *Christ is Risen Indeed!*

*These are words we proclaim with assurance in what God has done for the sake of all. This saving action by God in Christ's passion, death, and resurrection is the "beating heart of our faith and life" as we proclaim the mysteries of this good news in word and deed.*

*As we gather to worship together on Easter Sunday, to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, we are reminded of how undeserving we are of God's unfailing love, forgiveness and grace toward us. But God, who sees us as beloved children, offers these things freely – always calling us back into loving arms.*

*The message of this life-giving, good news also raises two questions for us to ponder as siblings in Christ. Where is Christ's saving passion unfolding around us today? How does Christ's saving passion hold us in daily life and in death?*

*I pray that we see it unfolding in not only the actions of others, but in our own actions as we serve our communities.*

*And I pray that we hold on to and believe in what God has done, and continues to do for us, each new day of our lives – which will then sustain us in times of grief and death.*

*My siblings in Christ...*

*Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!*

*Easter Blessing from the Office of the Bishop's staff:*

*Bp. Collins, Pr. Kevin, Michelle, Sue Ellen, and  
Pr. John*

*He is Risen*



*St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

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[www.stjamesaltoona.org](http://www.stjamesaltoona.org)

EASTER  
*Blessings*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.