



# **St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**June 1, 2025**

**7th 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: Margaret 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: Blessing And Honor Keller/Wilson  
(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: Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655

NEXT PAGE

## Son of God, Eternal Savior

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

**\*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.



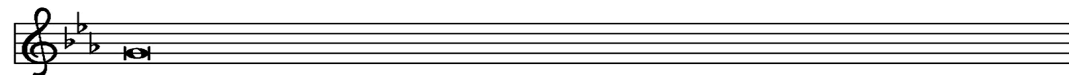
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



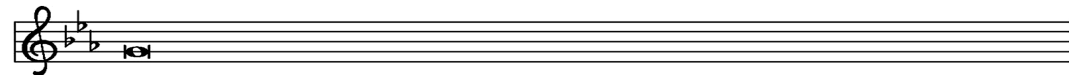
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, 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 16:16-34**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>16</sup> One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation."

<sup>18</sup> She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

<sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 97

<sup>1</sup> The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

<sup>2</sup> **Clouds and darkness surround the LORD, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.**

<sup>3</sup> Fire goes before the LORD, burning up enemies on every side.

<sup>4</sup> **Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.**

<sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> **The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD, and all the peoples see your glory.**

<sup>7</sup> Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

<sup>8</sup> **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.**

<sup>9</sup> For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

<sup>10</sup> **You who love the LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

<sup>11</sup> Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

<sup>12</sup> **Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.**

## Second Reading:

## Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>12</sup> “See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

<sup>16</sup> “It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.”

And let everyone who hears say, “Come.”

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

<sup>20</sup> The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

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.



The Holy Gospel according to John.

## John 17:20-26



[Jesus prayed:] <sup>20</sup> “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

## The Gospel of the Lord.



# Sermon

## *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 656

### Blest Be the Tie That Binds

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, corresponding to the four parts of the choir. The first line of the score contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second line contains the final two lines. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both the right and left hands, providing a steady harmonic foundation for the vocal parts.

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.  
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

## **\*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.*

Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, all people are held in your care. Accompany survivors of abuse, trauma, and exploitation. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, be with this congregation as summer begins in the northern hemisphere. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community, and support the well-being of children and young people (*VBS, camp, summer series or other programs may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Loving God, the beginning and the end, you are with us throughout our lives. In gratitude for the saints who have died (*especially Justin, martyr*), we look toward your coming again among us. 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:                      We Are All One in Mission                      ELW 576  
**NEXT PAGE**

\*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Recessional

Jubilate Deo

Edward H. Wetherill

# We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

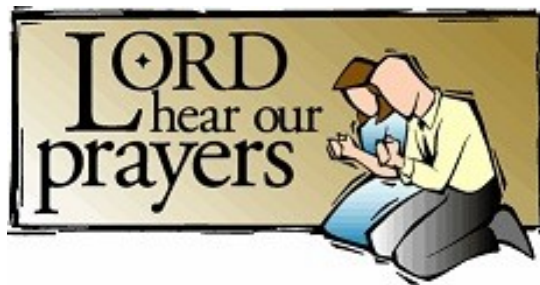
Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955  
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version  
Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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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	Bob Holsinger Sr
Staff Sgt John Hiles	Donna Foster	Donna Wilt	Bob Holsinger
Carolyn Feather	Bill Dambeck	Judy Dambeck	Evelyn Holsinger
The soul and family of Debbie Thomas		The soul and family of Debra Morgan	
The soul Marian Holsinger			

(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>Sweets and Treats TODAY</b>	<b>Jun 1 10 AM</b>
<b>St Lukes Community Lunch</b>	<b>Jun 11 12 PM</b>
<b>Church Service and Picinic</b>	<b>Jun 22 10 AM</b>
<b>*Highland Park Pavillion #2 with Bethany</b>	
<b>Church Service and Picinic</b>	<b>Jul 27 10 AM</b>
<b>*Highland Park Pavillion #1 with Bethany</b>	
<b>ST James Church Picnic</b>	<b>Aug 10 11 AM</b>
<b>*Highland Park Pavillion #1</b>	
<b><i>*Please note date change</i></b>	
<b>Church Service and Picinic</b>	<b>Aug 24 10 AM</b>
<b>*Highland Park Pavillion #2 with Bethany</b>	
<b>Church Council Meeting</b>	<b>Sep 9 5:30 PM</b>





# CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR

*Marian (Toots) Ruth Kolsinger 05-18-2025*  
Here is the link for the service on YouTube



## NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2025

5:30 PM



## SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL  
BE: TODAY June 1, 2025  
Provided By: Carol and Tina

\* 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!

## COMMUNITY LUNCH



## ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

June 11th 12 PM

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

## **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 August 10, 2025 at Highland Park, Pavilion #1

**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!**





Outdoor  
worship &

Church  
Picnic



Please plan to attend our  
outdoor worships &  
picnics on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
of June, July, and August.



WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10:00 AM,  
FOLLOWED BY PICNIC LUNCH.  
MAIN DISH WILL BE PROVIDED.  
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH,  
SALAD OR DESSERT TO SHARE.



**Location: Highland Park, Altoona**  
**June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Pavillion #2**  
**July 27<sup>th</sup> - Pavillion #1**  
**August 24<sup>th</sup> - Pavillion #2**



# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**1407 Eighth Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602**

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.