



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 29, 2025

**3rd Sunday
after Pentecost**

**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: Jay Buchanan

Church Organist/Choir Director: Patricia McConnell

Administrative Assistant: Tim Surkovich

ALL LITURGY AND MUSIC RIGHTS RESERVED

REPRINTED UNDER AUGSBURG FORTRESS LITURGIES LICENSE

#31114

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE.NET #A-723225

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: A Mighty Fortress Rumsam/ Luther
(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:

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

NEXT PAGE

Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***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.



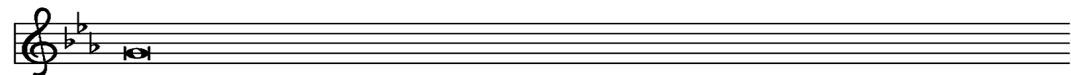
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



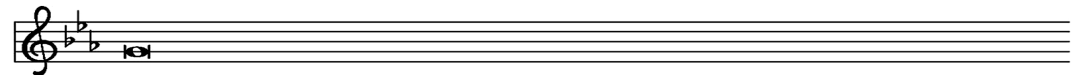
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 de - fend 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.

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

A reading from Kings.

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.”

¹⁹ So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰ He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” Then Elijah said to him, “Go back again; for what have I done to you?” ²¹ He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

³ But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹ You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second Reading:

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

A reading from Galatians.

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL:**

Luke 9:51-62

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

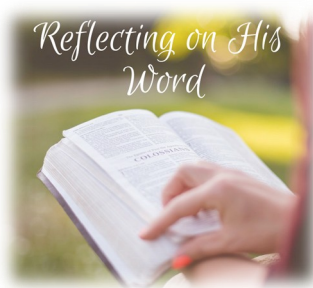


⁵¹ When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon



We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 667

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
per - vade your soul with vain a - lam;
nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,
his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
for you the Lord en - dured the cross
for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
sus - tain your heart, nerve your arm.
to save your soul from death and hell.
one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt.
Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***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

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of your peace. Emboldened by the witness of (*your apostles Peter and Paul and*) Christians throughout history, send us to proclaim your reign come near. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Protect this world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds, the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and respond to the people they govern. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence (*especially*). Give all your fullness of joy. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries (*local ministries may be named*). Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom to which you have called us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our 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: The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ELW 551
NEXT PAGE

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional

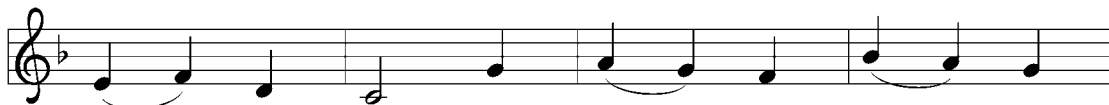
Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

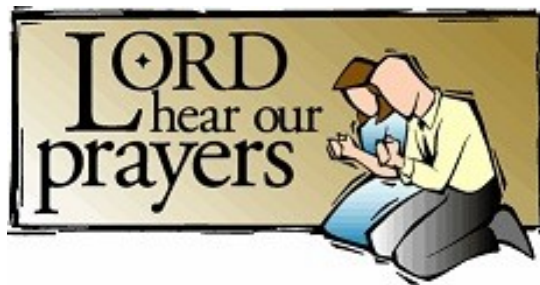
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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 The church's
website is 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		The soul of Deborah Manbeck	

(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

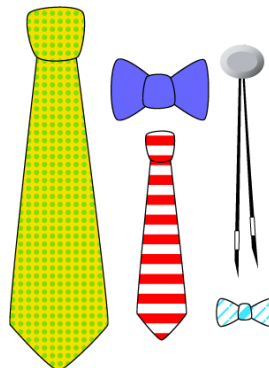


UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Sweets and Treats	Jul 6 10 AM
St Lukes Community Lunch	Jul 9 12 PM
Church Service and Picnic	Jul 27 10 AM
*Highland Park Pavillion #1 with Bethany	
St James Church Picnic	Aug 10 11 AM
*Highland Park Pavillion #1	
<i>*Please note date change</i>	
Church Service and Picnic	Aug 24 10 AM
*Highland Park Pavillion #2 with Bethany	
Church Council Meeting	Sep 9 5:30 PM

Thank you!

*Thank You to St Jamesa
WELCA for providing the
Father's Day Treat.*





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 July 6, 2025

Provided By: Bob and Evelyn Holsinger

* 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 LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

July 9th 12 PM

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

COMMUNITY LUNCH



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 4th 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 22nd - Pavillion #2

July 27th - Pavillion #1

August 24th - Pavillion #2



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

**1407 Eighth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602**

814-944-6835

stjamesaltoona@gmail.com
www.stjamesaltoona.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.