



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

August 17, 2025

10th 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: 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: Crown Him With Many Crowns arr. George J. Elvy
(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:

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW 669

NEXT PAGE

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2) and a basso continuo. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with the other parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in two systems, with the first system containing five numbered lines and the second system containing two lines of text.

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. 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.



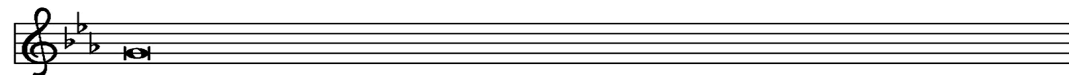
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



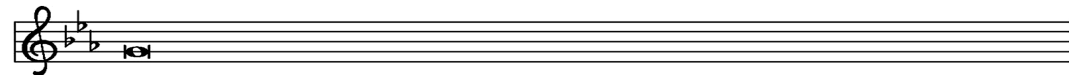
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Listen to the Word

First Reading:

Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from Jeremiah.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 82

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

² **"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?**

³ **Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;**

⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶ **Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;**

⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.’”

⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.**

Solo

"A Time For Everything"

Bob Hench

Second Reading:

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

A reading from Hebrews.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

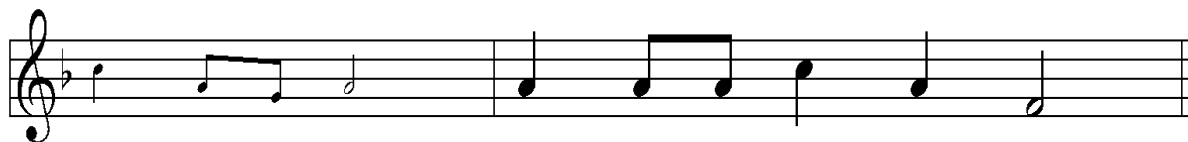


You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL:**

Luke 12:49-56

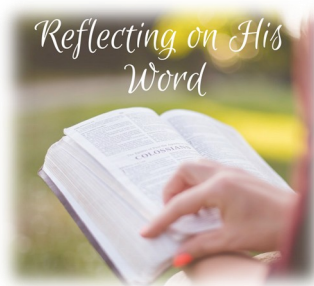
The Holy Gospel according to Luke.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 517

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. Each system has a treble staff for the Soprano part and a bass staff for the Alto and Tenor/Bass parts. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with line numbers 1, 2, and 3 indicating different vocal parts or verses. The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with block chords in the accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

***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

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries (*missionaries sponsored by this congregation may be named*) with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Safeguard rivers and lakes (*local water sources may be named*) from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers (*local elected officials may be named*) who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound (*especially*). Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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: Let the Whole Creation Cry ELW 876
NEXT PAGE

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional: A Song Of Praise Lani Smith

Let the Whole Creation Cry

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph-ets burn - ing with the word,
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
 and let chil-dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
 Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
 from the north to south-ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

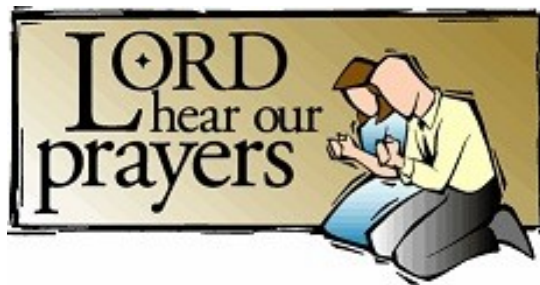
Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750, adapt.

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 of Marian "Toots" 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:

Church Service and Picnic	Aug 24 10 AM
*Highland Park Pavillion #2 with Bethany	
Lutheran Day at the Curve	Aug 24 5 PM
Sweets and Treats	Sep 7 10 AM
Church Council Meeting	Sep 9 5:30 PM
Octoberfest	Sep 28 12 PM
Poinsettia Order Deadline	Oct 1 12 PM





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: September 7, 2025
Provided By: Diane Shultz

* 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!

pray
for
peace



Come enjoy fun, food, and fellowship
at
Lutheran Day
at the
Altoona Curve

Sunday, August 24



Buffet begins at 5pm

Game begins at 6 pm

Please order your tickets by Sunday, August 10.

**Email alleghenysynodcurvetickets@gmail.com
or call/text 814.934.9941. Please mail payments
to the Allegheny Synod Office, 916 Hickory St.,
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648**

Tickets: \$15/each

Price includes all-you-can-eat
buffet one hour before the game
at the first base picnic area at
PNG Field and a Terrace level
(200-level) game ticket.

*Please note: Children 2 and under
are free.*

If you are unable to join us for the
buffet and wish to attend
ONLY the game, individual tickets
are \$11/each.

Fireworks following the game!
Kids 14 and under run the bases!



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





September 28, 2025

**Dinner will be served following the Worship Service.
Dinner to include Sauerkraut, Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Kneadles
(German Bread Dumplings) with Gravy, Hot German Potato
Salad, Hot Dogs & Rolls, applesauce and drinks.**

We are asking members to bring a side dish, vegetable or dessert.

Hosted By: Robin and John Kessler





Christmas Poinsettias

Bless our Sanctuary and your home this Christmas with a beautiful red poinsettia! For each \$11.50 you contribute to the St. James Flower Fund, a flower will be placed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and will be available for you to take with you following our Christmas Eve Service. If you would rather donate the flower for a shut-or or friend of St. James, you may indicate that choice on this order form.

Please complete the form and return it to the church. **The deadline for poinsettia orders and payments is Sunday, October 1, 2025.** Thank you for your generosity in this endeavor!

Your Name _____
(as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

This donation is made:

In Honor of: _____

Or

In Memory of: _____

Amount of Contribution: _____

Number of Christmas Poinsettias: _____

Envelope Number: _____

Please check one:

_____ Yes, I do want to take the poinsettia (s) home with me.

_____ No. I don't want to take the poinsettia (s). I would like them to be given to a shut in or friend of St. James



Pray *for* Peace

Dear God

I pray You will bring peace today to those who are struggling. Please bring hope to those who feel helpless. Bring comfort to those suffering with illness. May we all look to You for strength each day.

Amen

Sunday Blessings

(Psalm 100:2)

Serve the LORD
with gladness; come
before his presence
with singing.

Have a Blessed Sunday



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.