



**St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
February 15, 2026
Transfiguration of the
Lord
Communion

**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: Allegro Maestoso G. F. Handel
(*We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship*)

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSON 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:

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838

NEXT PAGE

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677*; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

*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.



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



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



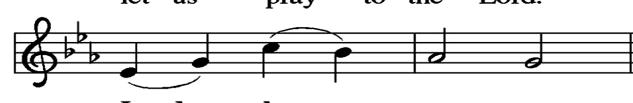
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

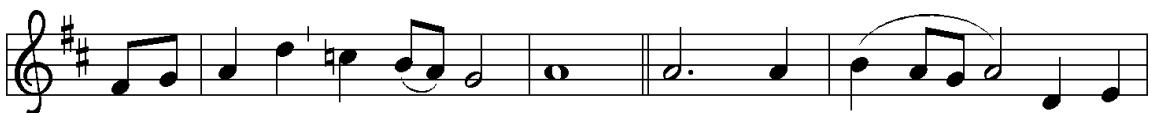
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia.
1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia.
2 Pow'er, riches, wisdom, and
strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia.
3 Sing with all the people of

*Refrain**Final refrain*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray.

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through 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:

Exodus 24:12-18

A reading from Exodus.

¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

¹ Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

² **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**

³ "Let us break their yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us."

⁴ **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the LORD holds them in derision.**

⁵ Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

⁶ **"As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

⁷ Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸ **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

⁹ You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

¹⁰ **And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

¹¹ Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

¹² **lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

Second Reading:

2 Peter 1:16-21

A reading from 2 Peter.

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Thanks be to God.

* Please stand if you are able

*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:**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Matthew 17:1-9

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We Respond to the Word

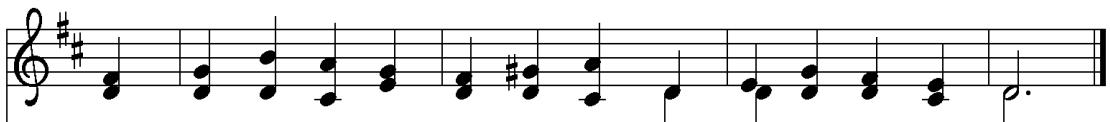
*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 315

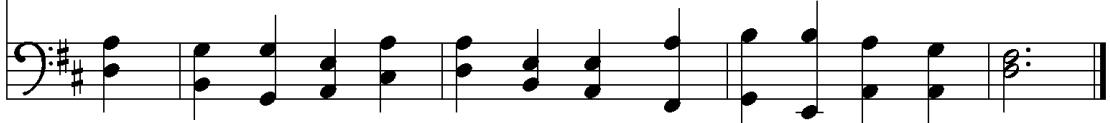
How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.



Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

***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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict (*regions at war may be named*). Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our 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:

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.

We Share the Feast

*Holy Communion

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each line of text aligned with its corresponding musical measure. The lyrics are as follows:

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

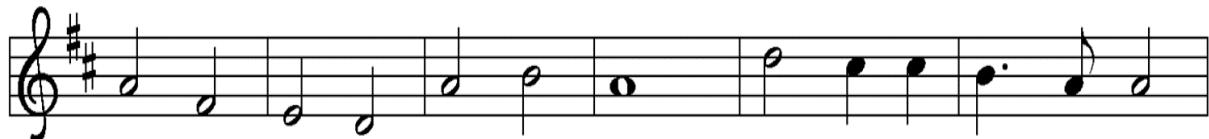
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

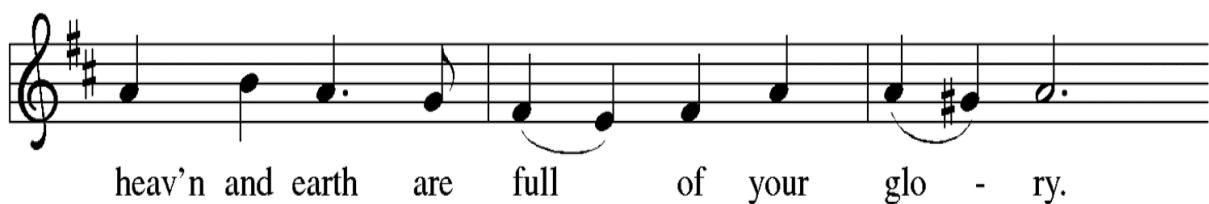
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



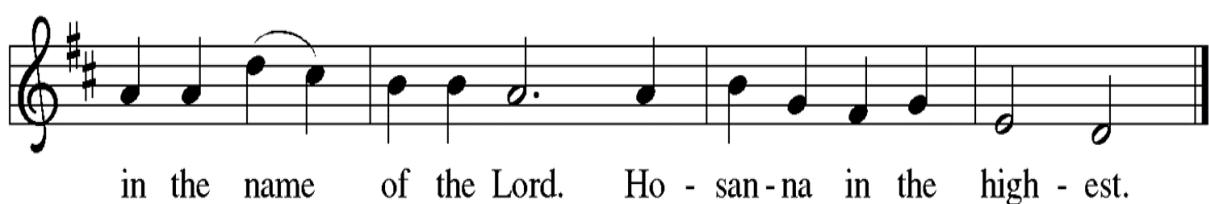
A single line of musical notation in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,"



A single line of musical notation in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry."



A single line of musical notation in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



A single line of musical notation in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "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**

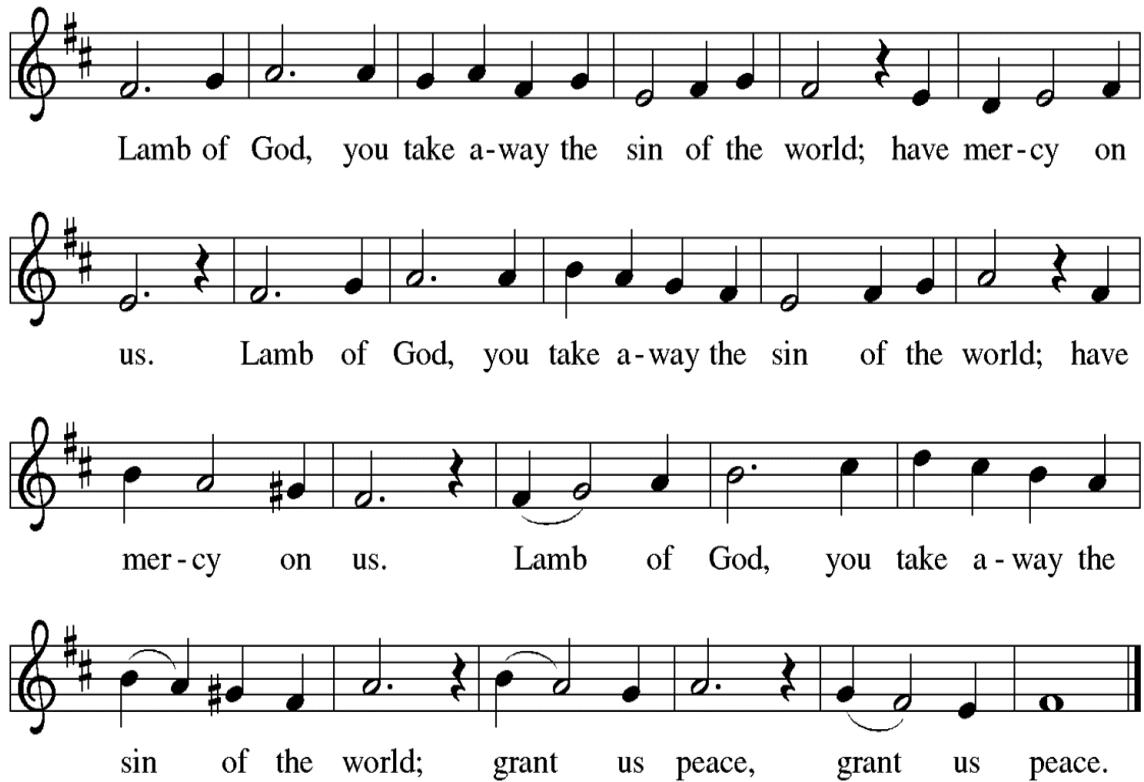
Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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

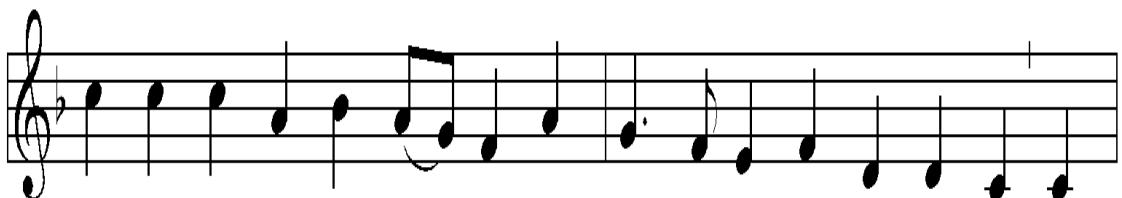
*Song after Communion:



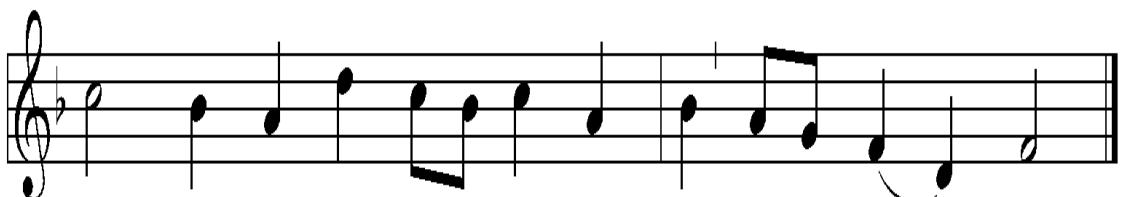
C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



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: Let us pray.

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: 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:

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW 671

NEXT PAGE

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional:

Toccata In d Minor

N.V. Wheeler

Shine, Jesus, Shine

671

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa-ther's glo - ry;

blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine on me, me, me: me:

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

99 10 10 33 and refrain

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	
The soul of Sylvia Malsatzki		The soul of Carol Weaver	

(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.



UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

Ash Wednesday Service	Feb 18 12 PM
Easter Flower Order Deadline	Feb 20 12 PM
Potluck Dinner	Feb 22 12 PM
Sweets and Treats	Mar 1 10 AM
Council Meeting	Mar 9 4 PM
St Luke's Community Lunch	Mar 11 PM
Allegheny Chorale Concert	Apr 26 3 PM
Church Picnic	Jun 28 11 AM

****Highland Park Pavillion #2***

- NOTE: Worship Services will be held in the Sunday School Room until Palm Sunday!**





SWEETS AND TREATS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL
BE: March 1, 2026
Provided By: 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!

Please consider volunteering and signing up to sponsor Sweets and Treats for the 2026 Calendar Year..



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING
March 9, 2026

4 PM



ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

Mar 11 12 PM

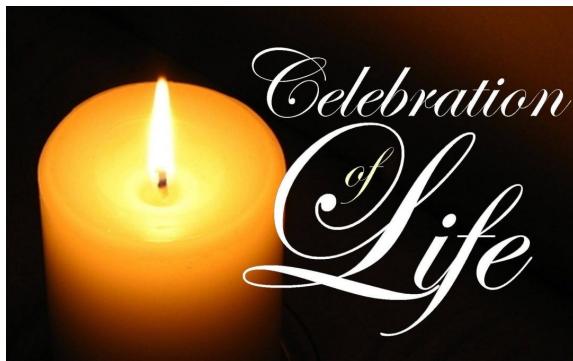
- Hosted by St James Lutheran Held 2nd Wednesday of each month in the St James Social Hall



**The next Potluck Dinner is
February 22, 2026
12 PM**



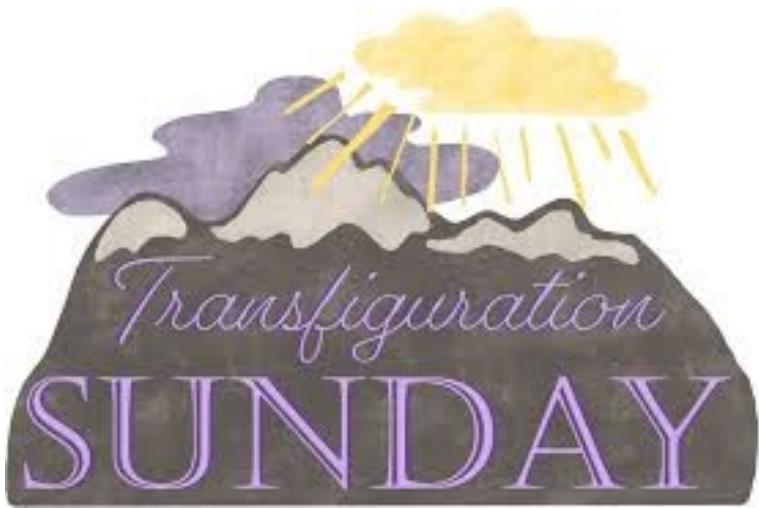
**Wednesday February 18, 2026
12 PM**



A Celebration of Life
will take place
**Saturday February 21, 2026
at 2PM
For Carol Weaver**



Transfiguration OF THE LORD



Transfiguration
SUNDAY



Allegheny Chorale

Spring Concert

April 26, 2026

3 PM



Easter Flowers

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

This Donation is made:

IHO: _____

IMO: _____

Choice of Flowers:

Yellow Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$13) Red Tulips 5/6 Bulb (\$13)
 8" Daffodils (\$16) Lilies single stem (\$17)
 Multi-Color 3 Bulb Hyacinths (\$17)

Amount of Contribution: \$ _____ Envelope Number: _____

Please Check One:

Yes, I do want to take the flower(s) home with me.
 No, I do not want to take the flower(s) home with me. I would like them to be given to a shut-in or friend of St. James.

Please use the My Offering envelope in your pew to place your

DEADLINE February 20, 2026

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.