



# St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 21, 2026

4th 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**

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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: Suite in D Major Leonardo Vinci  
(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.**

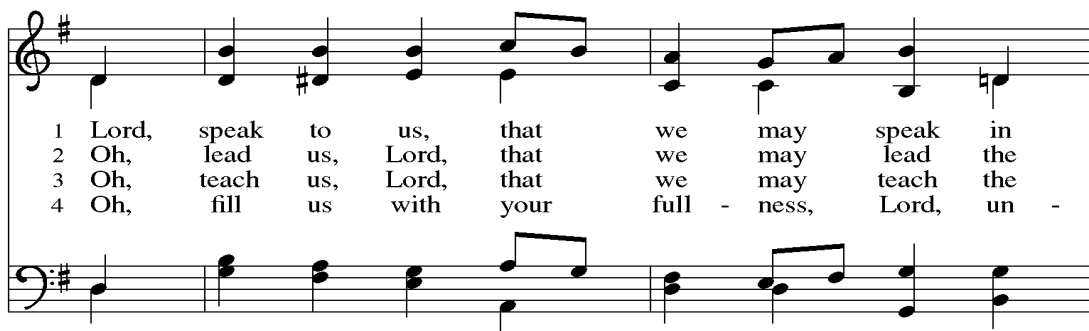
*We Gather*

\*GATHERING SONG: Lord Speak to Us, That We May Speak

ELW 676

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# Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in  
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the  
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the  
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so  
wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that  
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that  
til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.  
we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.  
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y\_a heart.  
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.  
Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

## \*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.

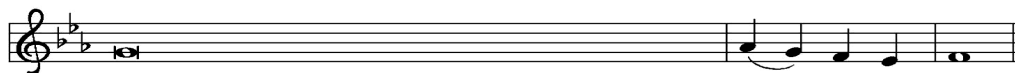
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



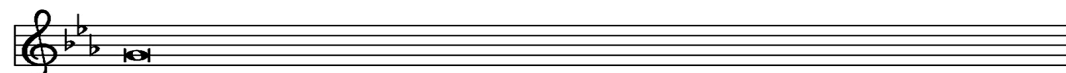
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



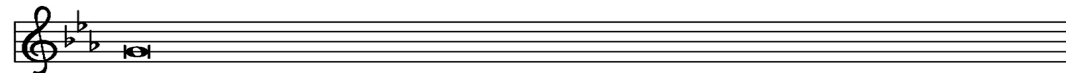
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

**Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*We Listen to the Word*

**First Reading:**

**Jeremiah 20:7-13**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup> O LORD, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I must cry out;  
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"

For the word of the LORD has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup> If I say, "I will not mention him  
or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering:  
"Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him  
and take our revenge on him."

<sup>11</sup> But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup> Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:**

**Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18**

<sup>7</sup> Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup> **I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children.**

<sup>9</sup> Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

<sup>10</sup> **I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.**

[<sup>11</sup> I put on sackcloth also, and became a byword among them.

<sup>12</sup> **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, and the drunkards make songs about me.**

<sup>13</sup> But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD: "In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

<sup>14</sup> **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

<sup>15</sup> Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.]

<sup>16</sup> **Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.**

<sup>17</sup> Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

<sup>18</sup> **Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.**

**Second Reading:**

**Romans 6:1b-11**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1b</sup> Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**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:

**Matthew 10:24-39**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:]<sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master;<sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known.<sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.<sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.<sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted.<sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven,<sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

<sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup> “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me,<sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

<sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

## The Gospel of the Lord.

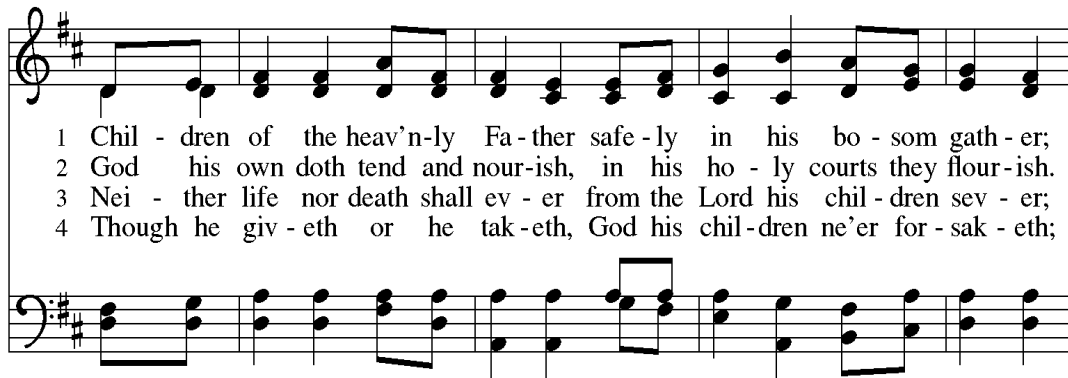


## *We Respond to the Word*

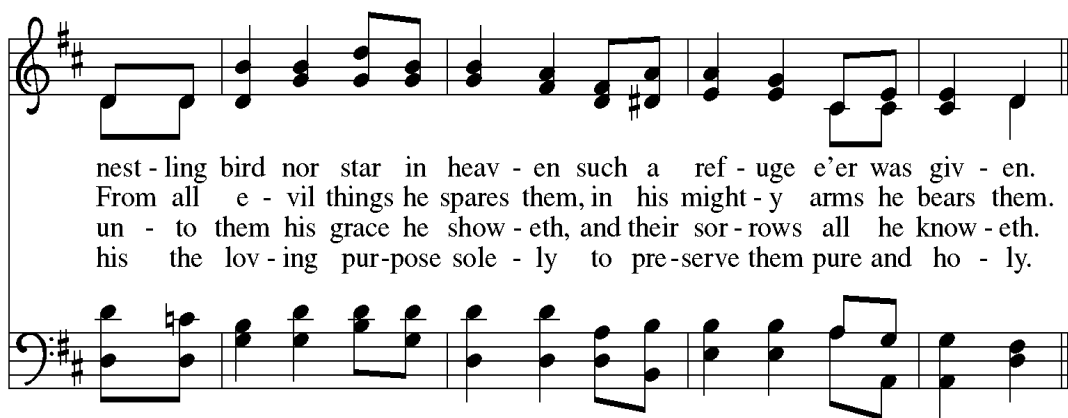
\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 781

### Children of the Heavenly Father



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa-ther safe-ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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## **\*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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints (*like Onesimos Nesib*) who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus 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: Give to Our God Immortal Praise! ELW 848  
*NEXT PAGE*

\*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God**

Recessional

Ton-y-Botel

Arr. Thomas Williams

# Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and  
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and  
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to  
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to  
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the vocal line. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines, which end with a double bar line.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

# 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

Carolyn Feather

Bill Dambeck

Judy Dambeck

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:**

<b>Church Picnic</b>	<b>Jun 28 11 AM</b>
<b><i>*Highland Park Pavillion #2</i></b>	
<b><i>Sweets and Treats</i></b>	<b><i>July 5 10 AM</i></b>
<b><i>Worship in the Park with Bethany</i></b>	<b><i>July 26 11 AM</i></b>
<b><i>*Highland Park Pavillion #2</i></b>	
<b><i>Worship in the Park with Bethany</i></b>	<b><i>Aug 23 11 AM</i></b>
<b><i>*Highland Park Pavillion #2</i></b>	
<b><i>Council Meeting</i></b>	<b><i>Sep 8 4 PM</i></b>
<b><i>Potluck Dinner</i></b>	<b><i>Sep 13 12 PM</i></b>



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

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE: July 5, 2026**  
**Provided By: Tina Miller**

\* 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!



**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2026  
4 PM**

Happy  
*Father's*  
Day

A large, dark blue arrow pointing to the right, with a grid pattern. It is positioned below the text "Happy Father's Day" and points towards the word "Day".



## **Church Picnic**

Planning for the Church Picnic has begun. You can use the sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Church Picnic will be held June 28, 2026 at Highland Park, Pavillion #2.

Mass 11 AM Lunch 12 PM

# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.