



**St. James Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
July 12, 2026  
St. James Sunday  
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: Mark Hoover  
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: Abiding Faith Louise Stairs  
*(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:

By All Your Saints

ELW 421

NEXT PAGE

# By All Your Saints

## *James, Apostle*



- 1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
- 2 For James, O Lord, we praise you, who fell to Her - od's sword,
- 3 Give praise to God Al - might - y, and wor - ship God the Son,



your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed!  
who drank your cup of suff' - ring and thus ful - filled your word.  
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,



For you a - rose vic - to - rious that they might wear the crown  
Lord, curb our vain im - pa - tience for glo - ry and for gain,  
till all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



and share the light of glo - ry re - flect - ed from your throne.  
and nerve us for such suff' - rings as glo - ri - fy your name.  
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.  
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

**\*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.

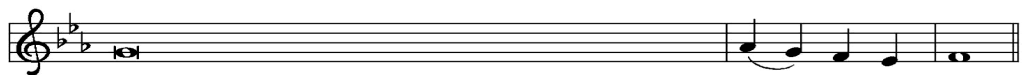
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



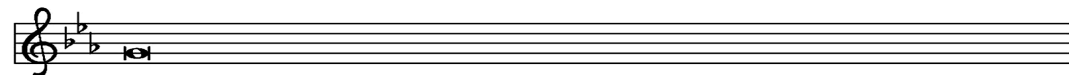
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



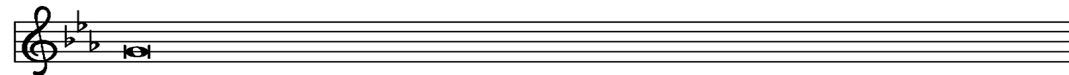
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

## \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

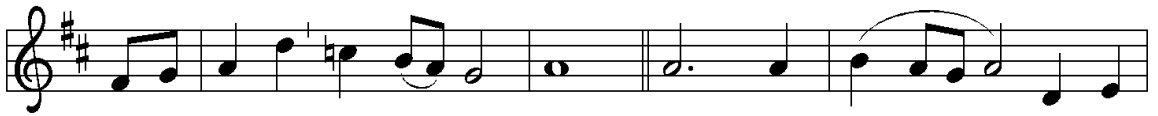


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

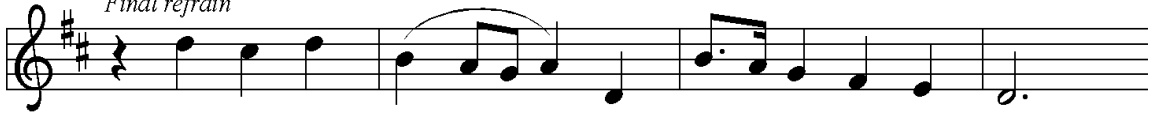


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray.

**Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

***We Listen to the Word***

**First Reading:**

**Isaiah 55:10-13**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:**

**Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13**

[<sup>1</sup> You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> **To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup> Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup> Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

<sup>6</sup> **You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup> You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup> **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]**

<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup> **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup> **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup> May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

**SOLO:**

**Grace**

**Bob Hench**

## Second Reading:

## Romans 8:1-11

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* Please stand if you are able

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**\*GOSPEL:**

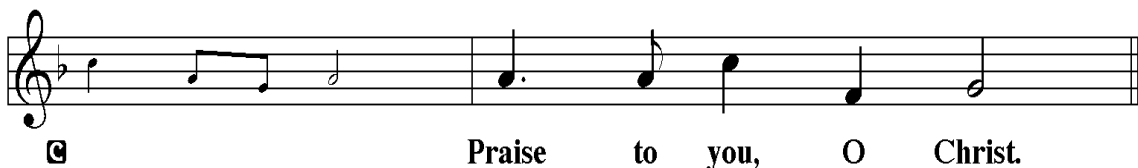
**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.  
<sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up.  
<sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!"  
<sup>18</sup> "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.  
<sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

## The Gospel of the Lord.



# *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 681

## We Plow the Fields and Scatter

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far,  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star,  
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.

who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey - you, by you the birds are fed;  
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,

the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain,  
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread,  
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

*Refrain*  
All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.

We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

**\*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

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world (*global concerns may be named*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns (*especially*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith (*especially Bishop Nathan Söderblom, whom the church commemorates today*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## *We Offer Our Gifts*

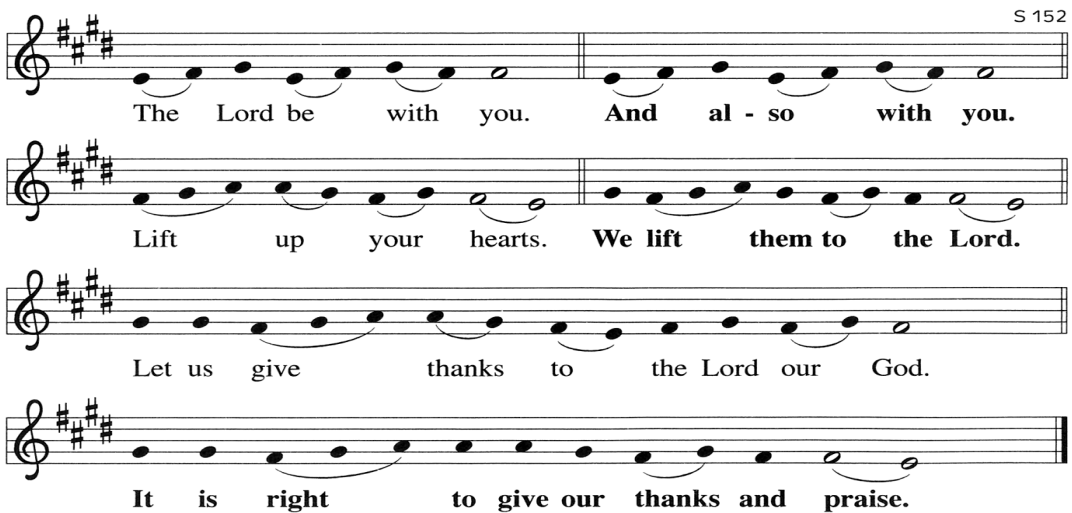
\*Offering Prayer:

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



S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

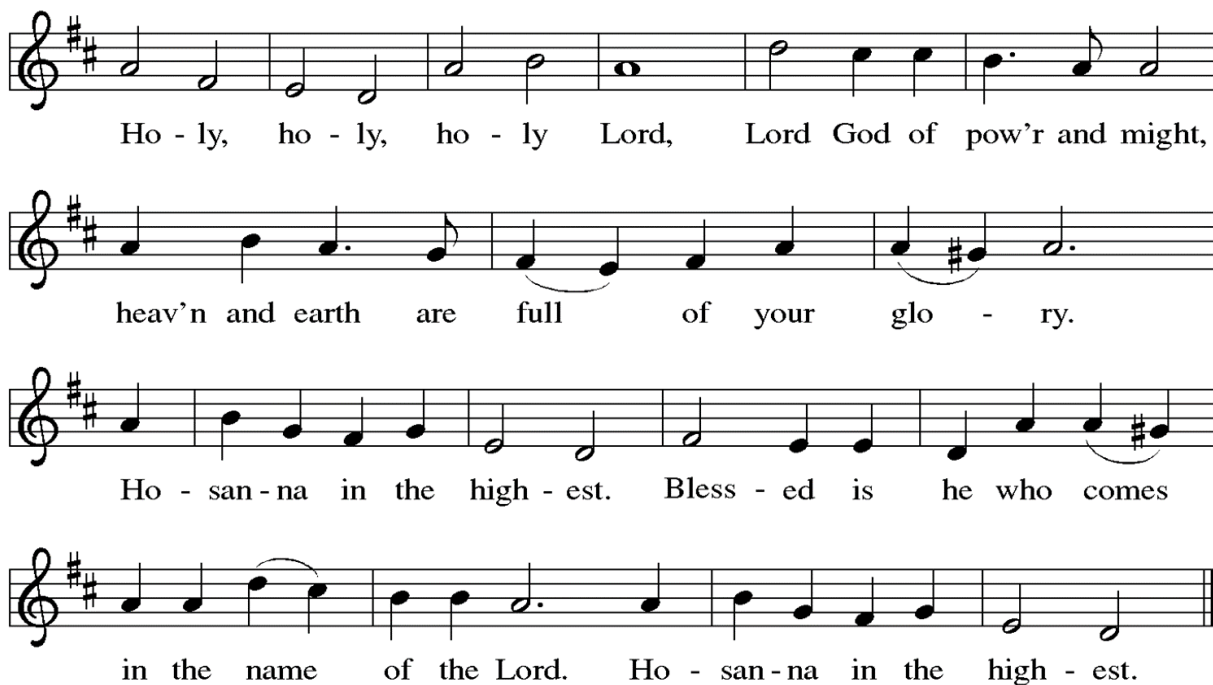
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
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.

Today we receive the Holy Eucharist through elements that have been pre-consecrated on this altar by Pastor Custead.

In the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist we are told that on the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it for all to eat saying, "This is my body given for you, do this for the remembrance of me". Again after supper, we are told, that he took the cup, gave thanks, 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 sins, 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.

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**

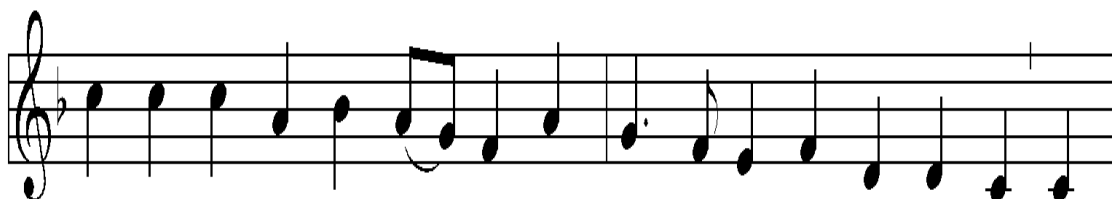
\*Song after Communion:



☐ 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.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

**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:**

As Rain from the Clouds

ELW 508

***NEXT PAGE***

**\*Dismissal**

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

**C: Thanks be to God**

Recessional

Andante Religioso

Johann Rinck

# As Rain from the Clouds

1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,  
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown,  
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,

as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land,  
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand,  
 and wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.

Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow  
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow  
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow

and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand,  
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand,  
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.

We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;  
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;  
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;

we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.  
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.  
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.

We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,  
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,  
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,

for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.  
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.  
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, O.S.B., b. 1939

Music: ALFRED WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896; arr. hymnal version

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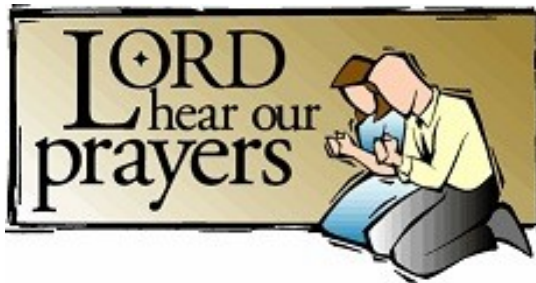
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# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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                          | 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:**

***Sweets and Treats***  
***Worship in the Park with Bethany***  
***\*Highland Park Pavillion #2***  
***Sweets and Treats***  
***Worship in the Park with Bethany***  
***\*Highland Park Pavillion #2***  
***Council Meeting***  
***Potluck Dinner***

***July 12 10 AM***  
***July 26 11 AM***

***Aug 2 10 AM***  
***Aug 23 11 AM***

***Sep 8 4 PM***  
***Sep 13 12 PM***



# **SWEETS AND TREATS**

## **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE: July 12, 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**



**POTLUCK DINNER**

**Our Next Pot Luck Dinner  
will be**

**September 13, 2026**



# **Worship in the Park**

***Worship in the Park with Bethany  
\*Highland Park Pavillion #2***

***July 26 11 AM***

***Worship in the Park with Bethany  
\*Highland Park Pavillion #2***

***Aug 23 11 AM***

***Worship in the Park!***





Today is the feast of

# St. James

the Apostle



# St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

— + —  
is a  
*Blessed  
Community*  
♡



James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).

# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.