



# **St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church**

## **August 30, 2026**

### **14th 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: Close To Thee Lani Smith  
(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: Blest Be the Tie That Binds

ELW 656

NEXT PAGE

## Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system contains four verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.  
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

**\*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.

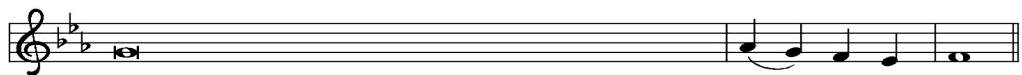
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



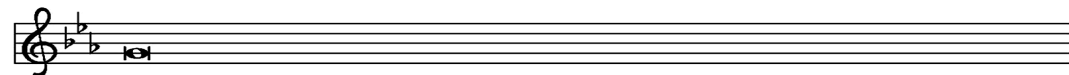
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



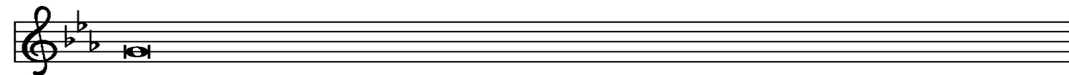
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

***We Listen to the Word***

**First Reading:**

**Jeremiah 15:15-21**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>15</sup> O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup> I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup> And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm:

## Psalm 26:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup> **Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup> **I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup> I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup> **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup> singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup> **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

**SOLO:**

**You Raise Me Up**

**Bob Hench**

## Second Reading:

## Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

<sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

<sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* Please stand if you are able

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\*GOSPEL:

**Matthew 16:21-28**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



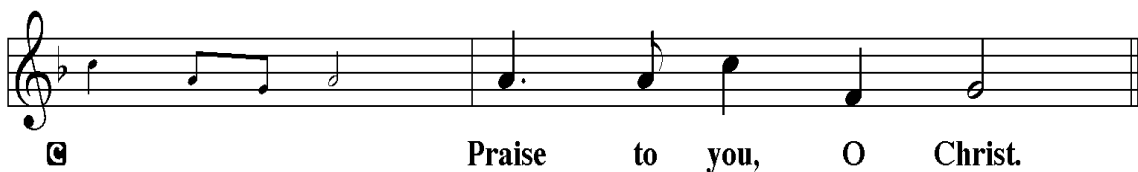


<sup>21</sup> From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup> “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

## The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

# *We Respond to the Word*

\*Hymn of the Day:

ELW 667

## Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves. The piano accompaniment features a simple harmonic structure with chords and moving lines in the left and right hands.

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

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

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

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

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

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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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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:

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

***NEXT PAGE***

\*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God**

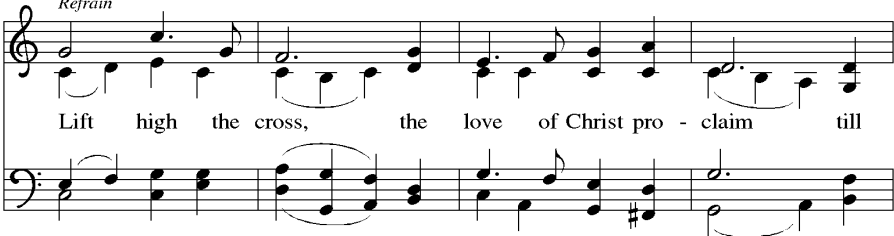
Recessional

The Brightest Trumpet

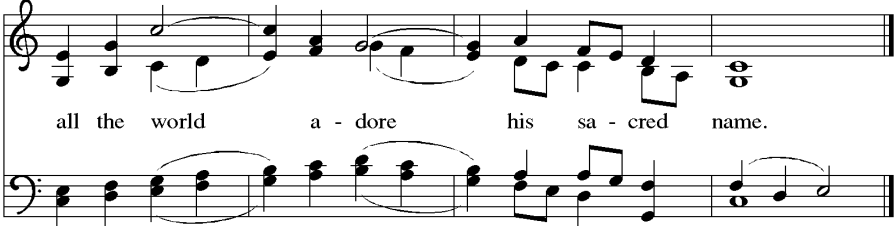
Franklin Ritter

# Lift High the Cross

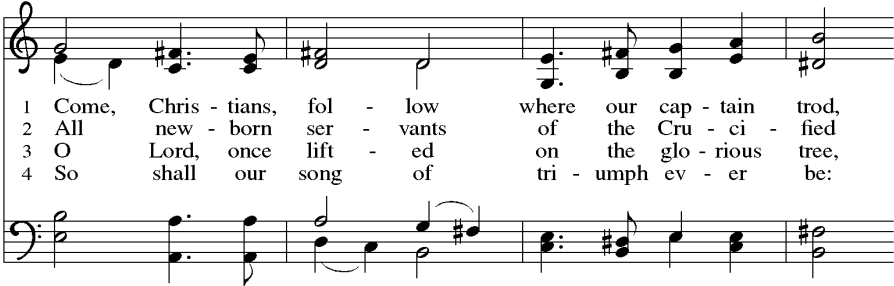
*Refrain*



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

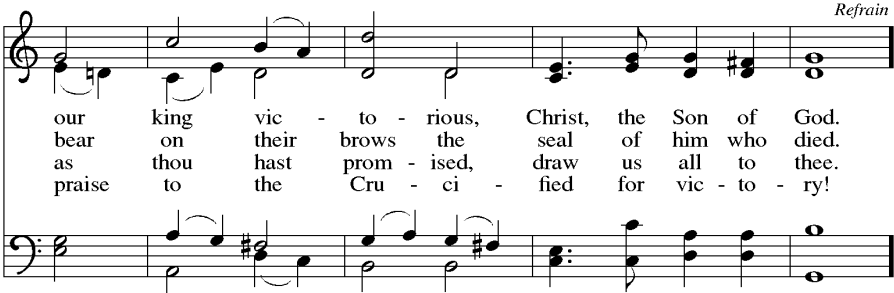


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



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

*Refrain*



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

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

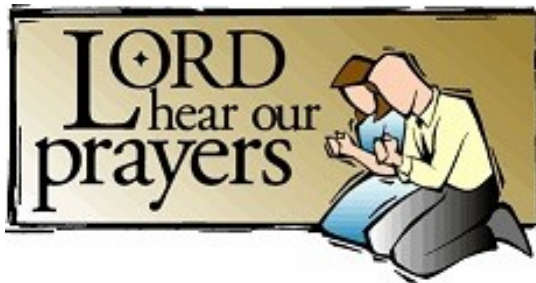
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# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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  
Council Meeting  
Potluck Dinner  
Sweets and Treats  
Octoberfest***

***Sep 6 10 AM  
Sep 8 4 PM  
Sep 13 12 PM  
Oct 4 10 AM  
Oct 18 12 PM***





# **SWEETS AND TREATS**

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

**OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE: Sep 6, 2026**  
**Provided By: Volunteer Needed**

\* 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**



***October 18, 2026***

**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***



# St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

— + —  
is a  
*Blessed  
Community*  
♡



May God's love  
and blessings  
be with you  
and remain  
with you always.

# *St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.