

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 8, 2026
24th 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: Peggy Thatcher
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: Ceremonial Roger Wilson

(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.
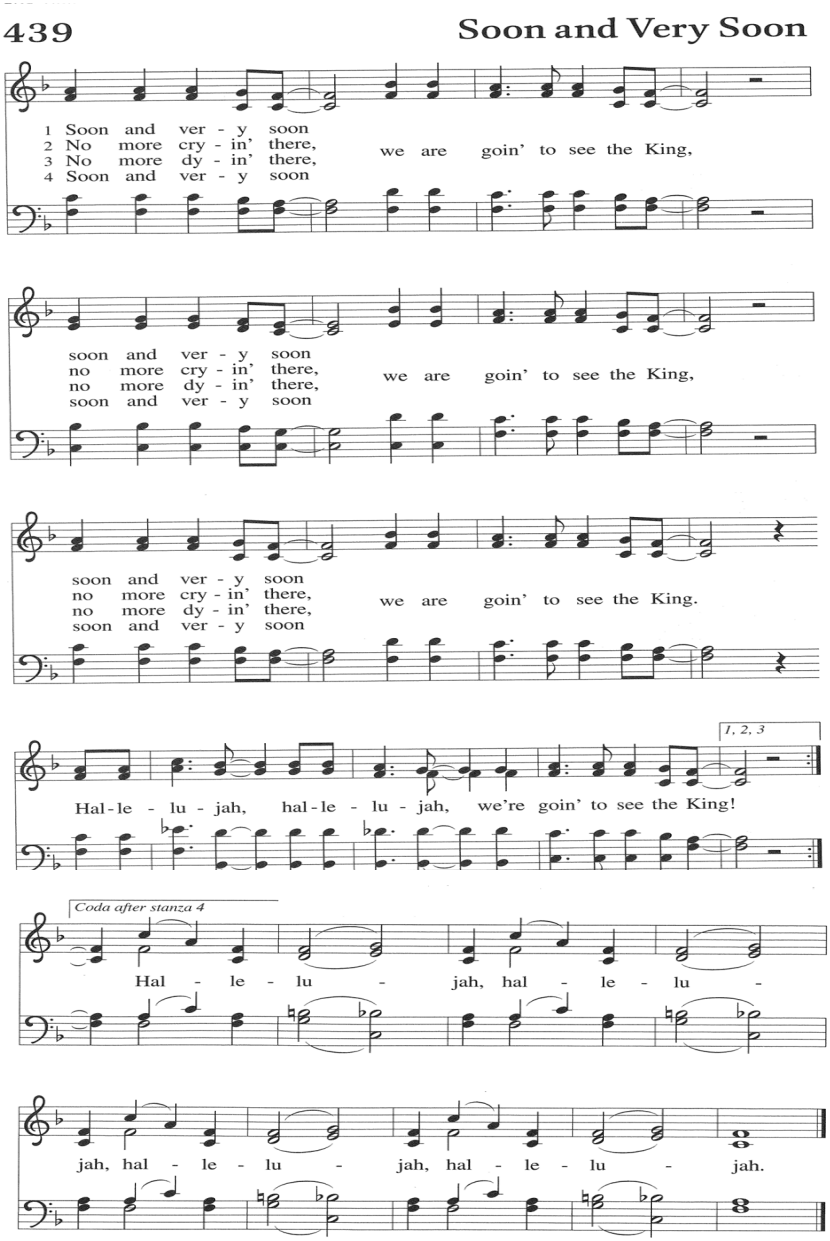
In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your 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: Soon and Very Soon ELW 439

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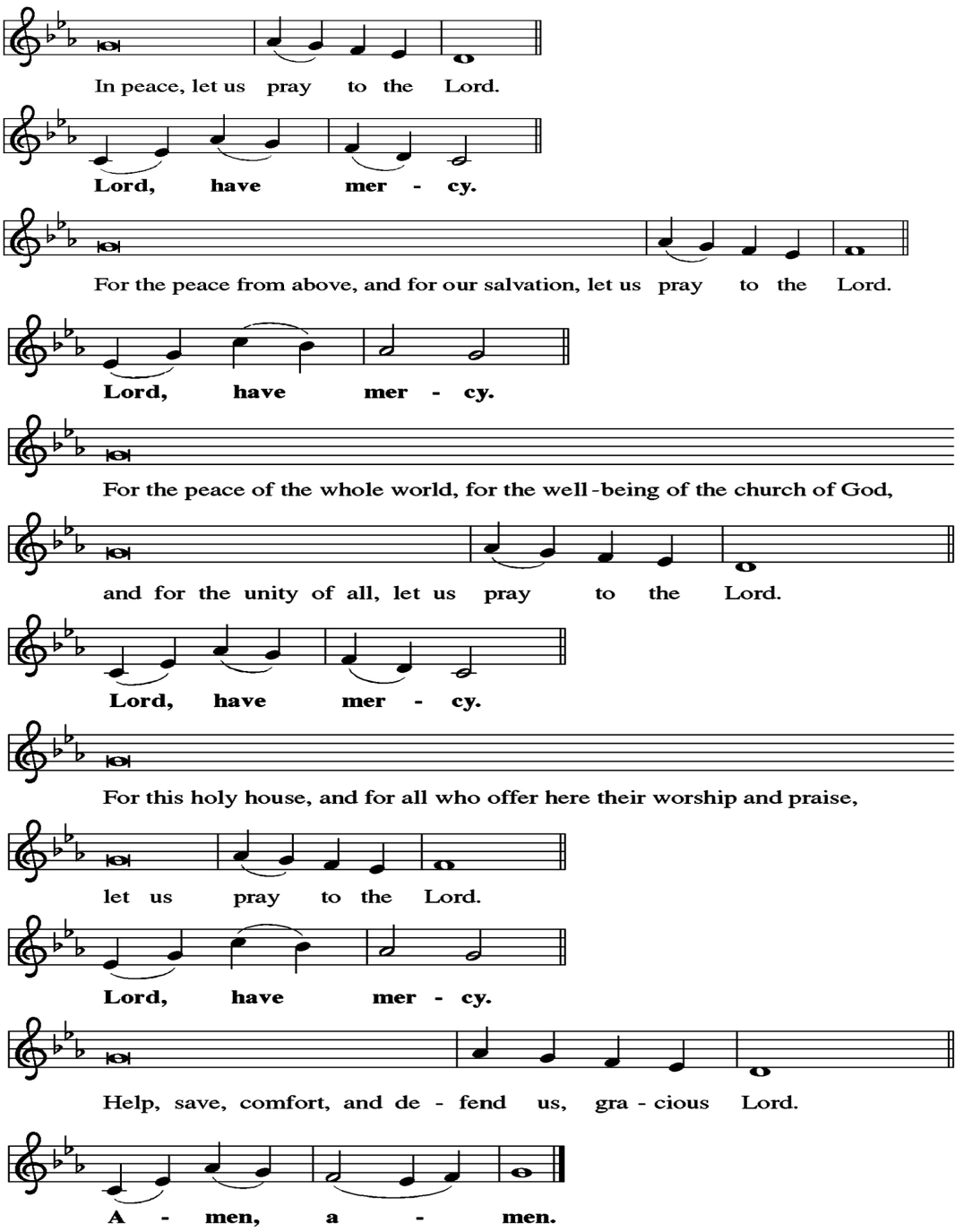


*GREETING:
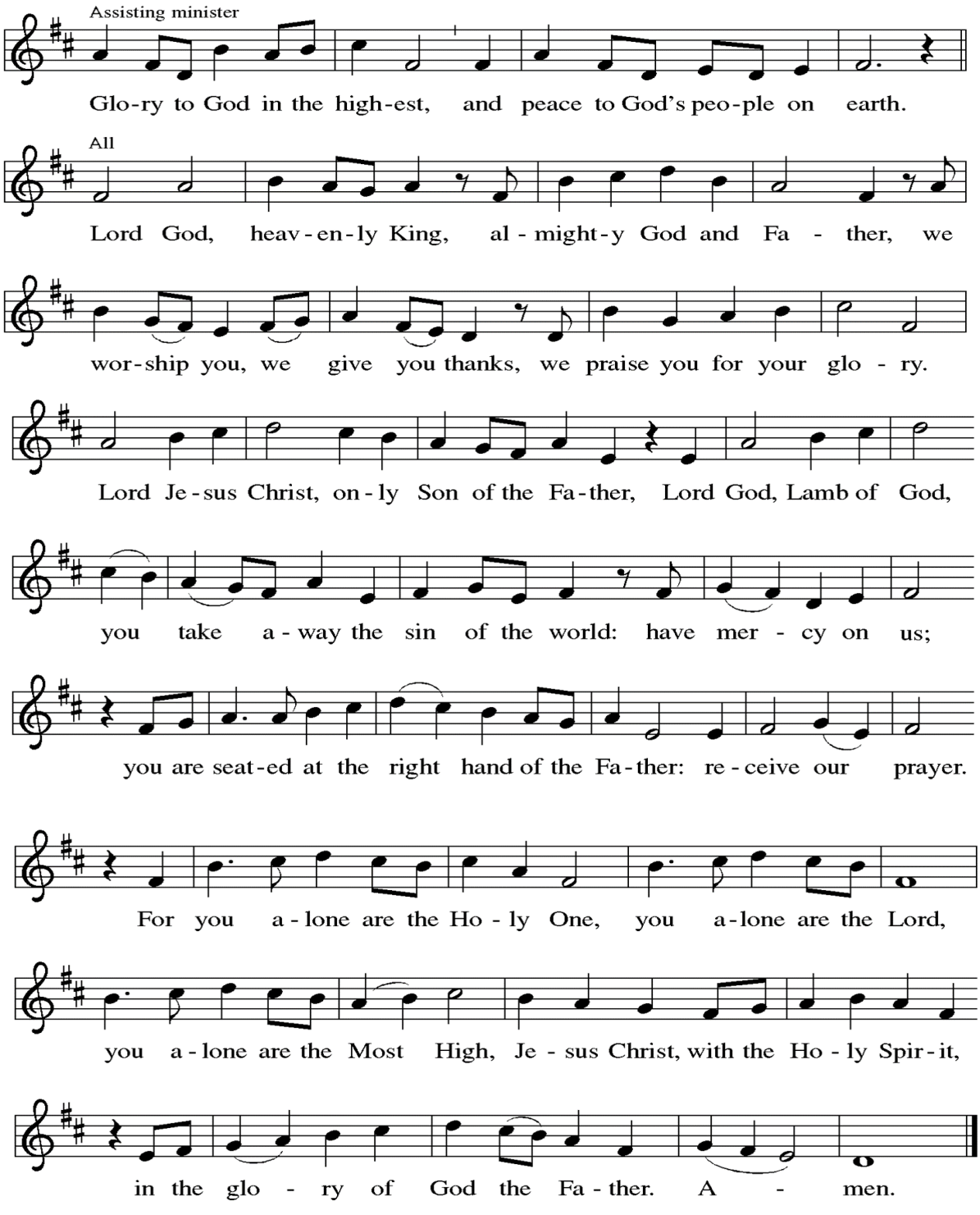
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend 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 of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Listen to the Word

First Reading: **Amos 5:18-24**

A reading from Amos.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the
LORD? It is darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by
a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was
bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness
in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assem-
blies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not
accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not
look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of
your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing
stream.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: **Psalm 70**

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

[3] Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

[4] **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**

[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

Second Reading: **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

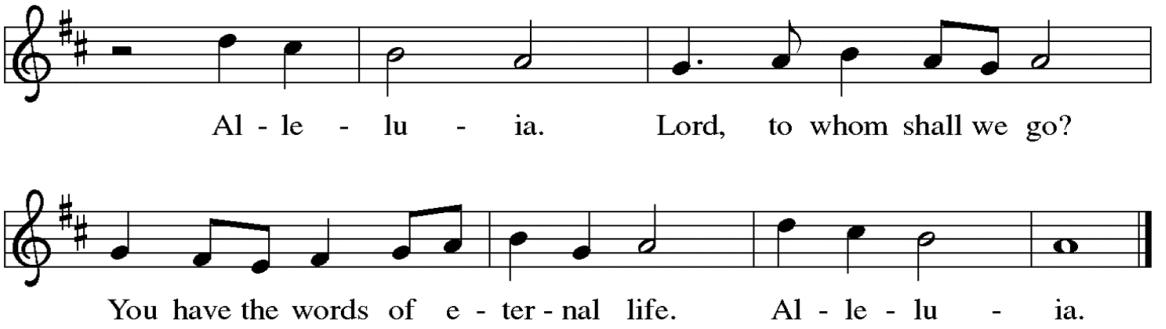
A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

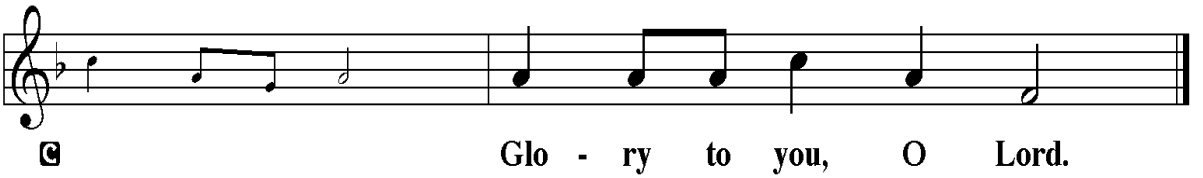
* Please stand if you are able

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



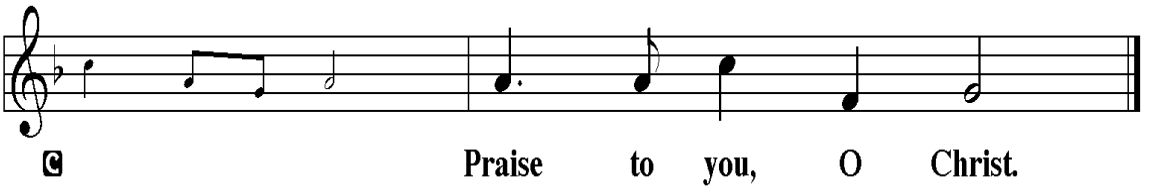
***GOSPEL:** **Matthew 25:1-13**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like
this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bride-
groom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish
took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil
with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became
drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the
bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up
and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of
your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will
not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and
buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom
came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet,
and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying,
'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know
you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.
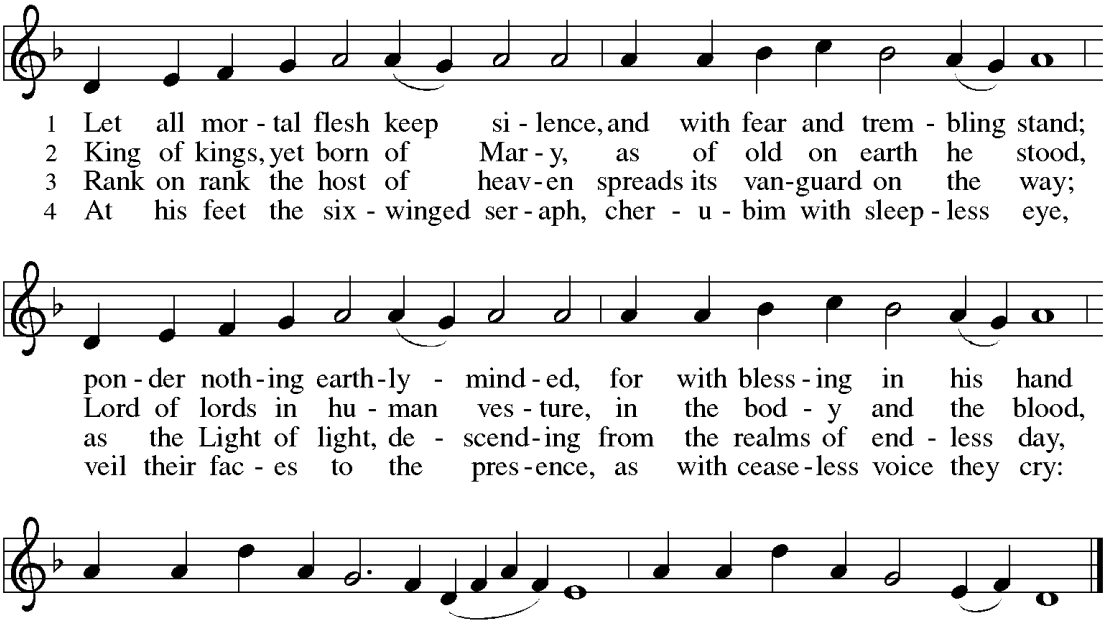


Sermon

We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day: ELW 490

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

*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

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict (*relief ministries or organizations may be named*). Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
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.**
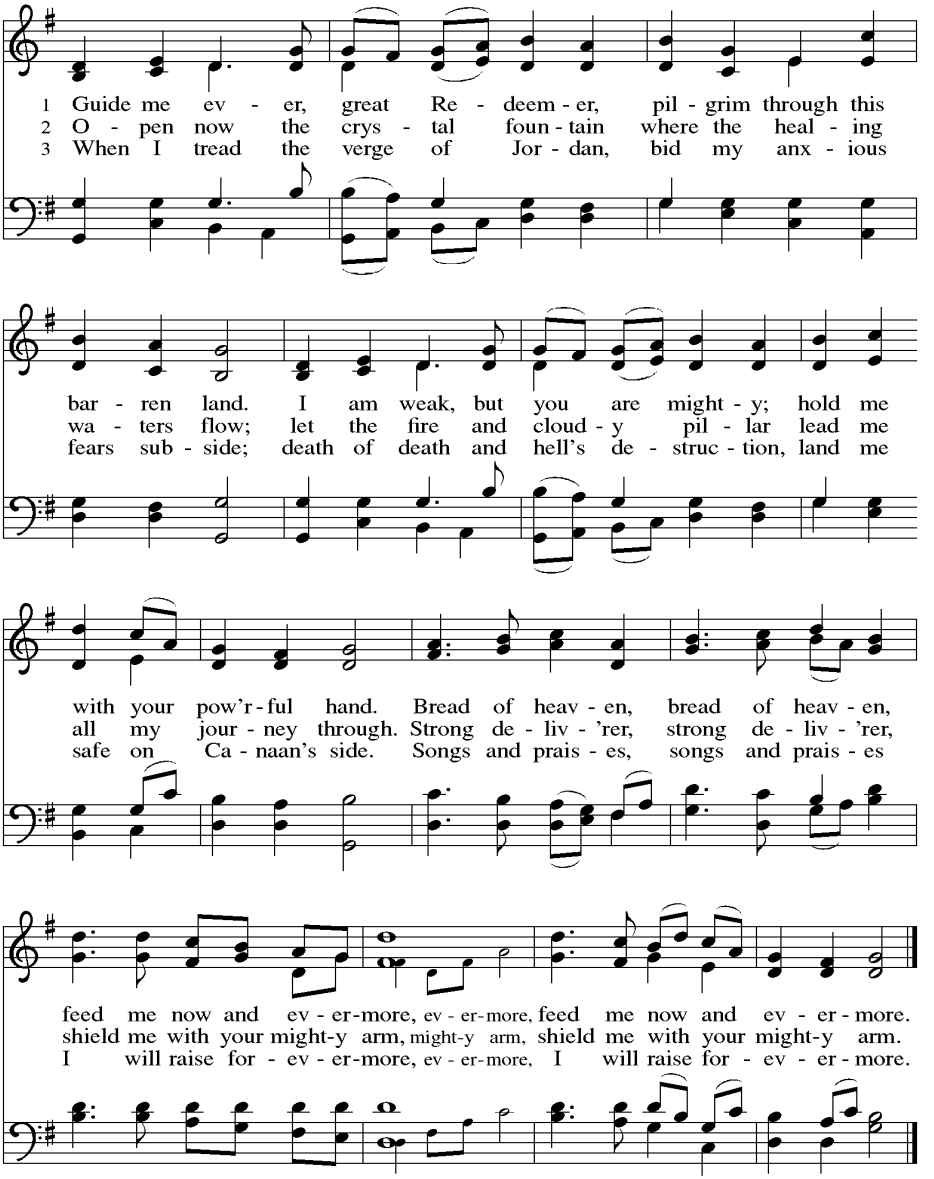
*Sending Song: Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer ELW 618
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*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God
Recessional Postlude I Eb Robert Thygerson

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

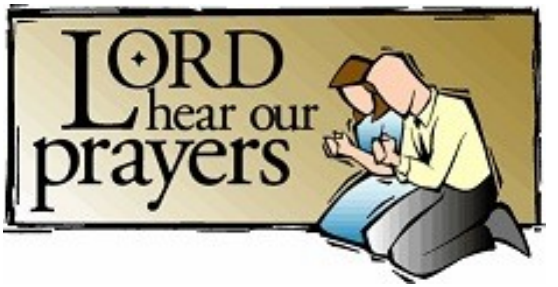


Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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
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:

Annual Congregational Meeting	***Nov 8 12 PM***
Pot Luck Dinner	***Nov 22 12 PM***
Decorate Church for Christmas	***Dec 5 10 AM***
**** Pizza will be provided afterwards***	
Sweets and Treats	***Dec 6 10 AM***
Allegheny Chorale Concert	***Dec 6 3 PM***
**** Refreshments following the performance***	
Church Council Meeting	***Dec 15 4 PM***



SWEETS AND TREATS

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS WILL BE: Dec 6, 2026
Provided By: Diane Shultz

* We are always looking for volunteers to sponsor Sweets and Treats. If you're interested there is a sign up sheet in the Sunday School Room. Your support is appreciated!



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
December 15, 2026

12 PM

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Worship Service

- During November in the Sunday School Room.
- During December through Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary.
- Starting December 27th we will move back to the Sunday School Room until Palm Sunday.





The ***Annual Congregational*** meeting will be held:

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

after the service. There will be nominations for council members and then the election for council. The budget will be discussed and then anything else that the congregation may bring to our attention.







The Allegheny Chorale presents their 42nd Season Christmas Concert

St. James Lutheran Church

December 6, 2026

3PM

Refreshments provided by funds from St James WELCA.

WOMEN of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



November 22, 2026

12 PM



ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

November 11th 12 PM

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

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

A Celebration of Gratitude, Faith, and Community



You are warmly invited to join us for an **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** on:

Thursday, November 19, 2026
7:00 PM
St. John the Evangelist Church

The planners of this year's service are reaching out to include more members of the Blair County community. This special gathering will bring people of different faith traditions together in a spirit of thanksgiving, fellowship, and gratitude.

MUSIC REHEARSAL

Those participating in the music for the service are invited to attend a rehearsal:

Sunday, November 8, 2026
2:00 PM
Sanctuary at St. John Church

The rehearsal will last approximately one hour or less.

We hope you will consider joining us and being part of this meaningful community celebration.

All are welcome!

Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia Jimenez
pjimenez10@hotmail.com

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.