

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 1, 2026
All Saints Sunday

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: Amazing Grace arr. Fred Bock

(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.
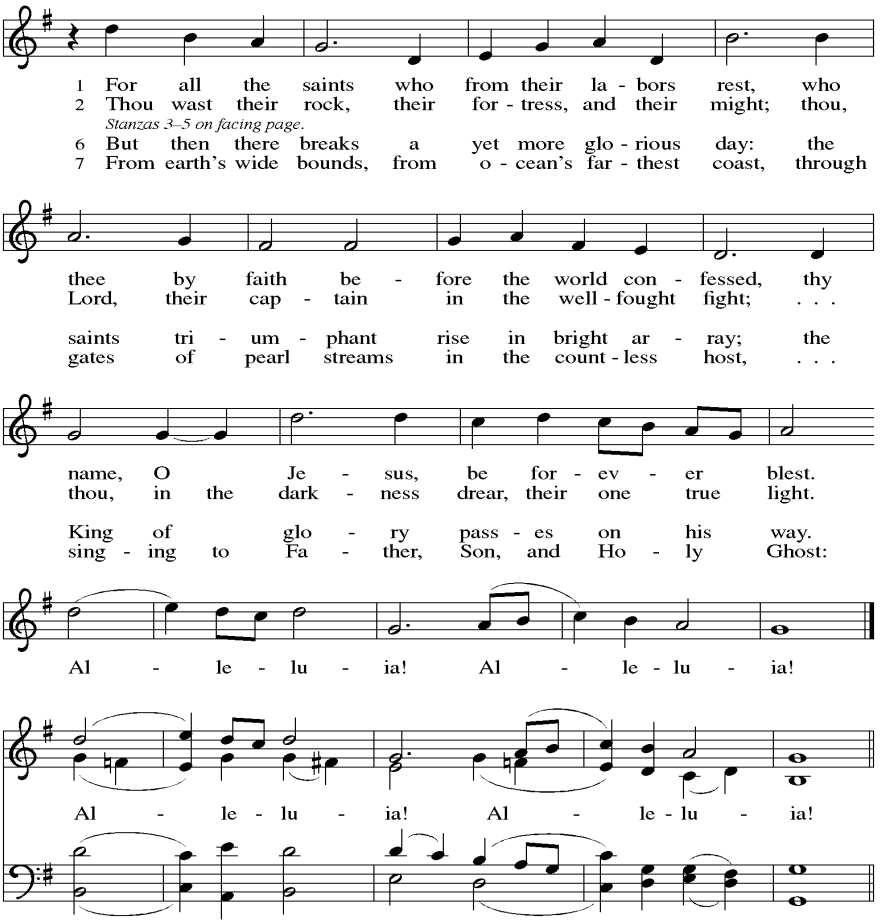
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, and Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

We Gather

*GATHERING SONG: For All the Saints ELW 422

NEXT PAGE

For All the Saints



Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.
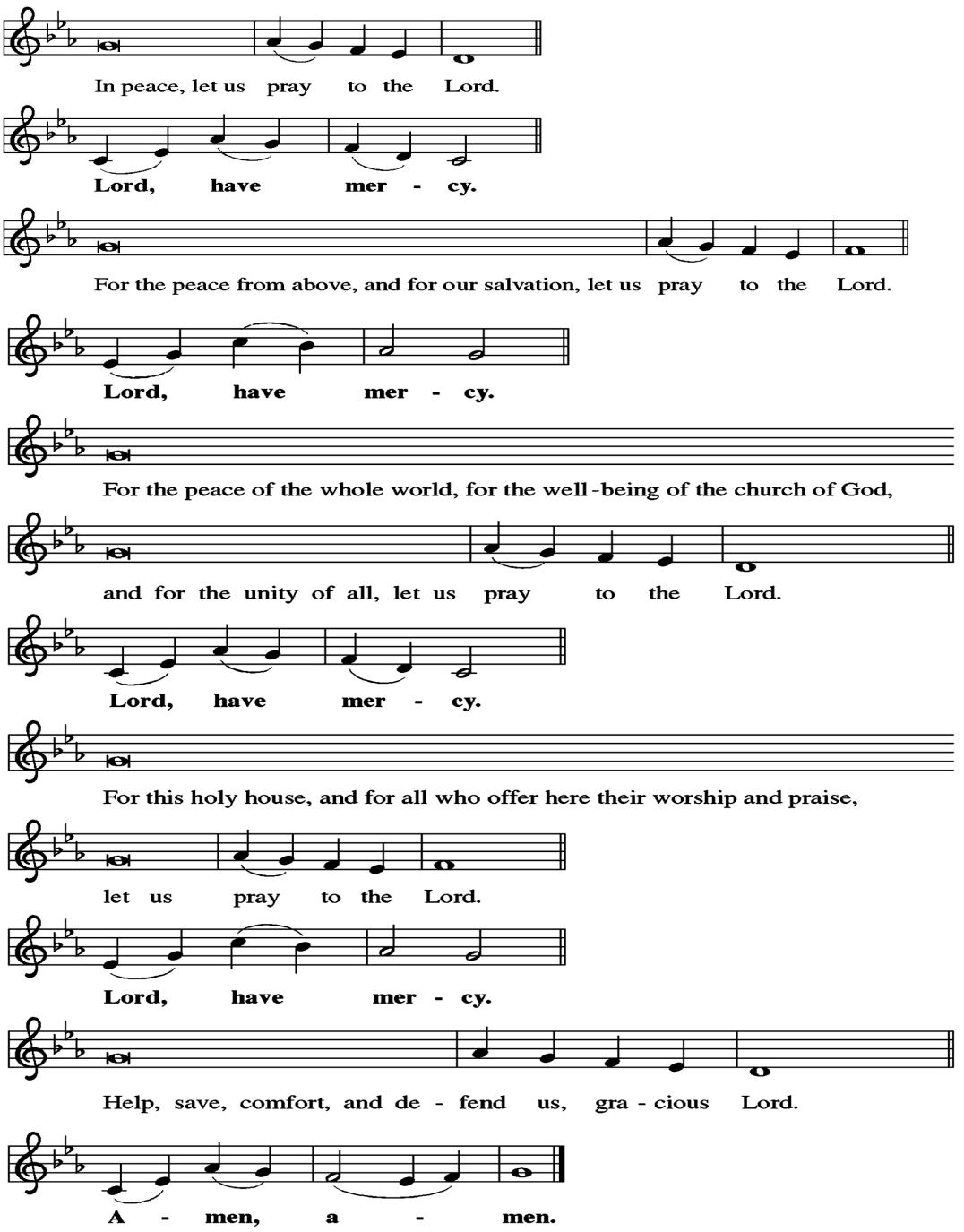
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*GREETING:
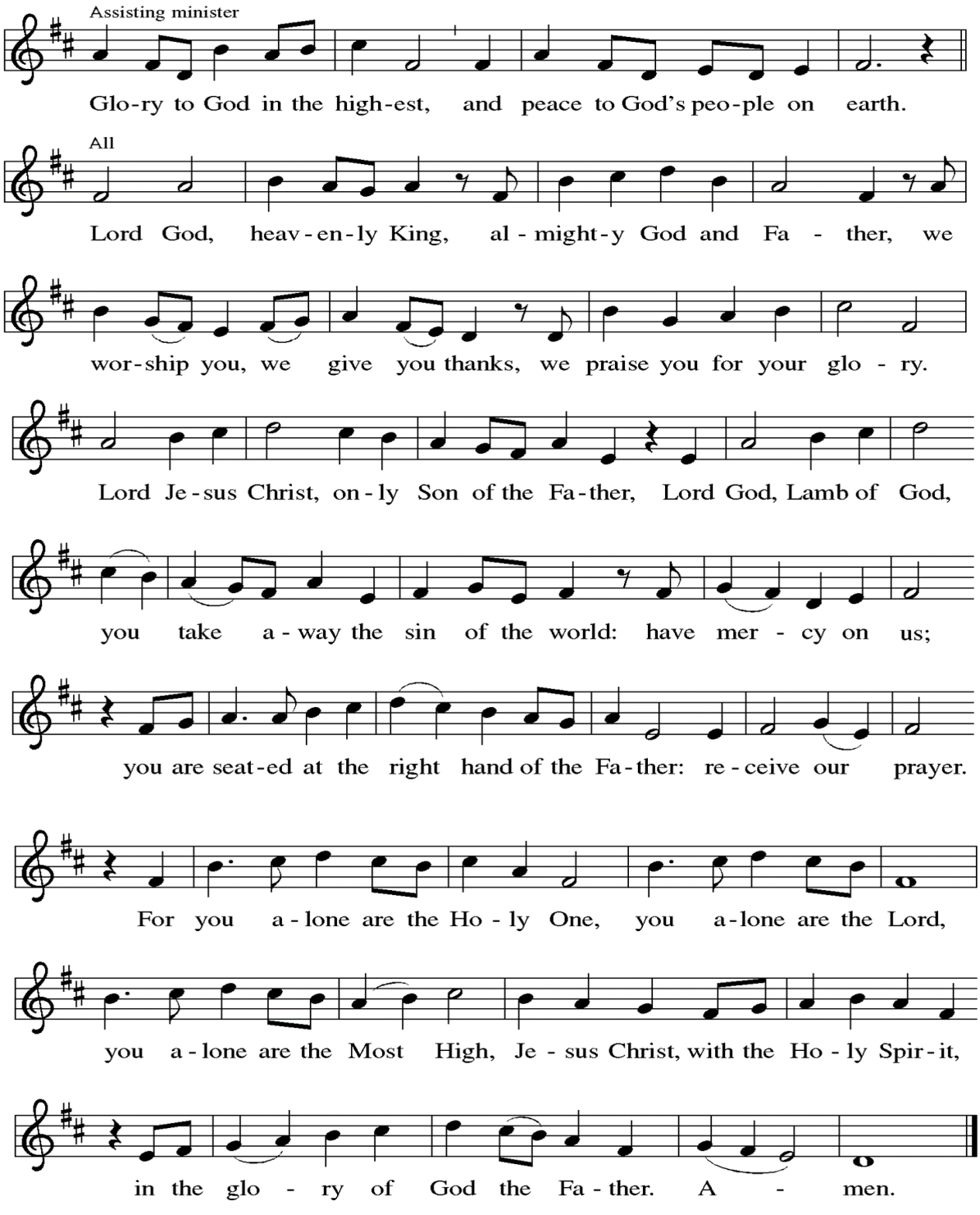
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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: **Revelation 7:9-17**

A reading from Revelation.

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count,
from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before
the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their
hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the
four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and
worshiped God, 12 singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and
power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in
white, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one
who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the
great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood
of the Lamb.
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and
night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter
them.
16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more;the sun will not strike them, nor
any scorching heat,
17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will
guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear
from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: **Psalm 34:1-10, 22**

[1] I will bless the LORD at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

[2] **I will glory in the LORD; let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

[3] Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; let us exalt God's name together.

[4] **I sought the LORD, who answered me and delivered me from all my terrors.**

[5] Look upon the LORD and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.

[6] **I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me and saved me from all my troubles.**

[7] The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD and delivers them.

[8] **Taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are they who take refuge in God!**

[9] Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD, for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

[10] **The lions are in want and suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

[22] O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

Second Reading: **1 John 3:1-3**

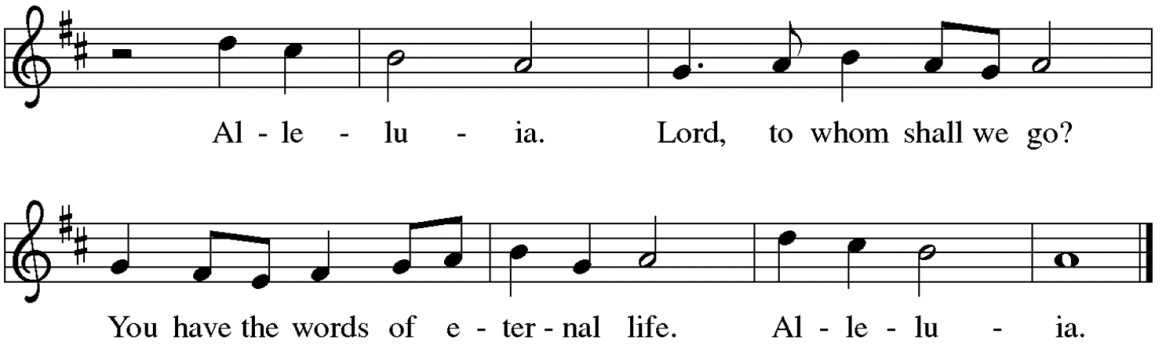
A reading from 1 John.

[1] See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children
of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him. [2] Beloved, we are God's children now; what we
will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is
revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. [3] And all who
have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
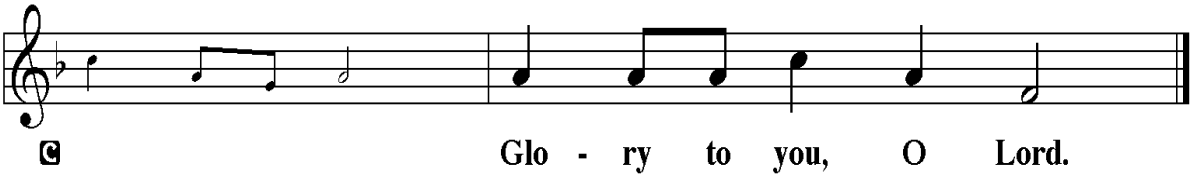
* Please stand if you are able

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



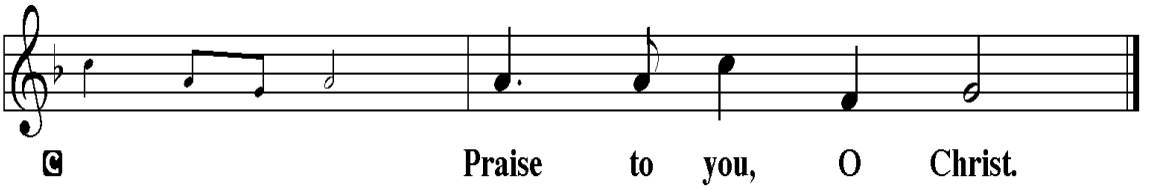
***GOSPEL:** **Matthew 5:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



[1] When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat
down, his disciples came to him. [2] And he began to speak and taught
them, saying:
[3] “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
[4] “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
[5] “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
[6] “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they
will be filled.
[7] “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
[8] “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
[9] “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
[10] “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
[11] “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter
all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted
the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
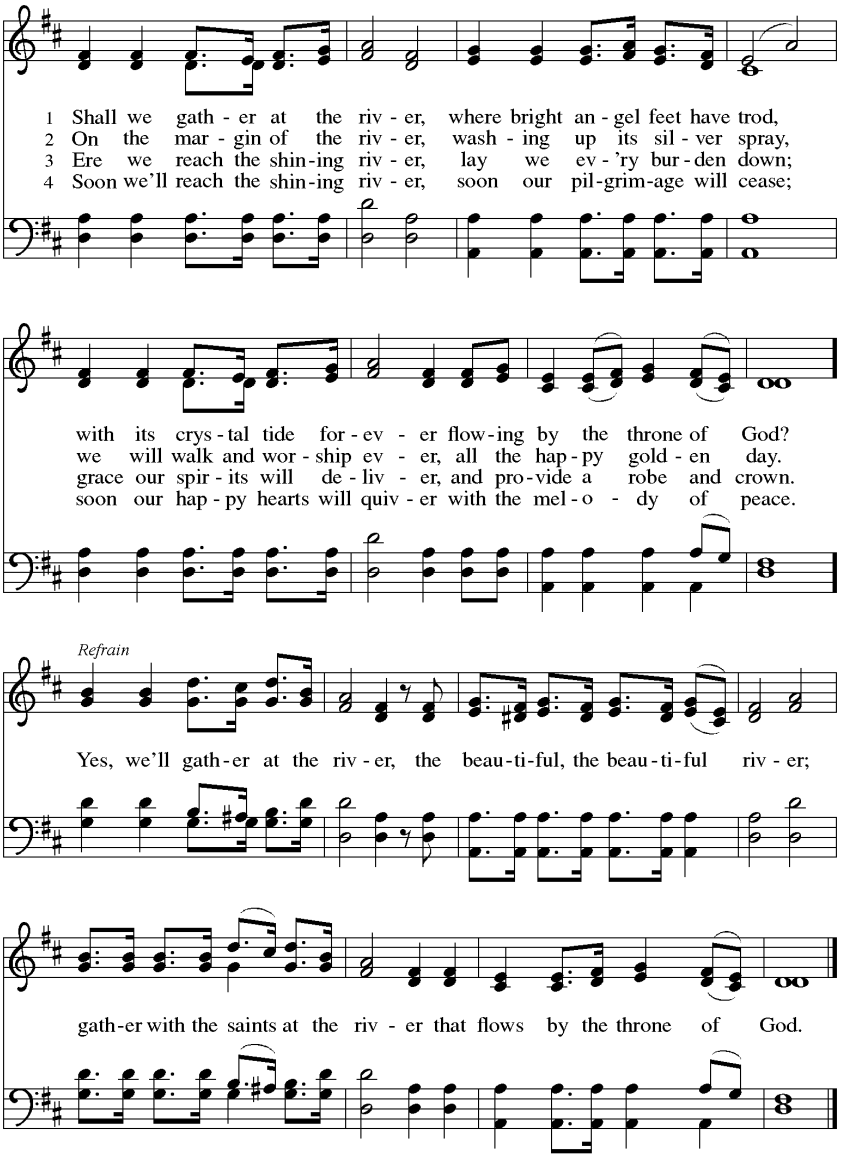


Sermon

We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day: ELW 423

Shall We Gather at the River



Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

*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.

Fill your church with mercy and humility as we proclaim the gospel in our worship and witness in the world. Renew and inspire all who preach and teach among us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Restore all lands suffering from ecological degradation. Protect soils and waterways (*local places may be named*). Point us toward innovative ways of living in harmony and joy with creation. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Unite the nations in their actions toward justice and peace. Raise up leaders who listen deeply for the needs of their communities, and surround the election process with wisdom and discernment. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Bring comfort and care to all who are in need, especially all who mourn this day. Sustain any who are weary, experiencing loneliness, or struggling with chronic illness (*especially*). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Nurture programs and communities that support elders and those who are homebound. Bless caregivers, nurses, chaplains, social workers, and hospice staff. Guide this congregation's ministry with seniors and their families. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

With grateful hearts we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors (*those who have died in the past year may be named*). Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side. 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.

P: Today, as we celebrate the Festival of All Saints, we remember in prayer and in the lighting of a candle the saints who were members of St. James and have died in the past year: Carol Weaver.

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.**
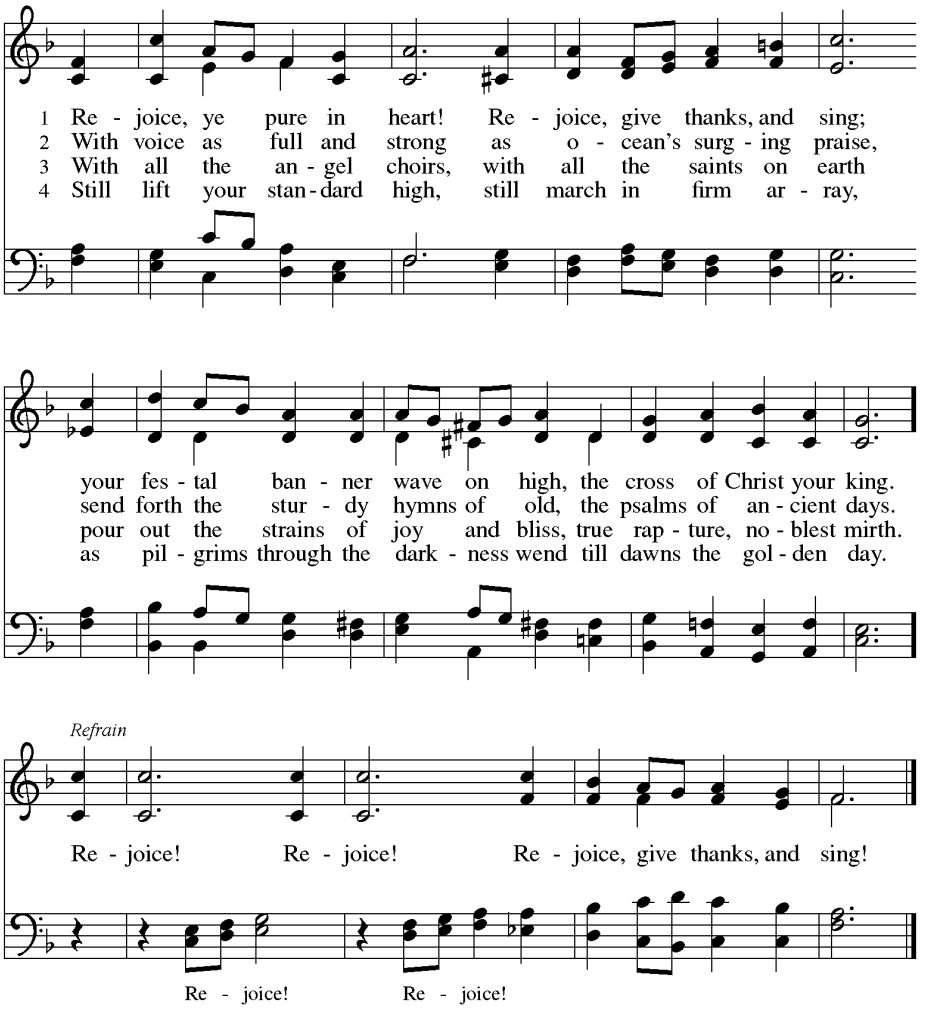
*Sending Song: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! ELW 873
NEXT PAGE

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God
Recessional Soon And Very Soon Crouch/Bock

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!



5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

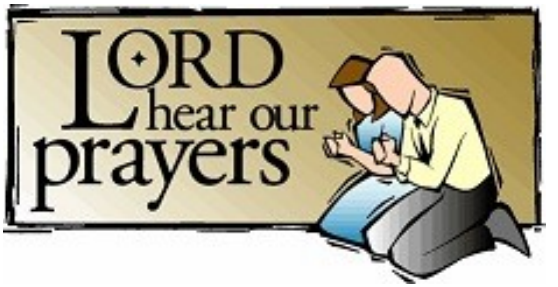
6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.
Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

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	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	***Nov 1 10 AM***
Poinsettia Order Deadline	***Nov 1 12 PM***
Annual Congregational Meeting	***Nov 8 12 PM***
Pot Luck Dinner	***Nov 15 12 PM***
Decorate Church for Christmas	***Dec 5 10 AM***
**** Pizza will be provided afterwards***	
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: Nov 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!



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
December 15, 2026

12 PM

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- Sunday Worship Service will remain in the
- Sanctuary until the end of October.
- 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 15, 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**


All Saints
Sunday
†
November 1, 2026
St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church

Almighty and Everlasting God,

You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

is a

Blessed Community



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



Christmas Poinsettias

Bless our Sanctuary and your home this Christmas with a beautiful red poinsettia! For each $11 you contribute to the St. James Flower Fund, a flower will be placed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and will be available for you to take with you following our Christmas Eve Service. If you would rather donate the flower for a shut-or or friend of St. James, you may indicate that choice on this order form.

Please complete the form and return it to the church. **The deadline for poinsettia orders and payments is Sunday, November 1, 2026.** Thank you for your generosity in this endeavor!

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

This donation is made:

In Honor of: _____
Or
In Memory of: _____

Amount of Contribution: _____

Number of Christmas Poinsettias: _____

Envelope Number: _____

Please check one:
_____ Yes, I do want to take the poinsettia (s) home with me.

_____ No. I don't want to take the poinsettia (s). I would like them to be given to a shut in or friend of St. James

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.