

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 22, 2026
Christ the King 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

All Liturgy and Music Rights Reserved
Reprinted under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #31114
Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-723225

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: O Worship The King arr. 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.

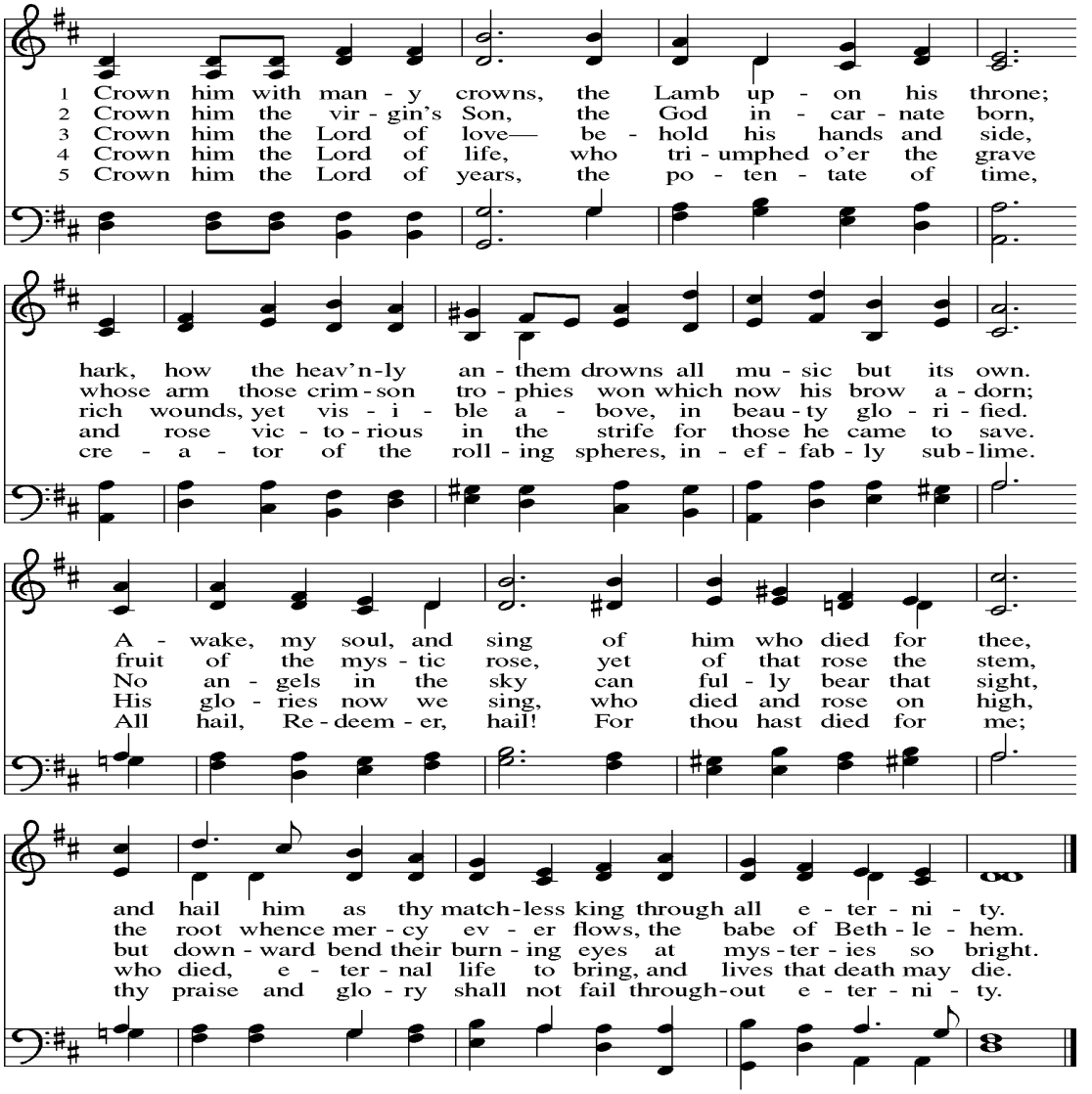
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, and Christ may live in your hearts through faith.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

We Gather

*GATHERING SONG: Crown Him with Many Crowns ELW 855

NEXT PAGE

Crown Him with Many Crowns



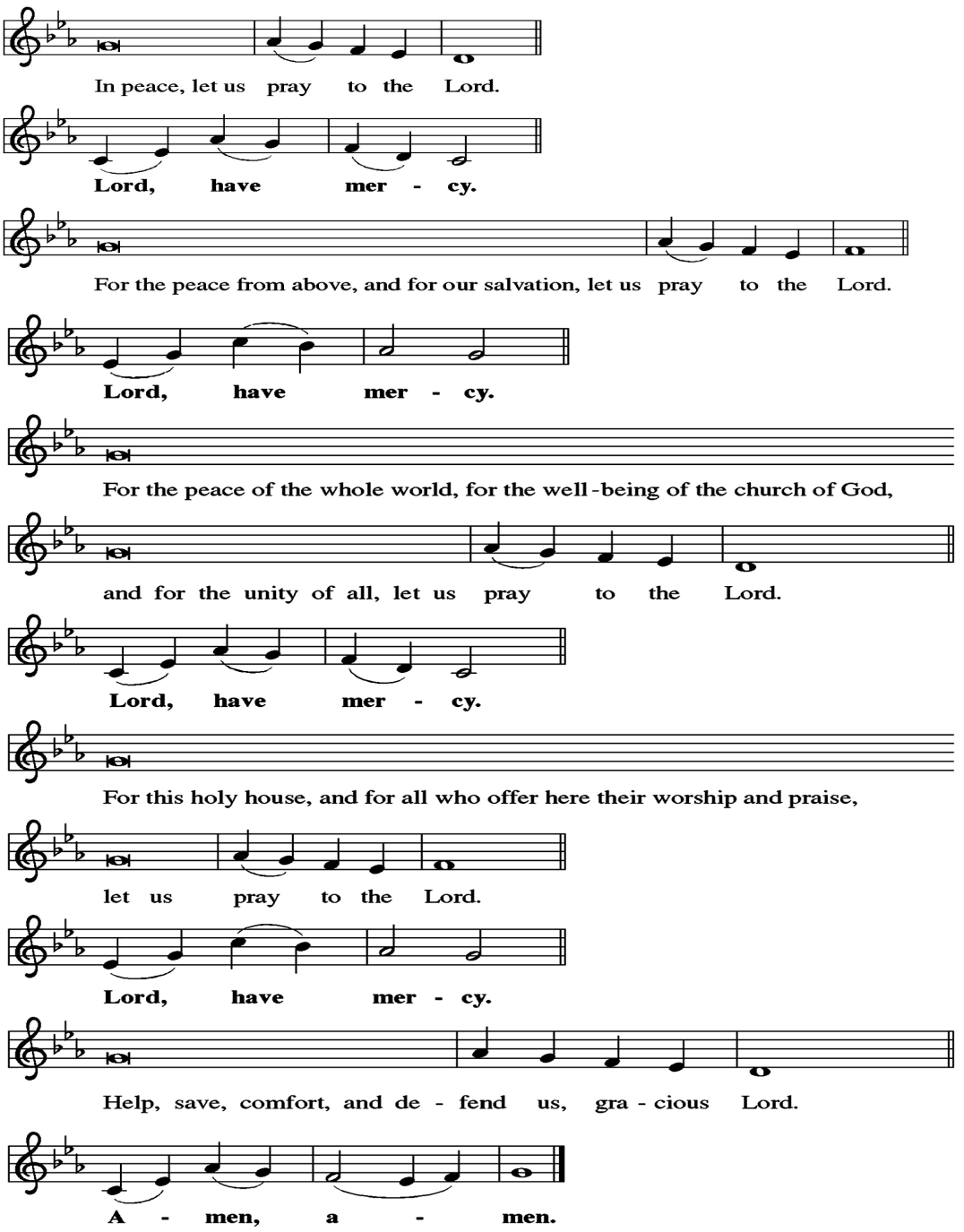
Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

*GREETING:

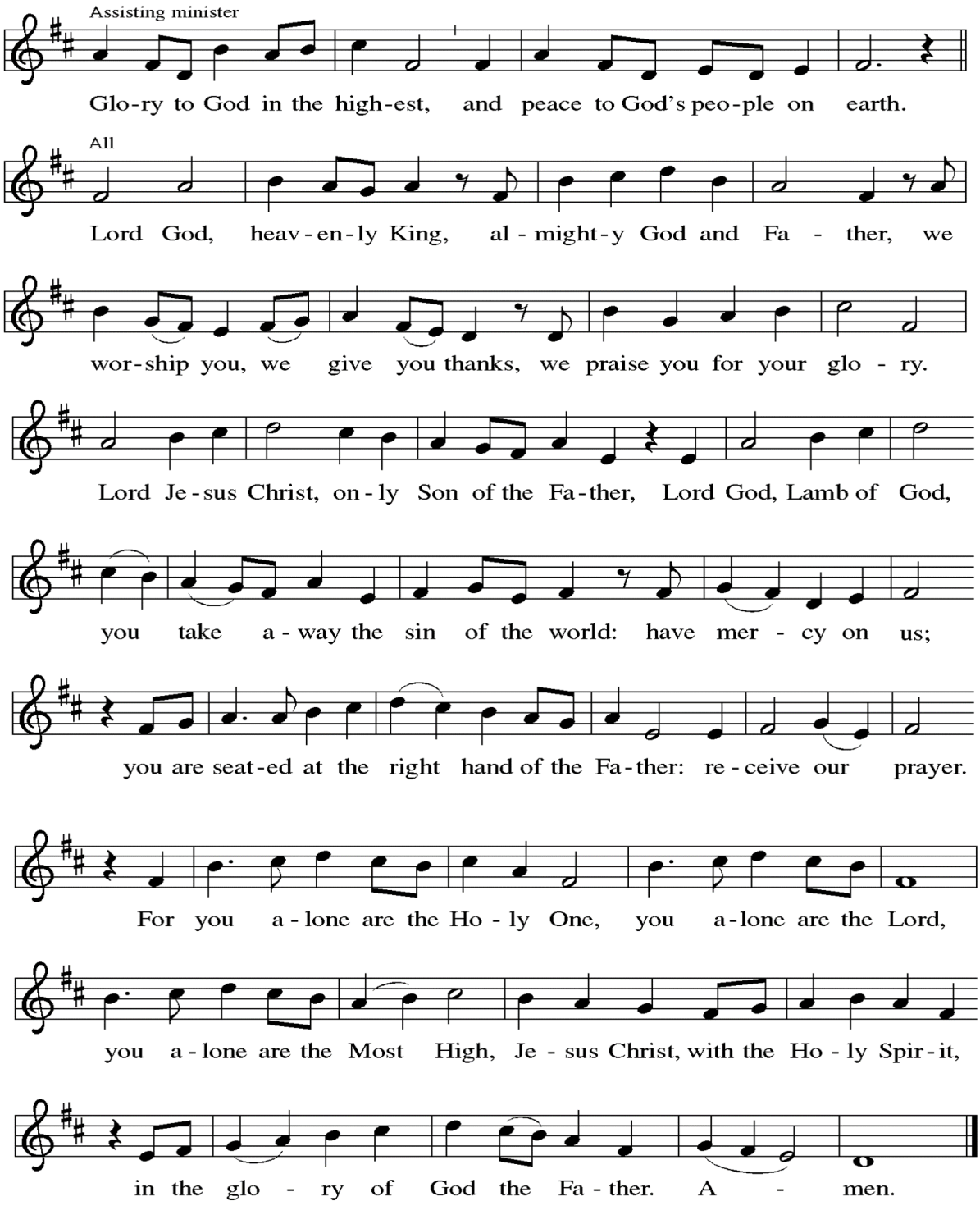
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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 power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from Ezekial.

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them
out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered
sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to
which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will
bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring
them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the
watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with
good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there
they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on
the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will
make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring
back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak,
but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the
fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder
and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far
and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will
judge between sheep and sheep.
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed
them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their
God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have
spoken.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: **Psalm 95:1-7a**

[1] Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

[2] **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

[3] For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

[4] **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

[5] The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

[6] **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

[7a] For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Second Reading: **Ephesians 1:15-23**

A reading from Ephesians.

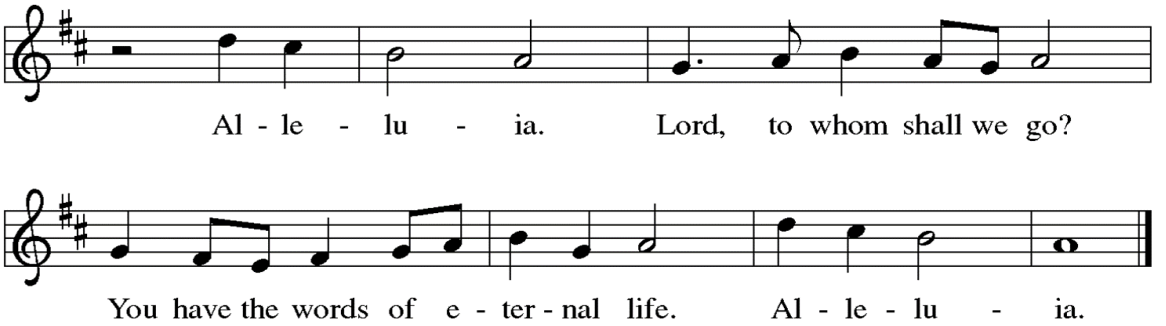
[15] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

[20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead
and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all
rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that
is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has
put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things
for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

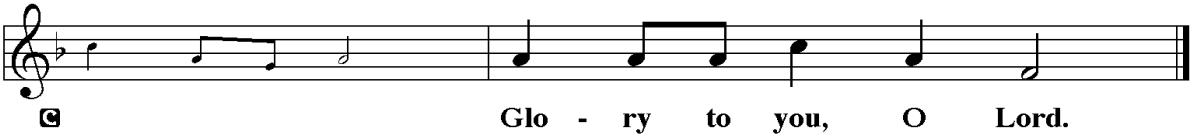
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

* Please stand if you are able

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

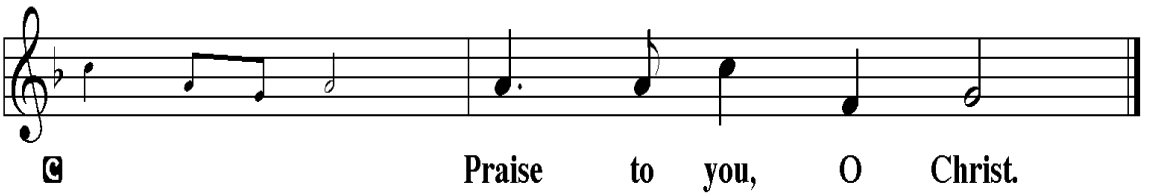


***GOSPEL:** **Matthew 25:31-46**
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory
and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All
the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one
from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he
will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the
king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the
world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you
gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of
me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer
him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or
thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw
you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And
when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40 And the
king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least
of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ 41 Then he will say
to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and
you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not
give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they
also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a
stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’
45 Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to
one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go
away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

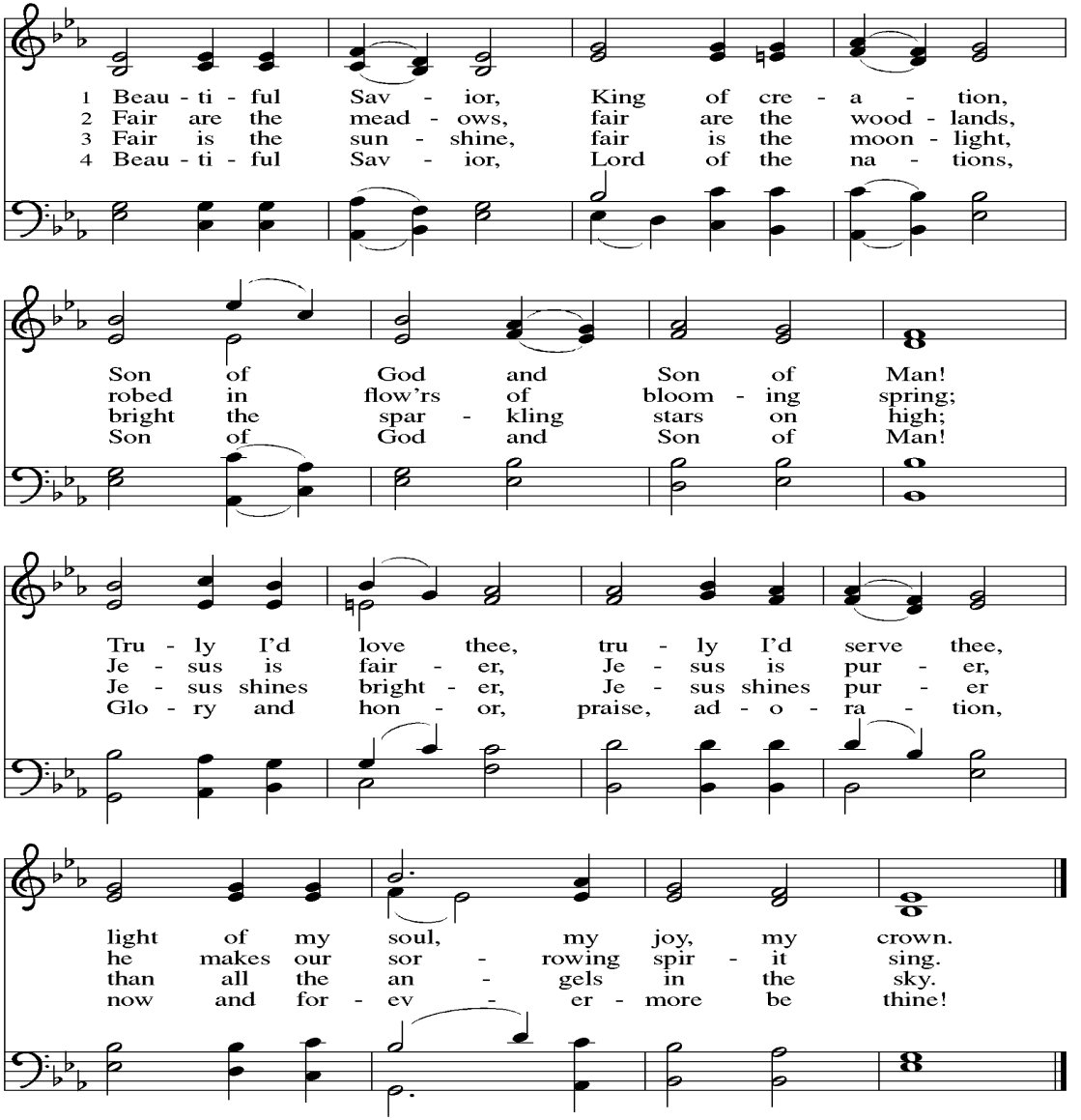


Sermon

We Respond to the Word

*Hymn of the Day: ELW 838

Beautiful Savior



Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th 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.

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination (*places or events may be named*). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need (*especially*). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. 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.**

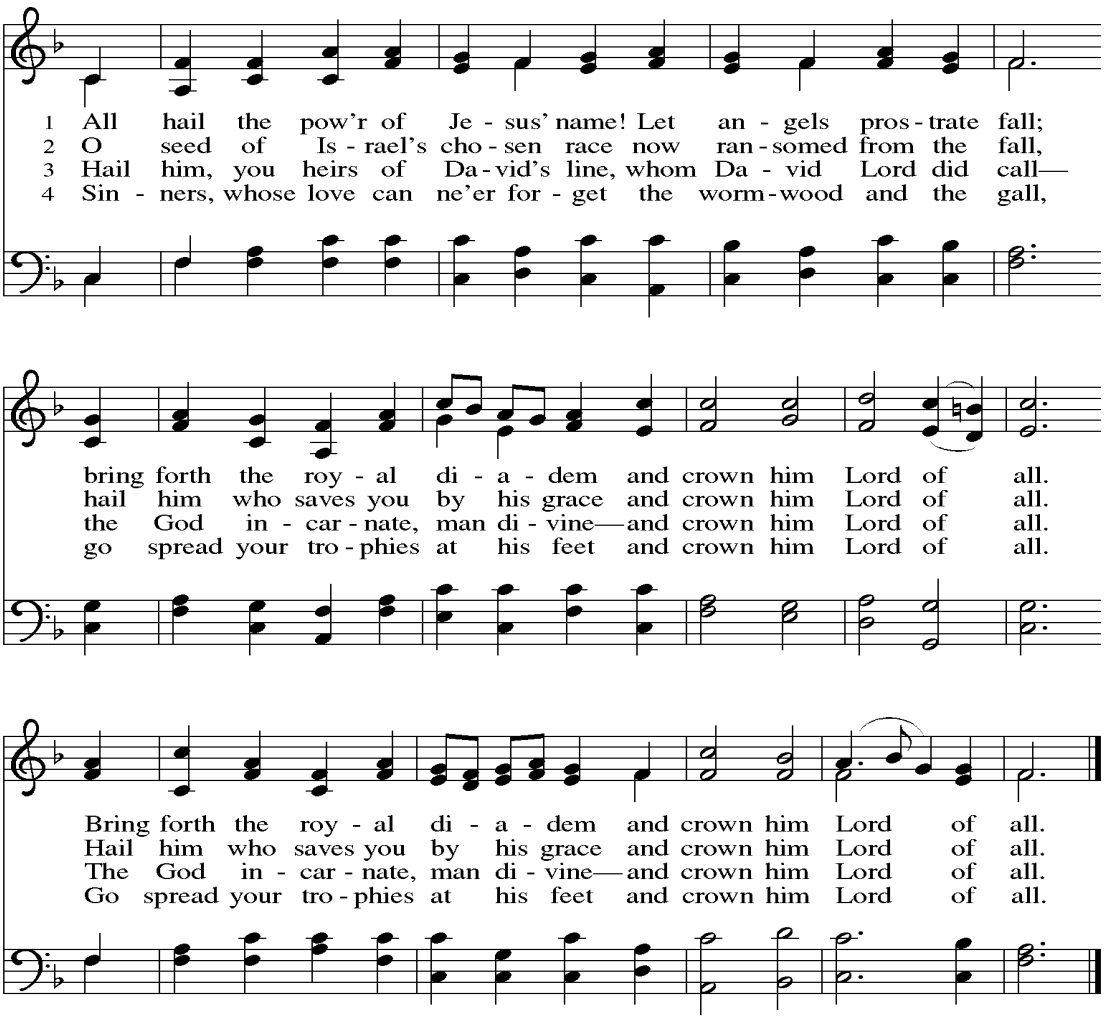
*Sending Song: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! ELW 634
NEXT PAGE

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God
Recessional Alleluia, Sing To Jesus arr. Henry Coleman

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

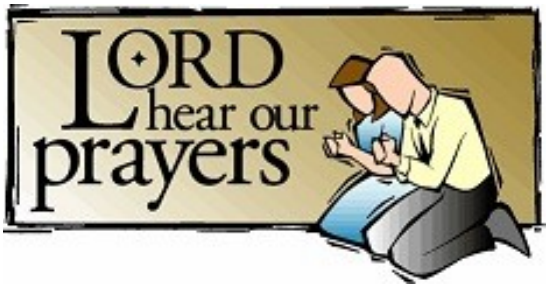
6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, sts. 5–6
Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

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:

Pot Luck Dinner	***Nov 22 12 PM***
Advent Study Course	***Dec 1 6 PM***
****St. Luke's***	
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***	
Advent Study Course	***Dec 8 6 PM***
****Bethany Lutheran***	
Community Lunch	***Dec 9 12 PM***
Church Council Meeting	***Dec 15 4 PM***
Advent Study Course	***Dec 15 6 PM***
****St. Luke's***	
Advent Study Course	***Dec 22 6 PM***
****Bethany Lutheran***	

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.



NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
December 15, 2026
12 PM



November 22, 2026

12 PM



ST LUKES COMMUNITY LUNCH

December 9th 12 PM

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

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!

Allegheny Chorale presents

Free to the Public



Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 3pm
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Altoona

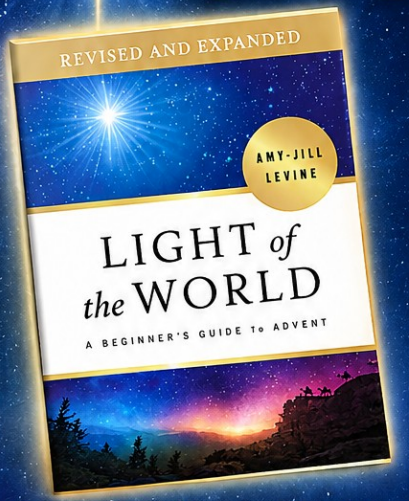
Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at 7pm
First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone

Deborah Estright, Director

Refreshments provided by funds from St James WELCA.

WOMEN of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ADVENT
STUDY COURSE



Tuesday, December 1
at St. Luke's
6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8
at Bethany Lutheran
6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15
at St. Luke's
6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 22
at Bethany Lutheran
6:00 p.m.

In collaboration with our ELCA neighbors, Bethany and St. James, St. Luke's will be studying Amy-Jill Levine's newly revised and expanded classic ***Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent.***

Authored by this award-winning biblical scholar and New Testament professor, Light of the World traces the Christmas story from its Old Testament roots through the New Testament accounts, exploring the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth, the Virgin Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit of the Magi. With the clarity and warmth she is known for, Levine illuminates the cultural, historical, and theological significance of each passage, making complex biblical scholarship accessible to readers of every background and faith tradition.



We invite you to join us for a ***pot luck supper*** at ***6:00 p.m.*** followed by discussion until ***8:00 p.m.***

Please email **Mark Hoover** (mfh4@psu.edu) or call him at **814-931-2154** to register or for more information.

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

1407 Eighth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602

814-944-6835

stjamesaltoona@gmail.com
www.stjamesaltoona.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.