

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday, November 19, 2023
8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

St. James Lutheran Church

109 York Street, Gettysburg, PA

www.StJamesGettysburg.org

Welcome to St. James. Here are some tips for worshipping with us.

Large print bulletins and hearing-assist devices can be found on the welcome table in the main hall. Hymns are found in the back half of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* located in the chair rack in front of you and are referenced in this bulletin as ELW#. Please stand as you are able for parts of the service noted with an asterisk (*). Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

P Presider **C** Congregation **A** Assisting Minister **L** Lay Reader

The 8:15 worship service will be livestreamed to our YouTube Channel and made available for public viewing. Please note that you may be recorded during worship. You can visit our YouTube Channel at StJamesGettysburg.org/YouTube. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with a member of the staff.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One,

C we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN: *We Praise You, O God*

ELW 870

*PASTORAL GREETING

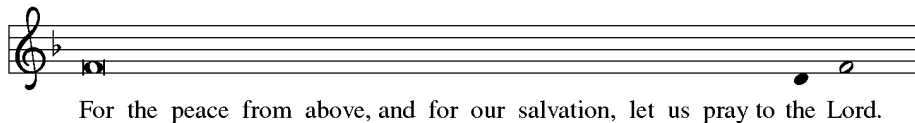
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



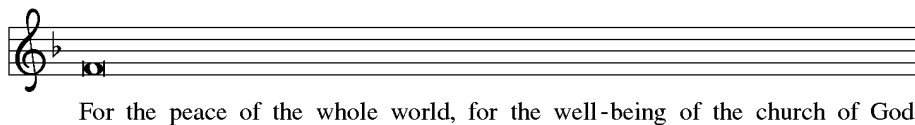
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



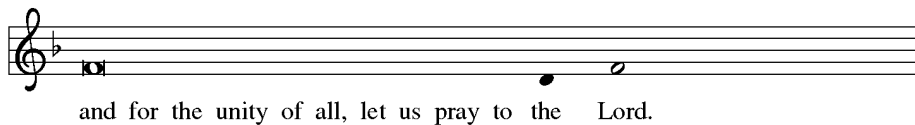
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



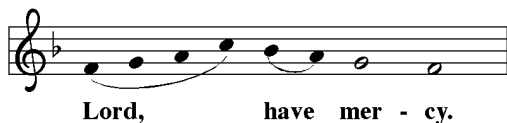
Lord, have mer - cy.



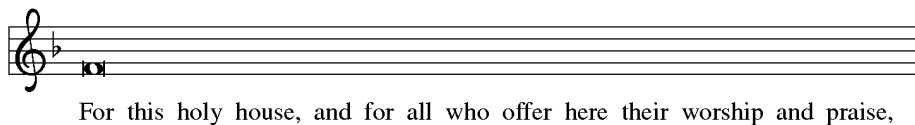
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



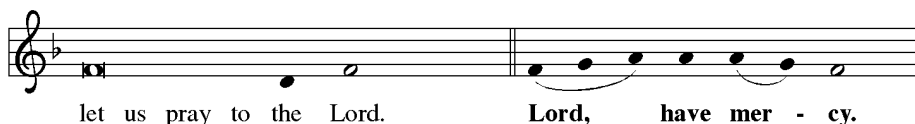
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



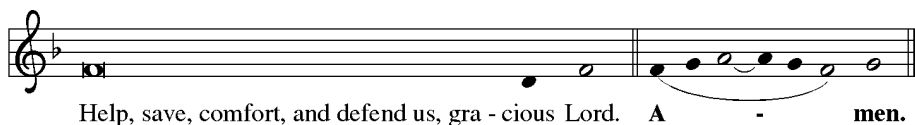
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L *Let us pray:* Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEMS

(8:15) *Here, O My Lord*

Russell Schulz-Widmar

¹Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face; here would I touch and handle things unseen; here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace, and all my weariness upon you lean. ²Here would I feed upon the bread of God; here drink with you the royal wine of heaven; here would I lay aside each earthly load and taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven. ³I have no help but yours; nor do I need another's arm save yours to lean upon; it is enough, my Lord, indeed; my strength is in your might, your might alone. ⁴Feast after feast thus comes and passes by, yet passing, points to the glad feast above, giving us foretaste of the festal joy, the Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love. (Horatius Bonar)

(10:45) *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

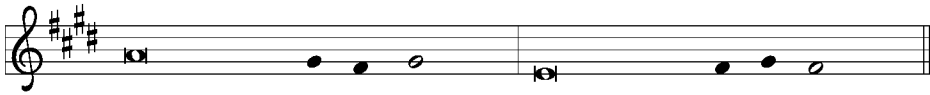
William P. Rowan, arr. Bradley Ellingboe

¹Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes. The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom. ²Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. ³Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. (Mary Louise Bringle)

READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

P The word of the Lord.**C** Thanks be to God.



¹Lord, you have ¹been our refuge
from one generation ¹to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the ¹earth were born,
from age to age ¹you are God.**

³You turn us back to the ¹dust and say,
“Turn back, O child- ¹ren of earth.”

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when ¹it is past
and like a watch ¹in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away ¹like a dream,
they fade away suddenly ¹like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is ¹green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried ¹up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed ¹by your anger;
we are afraid because ¹of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have ¹set before you,
and our secret sins in the light ¹of your countenance.**

¹²So teach us to num- ¹ber our days
that we may apply our ¹hearts to wisdom.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts

with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON, FOLLOWED BY TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

ELW 678

*APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Petitions conclude: "Hear us, O God." Our response: "Your mercy is great."

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING: *I'll Fly Away*

Albert E. Brumley

¹Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away; to a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away. I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away; when I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away. ²When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away; like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away. ³Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away; to a land where joy shall never end, I'll fly away.

*OFFERTORY

Tune: Morning Has Broken

**Father, providing food for your children,
By wisdom's guiding teach us to share
One with another, so that, rejoicing
With us, all others may know your care.**

*OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

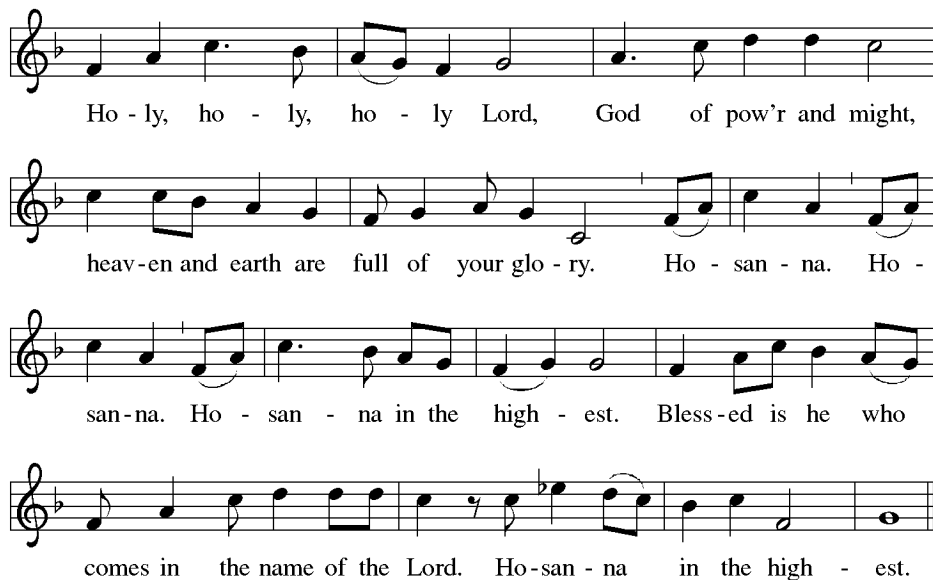
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

* LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

* INVITATION

P There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

C Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

All are welcome at Christ's table. Come one, come all, the feast is spread! An usher will give you a cup and guide you toward the platform. During the continuous flow, please fill in spaces starting at the front of the platform completing the circle. We offer a chalice with grape juice first, followed by a chalice of wine. Please indicate your preference by extending your glass at the appropriate time. Rice crackers are available for those with gluten allergies. If you are unable to come forward, please alert an usher and you will receive the sacrament while seated.

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.

COMMUNION MEDITATION: *Now Thank We All Our God*

Randall Thompson

*TABLE BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A *Let us pray:* Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C Amen.

Sending

God blesses us in mission to the world

*BLESSING

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C Amen.

*SENDING HYMN: *As Saints of Old*

ELW 695

*DISMISSAL

A Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Lift Up in Prayer

Karen Arentz	Nita Gross	Lisa Sites	Herb
Helen Bardell	Marc Hirsh	Gloria Unger	John
Daniel Dulisse	Johnny Irwin	Ken Unger	Kathy A.
Dr. Douglas Eyer	Billy Jones	Sean Vora	Luke
Joanne Fisher	Paige Kriel	Barbara Williams	Stephanie
Tim Fleming	Sam Main	Angie	Taylor
Connie Frederick	Jen Mickelson	Beverly	Wayne
Hazel and Frank	Peggy Reecher	Bill	
George	Steve Shuba	Darryl	

We pray for our youth and volunteers that are attending the Middle School Retreat at Camp Nawakwa this weekend. May they stay safe in their travels, make memories that last a lifetime, and allow their faith in You to continue to grow.

We lift up in prayer Deacon Barbara K. Schmitthenner who is celebrating her 20th anniversary of ordination on November 23 (2003).

Flowers are Given to the Glory of God and

In loving honor of the wedding anniversary of George and Yu Cha Helfrick, by their daughter Catherine Marie Chrismer.

In loving memory of Richard Thulin, by his wife Elizabeth Thulin.

Announcements

Church Directory: Photos will continue to be taken on Sunday mornings. Please stop by the photo station upstairs before or after services to have your picture taken. No appointment necessary! OR you can download the app, log in, and upload your own photo for use in the directory. If you need help becoming familiar with the app, we have great volunteers to teach you!

Upcoming Fall Events at St. James. Make sure they are on your calendar!

- **Annual Congregation Meeting:** Today, Sunday November 19, 12-2 pm, St. James Worship Space
- **Thanksgiving Eve Meal and Service:** Wednesday November 22, 5 pm dinner, 7 pm worship. Bluegrass Liturgy worship service & blessing of the quilts.
- **Breakfast with Santa:** Saturday December 2, 8-11 am. Great community event; free & open to the public. Photos with Santa 9-11 am.

Event Details and RSVP at StJamesGettysburg.org/Events

Yoga for Gratitude: Fridays through December 22 in room 300 at 1:15 pm. There is no cost for classes and a free will offering will be collected.

Midweek Advent Worship Services: Services begin Wednesday November 29. Join us for dinner at 5:15 pm and worship at 6:30 pm.

Bible Study with Pastor Andrew: Each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Area. All are Welcome! We are currently studying Deuteronomy.

Poinsettia Orders: Orders are due on Thanksgiving. Flowers are \$10 each. Consider memorializing or honoring a loved one.
Order: stjamesgettysburg.org/Poinsettias



Sign-up for our weekly eBlast to always know what's happening at St. James!

StJamesGettysburg.org/eBlastSignUp

Giving to St. James: Your financial gift allows St. James to do *great* things! Our mission is to *live & love like Jesus*. We serve and support our community – both locally & globally. Your gift and support make a difference in our community & world. Thank you!!

Scan the QR code or visit StJamesGettysburg.org/give.



Serving in Worship

Presider

Vicar Libby Baker - Mikesell

Preacher

The Rev. Andrew R. Geib

Minister of Music

Jonathan Noel

Cantor and Soloist

Sue Currens

8:15 a.m. Worship Service

Assisting Minister

Daniel Bringman

Acolyte

Jack Altemose

Bell Ringer

Emma Schneider

Prayer of the Day

Emma Schneider

Lay Reader

Thomas Young

Communion Assistants

Jane Blocher

Shirley Sanders

Alan Haynes

Peggy Green

Ushers

Glenn Blocher

Cathy Haynes

Dave Williams

Dee Wells

Bread Baker

Vicar Libby Baker - Mikesell

Sacristy

Debby Luquette

Brie Smith

AV Operator

Denise Wood

Martin Luther Choir

Ryan Kozak, violin

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Assisting Minister

Daniel Bringman

Acolyte

Briah Russo

Bell Ringer

Elliott Johnson

Prayer of the Day

Noah Rospigliosi

Lay Reader

Seth Zimmann

Communion Assistants

Carol Cook

Anne Young

Peggy Green

Sharon Kaya

Ushers

John Fisher

Madison Cramer

Jayden Cramer

Kristi Cramer

Bread Baker

Ann Ketterman

Sacristy

Anne Young

Carol Cook

Flower Deliverer

Pete Bender

St. James Choir