

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



Sacrament of Holy Communion

July 19, 2026

8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

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. Please stand as you are able for parts of the service noted with an asterisk (*). Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

In this bulletin, ELW# refers to hymns in the back half of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (cranberry color). ACS# refers to hymns in the back half of *All Creation Sings* (purple color). Both books are found in the chair rack in front of you. Other symbols used throughout this bulletin:

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, whose compassion endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

P Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN: *Praise and Thanksgiving*

ELW 689

*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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L *Let us pray:* Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

VOCAL SOLO (10:45): *For the Mountains Shall Depart* (from 'Elijah')

Felix Mendelssohn

I go on my way in the strength of the Lord. For thou art my Lord; and I will suffer for thy sake. My heart is therefore glad; my glory rejoiceth; and my flesh shall also rest in hope. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but thy kindness shall not depart from me; neither shall the covenant of thy peace be removed.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Incline your ear, O LORD, to me,
 For I am poor, and need your care;
 My God, the anchor of my trust;
 The truest answer to my prayer.

You, LORD, have shown to me your grace,
 In ways beyond my mortal sight;
 Before your face, I lift my soul;
 To sing your praise is my delight!

With steadfast love and mercy sure,
 God hears confession and forgives;
 Redeemed the soul in which God dwells,
 And blest the heart in which God lives!

All nations shall proclaim you LORD,
 And at your name all knees shall bend
 To glorify your righteousness,
 And sing your praises without end.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

O Word of God Incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
We praise you for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON, FOLLOWED BY SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

ELW 693

*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: "God of grace," Our response: "hear our prayer."

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING (8:15): *The Fifers*

Jean-François Dandrieu

CHOIR ANTHEM (10:45): *Father, Lead Me Day by Day*

Hal Hopson

Father, lead me day by day, ever in thine own strong way; help me always to be true, show me what I ought to do. When in danger make me brave, make me know that thou canst save; keep me safely by thy side, let me in thy love abide. When I'm tempted to do wrong, make me steadfast, wise and strong; and when all alone I stand, shield me with thy mighty hand. Amen. (John P. Hopps)

*OFFERTORY

tune, Kremser

**We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

*OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

*DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

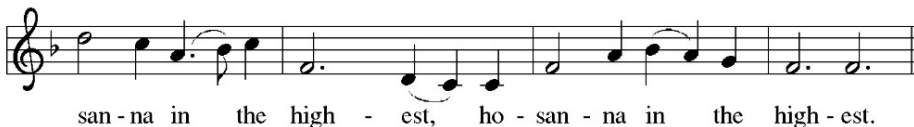
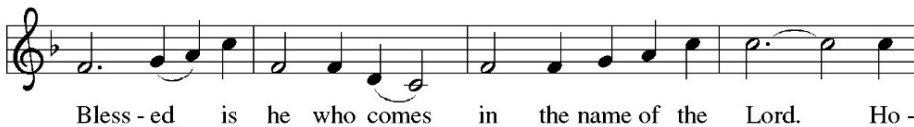
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE AND CANTICLE



*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

C 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 Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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.

*COMMUNION HYMN: *As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW 465

*TABLE BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A *Let us pray:* Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us in mission to the world

*BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: *On What Has Now Been Sown*

ELW 550

*DISMISSAL

A Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Fugue in C Major*

Johann Sebastian Bach

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Portions of the liturgy are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. "For the Mountains Shall Depart" is in the public domain. Anthem © 1978 Agape. Psalm © 2010 Michael Morgan and used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press. Gospel Acclamation and Offertory are in the public domain. Print and streaming permissions granted by Augsburg Fortress License #SAS024997, CCLI License #2678434, and OneLicense.net #A-707473.

Lift Up in Prayer

Debra Baker	Paulette Izydorski	Tom Smith	Jane
Helen Bardell	Diann James	John Steinberger	Josh & Lindsey
Rick Buck	Janet Landon	Michelle Steinberger	Leslie
Jim Caler	Sam & Ed Main	Mary Stevenson	Sally
David Chapman	Chelli McGlaughlin	Wendy Sykes	Sean
Judy Coup	Jen Mickelson	Dottie Thompson	Sue
Marty Crabill	Glenn Munsee	Cheryl Weaver	Tiffany
Joanne Fisher	Harold & Mindy Plank	Avery	Wayne
Tim Fleming	Charlie Raffensperger	Beverly	Wesley
Erin Freeman	Anne Rost	Bill	Will
Caleb Freeman	Selene Scavitto	Daniel	
Ruth Hess	Lisa Sites	Dennis	
Allison Hutchison	Lou Shuba	Jake	

The Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

Announcements



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.



Common Ground Recovery Ministry – All are welcome to join us @ 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room on the 1st Monday of each month. **Our next service is Monday 8/3/26!**

Prayer Shawl Ministry – St. James has a ministry of people knitting to make prayer shawls and baptism blankets to give to family members at funerals and baptisms. **We are currently in great need of prayer shawls to provide to grieving families.** Prayer shawls can be knitted or crocheted. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact the church office. We have a closet full of yarn that can be used for shawls. **Many thanks to those who have already dropped off prayer shawls in the church office!**

St. James' Softball– Come to cheer on St. James' best kept secret. This week, there is a game on Monday July 20 @ 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church (1015 Chambersburg Rd, Gettysburg).

Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Andrew –Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Area. We are watching a variety of movies over the summer.

Sunday School Updates – Youth Sunday School is on break for the summer. Many Adult Sunday School Classes continue to meet over the summer. Please be sure to address summer plans in your class over the coming weeks.

Summer Choir Schedule – Martin Luther Choir will continue their regular schedule of singing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, over the summer. Summer Choir sings each week at the Sunday 10:45 am service. Rehearsal is on Sundays at 10:25.

Breakfast Cooks Needed – On Wednesday mornings during the school year, we serve breakfast to our Middle & High School Youth, and we need more cooks! Volunteers serve about once a month, on a rotating schedule from mid August through the end of May, on Wednesday mornings from 5:45AM - 7:00AM at the St. James Youth House. Talk to Mr. Adam if you can help out.

Endowment Fund Applications Due - The St. James Endowment Committee is accepting applications to utilize endowment funds. Applications are due **tomorrow Monday, July 20.**

Dinner Groups Picnic -Today at 4PM. For more information or questions, speak with Anne Gomer or a member of the Evangelism Committee.

Just War Series – Led by Tom Vossler, this 2-part series will be held at St. James on July 23 and July 30 at 6 pm, and will examine the concept of a “just war.”

St. James' Summer Youth Activities

Family, Faith and Fun Nights: Thursdays @ 6 p.m.: activities will include water games, crafts, video game night, hide and seek in the church, and board games. Pizza served every week! Email youth@stjamesgettysburg.org or text or call Mr. Adam, 717-357-0441, to let him know if you're coming each week!

Cunningham Falls: Wed., July 29, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Open to all middle & high school youth. See Mr. Adam for additional details.

Serving in Worship

Preacher

Rev. Andrew Geib

Presider

Rev. Libby Baker-Mikesell

Minister of Music

Jonathan Noel

Vocal Solo

(10:45) Wayne Hill

Choir Anthem

(10:45) Summer Choir

Assisting Minister

Debra Baker

8:15 am Worship Service

Acolyte

Bell Ringer

Oliver Kehr

Prayer of the Day

Oliver Kehr

Lay Readers

Ernie Kranias

Ila Verdirame

Communion Assistants

Kathy Smith, Shirley Sanders

Kim McGlaughlin

Judy Seilhamer

Ushers

Brad Smith, Dee Wells

Alan Zepp, Cindy Zepp

Greeters

Kim McGlaughlin

Bread Baker

Sacristy

Cynthia Smith

Shirley Sanders

Coffee Host

Shirley Sanders

AV Operator

Gary Smith

10:45 am Worship Service

Acolyte

Sophia Schade

Bell Ringer

Prayer of the Day

Gabbi Geib

Lay Readers

Andy Crouse, Anne Young

Communion Assistants

Jan Keefer, Gloria Unger

Anne Young, Sonja Withrow

Ushers

Mark Withrow, Gabbi

Scavitto

John Fisher, Bob Cook

Greeters

Tom Uhlig

Bread Baker

Sue Roberts

Sacristy

Ann Ketterman

Jean Uhlig

Flower Deliverer

Pete Bender

AV Operator

Joseph MacDowell