ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2026

OUR MISSION:

We are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus through worship, witness, and ministry to our members and community.

Welcome *to St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are visiting and you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your church home, but above all, we invite you to come and worship with us at any time. We worship every Sunday at 9:15 am. If you would like to speak to speak directly to Pastor Randy, please call his cell (716) 225-3591.*

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Prelude

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sin to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.
P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
C: Who made heaven and earth.
P: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.
C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Time for silent reflection)

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Most merciful God, you have given your Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your word, so that by your grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. The Almighty and merciful God grant unto you that are penitent pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

Hymn # 247 ..... "Come, Thou Almighty King"

1 Come, thou almighty King, Help us thy name to sing;
Help us to praise; Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious, Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

2 Come, thou incarnate Word, Gird on thy mighty sword;
Our prayer attend. Come and thy people bless,
And give thy Word success, And let thy righteousness
On us descend.

3 Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour! Thou who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart, And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

4 To thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be
Hence evermore! Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see, And to eternity
Love and adore.

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 with your spirit.

Kyrie Eleison ("Lord have mercy...")

♪Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
♪Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis (Glory be to God on high...")

P: Glory be to God on High and on earth peace, good will to all.

♪Lord, we praise your name on high, worship you and glorify.
To the Lamb of God we cry and join the angel's song.

Refrain:
Gloria! Let the music flow. Gloria! To the earth below.
Gloria! Feel our hearts aglow with the joyful angel's song.

You have borne the sins of all. Mercy, Lord, and hear our call.
Everyone, both great and small, come join the angel's song.
(Refrain)
You, alone, the Holy One, You, alone, God's only Son,
In your name we've just begun to join the angel's song.
(Refrain)

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And with your spirit.

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord God, rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, that while keeping the end of all things in mind, we may be stirred up to holiness in this life and come to be with you forever in that life to come. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7-16

7 Be silent before the LORD God! For the day of the LORD is near; the
LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 8 And on the
day of the LORD's sacrifice — "I will punish the officials and the king's
sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. 9 On that day I will
punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their
master's house with violence and fraud. 10 On that day," declares the
LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second
Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. 11 Wail, O inhabitants of the
Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are
cut off. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will

punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' [13]Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." [14]The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. [15]A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, [16]a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Psalm 90:1-12

[1]LORD, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
[2]Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.
[3]You turn us back to the dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth."
[4]For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night.
[5]You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like the grass.
[6]In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.
[7]For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
[8]Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
[9]When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
[10]The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

[11]Who regards the power of your wrath? who rightly fears your indignation?
[12]So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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

Gospel Acclamation

♪Hallelu! Halleluia! Give praise to the Lord for the blessings of heaven in God's holy Word. For the words of forgiveness, the words that endure, Hallelu! Hallelujah! Give praise to the Lord.

♪Glory be to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

14{Jesus said to the disciples,} “For it will be like a man going on a
journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.
15To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each
according to his ability. Then he went away. 16He who had received
the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five
talents more. 17So also he who had the two talents made two talents
more. 18But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the
ground and hid his master’s money. 19Now after a long time the master
of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20And he who
had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more,
saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five
talents more.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful
servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.
Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22And he also who had the two
talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents;
here, I have made two talents more.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well
done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I
will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24He also
who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew
you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering
where you scattered no seed, 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your
talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26But his master
answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap
where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27Then
you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my
coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28So
take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.
29For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an
abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be
taken away. 30And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness.
In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

♪Praise be to you, O Christ

Nicene Creed
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and our salvation, He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son Hi is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon ..... "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant"

#267 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of thy tone;
As thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thy erring children, lost and lone.

2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
The wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious things thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.

4 O fill me with thy fullness, Lord,
Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

Announcements

Offering: *As a guest or visitor, we acknowledge your presence as the only offering expected today.*

Offertory: ♪We Give Thee but Thine Own
♪We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.

Offertory Prayer:
P: Holy God, we give you thanks for all that we have: ourselves, our time and our treasures, all that first belonged to you and has been gifted to us, your children. Accept our offerings as a sign of our devotion to you, and make us truly grateful for the many gifts we have received. In Jesus' holy name we pray. **C: Amen**

Prayers of the Church
P: "Lord, in your mercy," **C: "Hear our prayer."**

P: Lord, be merciful to us all, and when we reach our final hour, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection into your glory. **C: Amen**

Prefaces & Sanctus

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And with your spirit.
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 him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right and salutary, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to you, O Lord holy Father, almighty everlasting God: Through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord and Savior, who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your right hand, poured out the Holy Spirit as he had promised upon the chosen disciples, causing the whole earth to rejoice. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name; evermore praising you, and singing:

♪C: Holy, Holy, Holy, God of Pow'r almighty.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer and Words of Institution

C: 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.

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me. Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me.

Agnus Dei & Distribution of Communion

♪C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Lamb of God, your mercies never cease. Lamb of God, you take the sins of the world. Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, you give us peace

Communion Hymns

#217 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love, And do what thou wouldst do.

2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will, To do and to endure.

3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, Unite my soul with thine,
Until this earthly part of me Glows with thy fire divine.

4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life Of thine eternity.

#223 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a solace there.

#252 Beautiful Savior

1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Hymn #212 ..... "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

1. O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!

Refrain:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in his wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of his glory and grace.

2. Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow him there;
Over us sin no more hath dominion,
For more than conqu'rors we are! ***Refrain:***

3. His Word shall not fail you, he promised;
Believe him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell! ***Refrain:***

#237 Jesus, Still Lead On

1 Jesus, still lead on, Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow, calm and fearless;
Guide us by your hand To our Father's land.

2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
Let no faithless fears o'ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
Safely past the foe To our home we go.

3 When we seek relief From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.

4 Jesus, still lead on, Till our rest is won;
Heav'nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand In our Father's land.

#27 God is so Good

1 God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, he's so good to me.

2 He cares for me, he cares for me,
He cares for me, he's so good to me.

3 He loves me so, he loves me so,
He loves me so, he's so good to me.

4 God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, he's so good to me.

Nunc Dimittus

C: Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, According to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, Which you have prepared before the face of all people: A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this your salutary gift; and we ask you in your mercy to strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **C: Amen.**

Benedicamus & Benediction

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And with your spirit.**
P: Bless the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

#26 How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: ***Refrain***

3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin. ***Refrain***

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" ***Refrain***

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord…**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Next Week's Readings:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46

Let Us Remember in Our Prayers (*St. James Member)

*John Milleville
*Mark Voelker
*Roger Siegmann
*Bill Salisbury
*Deliah Licht
*Dennis Schmidt
*John Miskey III
*Mike DeVantier
* Norma DeVantier
*Jolene Nearhood
Denise Joy
Ronaldo Posa
Barb Haseley (St. Peters)
Greg Milleville
Sabine Miskey
Dan Osgood
William Love
Bo O'Brien
Kathy Wittmeyer
Gianna Bianco
Joseph Scalzo

Also Remember in Our Prayers

Those in nursing homes and shut-ins

*Elly Milleville
*Ruth Haseley
*Judy Brown
*Jean Schmidt
James Heath

Organizations and Community

Stephen Ministry
"Young Life"
Our area public and parochial schools
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wilson

All Emergency Services personnel

*Scott Milleville
Michael Jon DeVantier
David Nedell

The members of our armed forces

The men and women serving at the N.F. Air Base
Matthew Reddy (Niagara Falls)
Justin DeVantier (Niagara Falls)
Edmond Moloney (Hawaii)
Eric Graca (Illinois)
Michael Coulter (South Korea)
Joshua Drasgow (Washington State)
Keith Coleman (Okinawa)
Nicholas Horvath (Middle East)