



## **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

### **May 18, 2025**

#### **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 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 #203 ..... "Dearest Jesus at Your Word"**

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word  
We have come again to hear you;  
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
And in glowing faith be near you  
As the promises here given  
Draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
Till your Spirit breaks the night,  
Filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living  
Come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright,  
Light of light from God proceeding,  
Jesus, send your blessed light;  
Help our hearing, speaking, heeding,  
That our prayers and songs may please you,  
As with grateful hearts we praise you.
- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Praise to you and adoration!  
Grant us what we need the most;  
Your blest Gospel's consolation, While we here on earth await you,  
Till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

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

O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

<sup>1</sup>The apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, <sup>3</sup>“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” <sup>4</sup>But Peter began and explained it to them in order: <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. <sup>6</sup>Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. <sup>11</sup>And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ <sup>15</sup>As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy

Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” <sup>18</sup>When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

### **Psalm 150 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!

<sup>2</sup>**Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

<sup>4</sup>**Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!**

<sup>5</sup>Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

<sup>6</sup>**Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!**

### **Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have

passed away.” <sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

### **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: John 16:12-22**

<sup>12</sup>{Jesus said to his disciples,} “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>16</sup>A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” <sup>17</sup>So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” <sup>18</sup>So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” <sup>19</sup>Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? <sup>20</sup>Truly, truly, I say

to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup>When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup>So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

**♪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 He 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....."Making No Distinction"**

**Hymn #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.

**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 But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. For he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again, has restored to us everlasting life.

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

**All Hymns are from St. James Sings**

**SJS #60 – Come, Ye Disconsolate**

<sup>1</sup> Come, ye disconsolate, wher-e'er ye languish;  
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel;  
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;  
Earth has no sorrow that heav'n can not heal.

<sup>2</sup> Joy of the desolate, Light of the straying,  
Hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure,  
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,  
Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot cure.

<sup>3</sup>Here see the Bread of Life; see waters flowing,  
forth from the throne of God, pure from above;  
Come to the feast of love; come ever knowing  
Earth has no sorrow but heav'n can remove. Amen.

### **SJS #55 – Here, O My Lord**

<sup>1</sup> Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;  
here would I touch and handle things unseen;  
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace  
and all my weariness upon Thee lean.

<sup>2</sup> Here would I feed upon the bread of God,  
here drink with Thee the royal wine of heaven;  
here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

<sup>3</sup> This is the hour of banquet and of song;  
this is the heav'nly table spread for me;  
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong  
the brief, bright hour of fellowship with Thee.

<sup>4</sup> I have no help but thine; nor do I need  
Another arm save thine to lean upon;  
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;  
My strength is in thy might, the might alone.

<sup>5</sup> Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness;  
Mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing Blood;  
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace;  
Thy Blood, thy righteousness, O Lord, my God. Amen

## **SJS #39 – The Light of the World is Jesus**

<sup>1</sup>The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin,  
The Light of the world is Jesus!  
Like sunshine at noonday, His glory shone in;  
The Light of the world is Jesus!

### ***Refrain:***

Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee;  
Sweetly the light has dawned upon me;  
Once I was blind, but now I can see:  
The Light of the world is Jesus!

<sup>2</sup>No darkness have we who in Jesus abide;  
The Light of the world is Jesus!  
We walk in the light when we follow our Guide!  
The Light of the world is Jesus! ***Refrain:***

No need of the sunlight in Heaven we're told;  
The Light of the world is Jesus!  
The Lamb is the Light in the city of gold,  
The Light of the world is Jesus! ***Refrain:***

## **SJS #20 – Have Thine Own Way**

1. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after Thy will,  
While I am waiting, yielded and still.
2. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Search me and try me, Master, today!  
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,  
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.
3. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!  
Power, all power, surely is Thine!  
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.

4. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!  
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see  
Christ only, always, living in me.

**SJS #56 – And Now, O Father Mindful of the Love**

1 And now, O Father, mindful of the love  
that bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,  
And having with us him that pleads above,  
We here present, we here spread forth to thee  
That only offering perfect in thine eyes,  
The one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.

2 Look, Father, look on his anointed face,  
And only look on us as found in him;  
Look not on our misusings of thy grace,  
Our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim:  
For lo, between our sins and their reward  
We set the Passion of thy Son our Lord. Amen

**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.**

Benediamus & 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.

**Hymn #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.

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

*Postlude*

Next Week's Readings:

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27; John 16:23-33

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

*John Milleville	*Steve Stumpf	Greg Milleville
*Jan Voelker	Rob Cornelius	Denise Joy
*Mark Voelker	Sharon Gates	Kate Hughey
*Roger Siegmann	Deliah Licht	Sabine Miskey
*Bill Salisbury	Alfred Swift	Mary Beth O'Brien
*Beth Wruck	Linda Arnold	
*Marina Posa Vickers	Cassie Stumpf	

## **Also Remember in Our Prayers**

### **Those in nursing homes and shut-ins**

*Morrie Johnson	*Elly Milleville
*Judy Brown	*Bill Rafter, Sr.
James Heath	

### **Organizations and Community**

Stephen Ministry

\*Young Life"

Our area public and parochial schools

### **All Emergency Services personnel**

\*Scott Milleville

Michael Joh DeVantier

David Nedell

### **The members of our armed forces**

The men and women serving at the N.F. Air Base

Matthew Reddy (Niagara Falls)

Eric Graca (South Korea)

Justin DeVantier (Niagara Falls)

Michael Coulter (Korea)

Edmond Moloney (Virginia)

Joshua Drasgow (Washington State)

Keith Coleman (Okinawa)