



# ST. JAMES

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2437 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

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## OUR MISSION:

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

## **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 16, 2024**

*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.*

*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 #243: My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

- 1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away,  
Oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!
  
- 2 May thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!
  
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,  
Be thou my guide; Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away, Nor let me ever stray From thee aside.
  
- 4 When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll; Blest Savior, then, in love Fear and distrust remove;  
Oh, bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

**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

**Almighty One, renew us daily through the power of your Holy Spirit that we might be nurtured in faith and holiness through having been grafted onto the true vine, Jesus Christ, our Lord; in whose holy name we pray. Amen.**

## First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. <sup>24</sup>And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

## Psalm 1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

**<sup>2</sup>but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

**<sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**<sup>6</sup>for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

## **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened — not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. <sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

### 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.**

### Gospel Reading: Mark 4:26-34

**♪Glory be to you, O Lord**

<sup>26</sup>{Jesus} said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” <sup>30</sup>And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on

earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” <sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

**♪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.....”How Does Your Garden Grow?”

**Hymn #15: God Moves in a Mysterious Way**

**(sung to the tune of *O God, Our Help of Ages Past*)**

1 God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;  
He plants his footsteps in the sea And rides upon the storm.

2 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust him for his grace;  
Behind a frowning providence Faith sees a smiling face.

3 Blind unbelief is sure to err And scan his work in vain;  
God is his own interpreter, And he will make it plain.

4 You fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds you so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break In blessing on your head.

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.**

## **Hymn #201: Children of the Heavenly Father**

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in his bosom gather;  
Nestling bird or star in heaven  
Such a refuge ne'er was given.
- 2 God his own doth tend and nourish,  
In his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them,  
In his mighty arms he bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord his children sever;  
Unto them his grace he showeth,  
And their sorrows all he knoweth.
- 4 Though he giveth or he taketh,  
God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

## **Hymn #83: Let Us Break Bread Together**

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
Let us break bread together on our knees.

*Refrain:* When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (*refrain*)

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
Let us praise God together on our knees. (*refrain*)

### **Hymn #34: This Is My Father's World**

1 This is my Father's world, And to my list'ning ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world; The birds their carols raise;  
The morning light, the lily white, Declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world; He shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; He speaks to me ev'rywhere.

3 This is my Father's world; Oh, let me not forget  
That, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world; Why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let the heavens ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

### **Hymn #90: I Love Your Kingdom, Lord**

1 I love your kingdom, Lord, The place of your abode;  
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With his own precious blood.

2 I love your Church, O God! Its walls before you stand,  
Dear as the apple of your eye And graven on your hand.

3 Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,  
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.

4 Sure as your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n  
The brightest glories earth can yield, And brighter bliss of heav'n.

### **Hymn #48: Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.

3 We share each other's woes, Each other's burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part It gives us inward pain,  
But we shall be joined in heart, And hope to meet again.

### **Hymn #226: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure; Save me from its guilt and pow'r.

2 Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hands I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to thee for dress; Helpless, look to thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath, When my eyes shall close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee.

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.

## Hymn #211: Great is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain:* Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (*Refrain*)

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (*Refrain*)

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

*Postlude*



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

*Bill Salisbury	*Jan Voelker	Roger Myers
*Dennis Schmidt	*Laurie Schmidt	Greg Milleville
*Mark Voelker	Cassie Stumpf	Denise Joy
*Lewis Burgio	Bob Foster	Mary Ann Ivey
*Roger Siegmann	James Heath	Kate Hughey
*John Milleville	Sabine Miskey	
*Duane DeVantier	Alfred Swift	

## Also Remember in Our Prayers

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

*Morrie Johnson	*Judy Brown	*Glenn Schmidli
*Elly Milleville	*Audrey Schmidli	

### **Organizations and Community**

Stephen Ministry

“Young Life”

Our area public and parochial schools

### **All Emergency Services personnel**

*Scott Milleville	David Nedell
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\*Michael Jon DeVantier

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

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

Matthew Reddy (Niagara Falls)

Joshua Drasgow (Korea)

Edmond Moloney (Virginia)

Justin DeVantier (Niagara Falls)

Eric Graca (South Korea)

Keith Coleman (Okinawa)

Michael Coulter (Korea)

