

# *St. James Lutheran Church*

## **Our Mission**

**Welcoming all people to abide in Christ, to experience God's love, and to do God's work in the world around us.**



*Season of Pentecost  
Welcome to our Service*

*Please rise as you are able. Congregation responds with indented bold printed parts. Where you see † you may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked on our forehead at baptism.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility,  
confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and Faithful God,

**you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,**

**known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others**

**and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away**

**from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you**

**and set us on the right path;**

**in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**Amen.**

# Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;  
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,  
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,  
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;  
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984  
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829  
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## PRAYER OF DAY

Let us Pray

**O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

**THE FIRST READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 50TH CHAPTER OF GENESIS.**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as God is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way Joseph reassured them, speaking kindly to them

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

**WE WILL READ PSALM 103 RESPONSIVELY.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.**

Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.

**Who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

Who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

**Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

You will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

**You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

As a father and mother have compassion for their children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

### **THE SECOND READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 14TH CHAPTER OF ROMANS.**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as able.*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE 18TH CHAPTER OF MATTHEW.**

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Good News of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

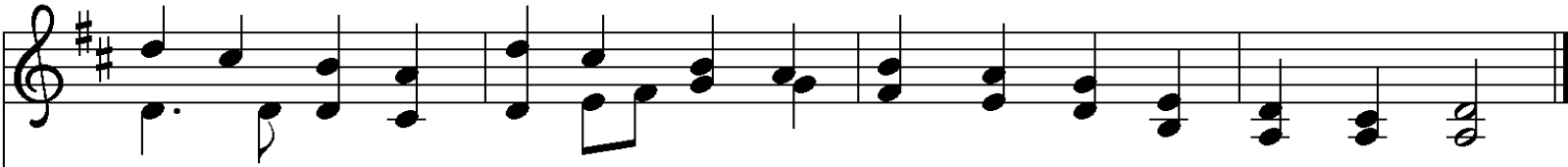
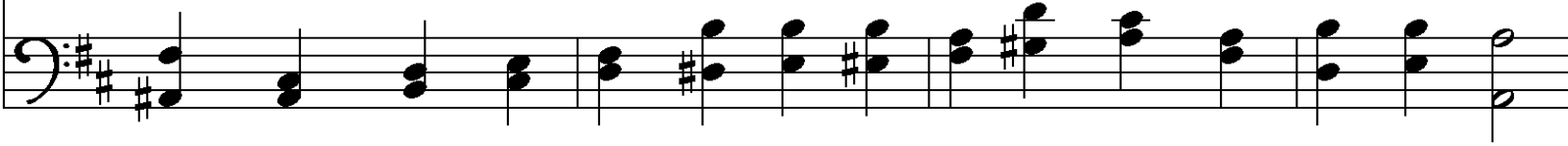
# Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



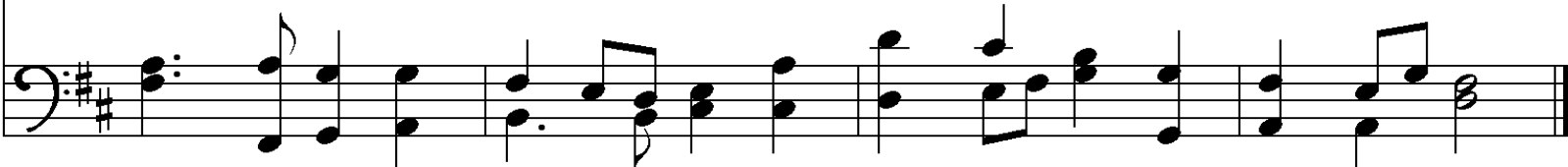
1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib - ute bring.  
2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore - bears in dis - tress.  
3 Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;  
4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres - ence, face to face.



Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais - es sing.  
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.  
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.  
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005  
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

*Please rise as able*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
And born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,  
And is seated at the right hand of God almighty.  
He will come again 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**

*At end of each prayer when the pastor says: Merciful God,  
the response is: **Receive our prayer.***

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Jesus offers us peace, not as the world gives, but the peace of his gracious and loving presence through the Holy Spirit. May that same peace be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*You may share the peace with those around you as you feel comfortable and with the words: "The Peace of Christ be with you."*

## **OFFERING**

*Please be seated. Please remember your offering on the way out and place in the plate in narthex or mail to the church. Your gifts of thankfulness to God help us to share the Good News of God's love.*



## OFFERTORY - GIVE THANKS

***Give thanks with a grateful heart***

***Give thanks to the holy one***

***Give thanks because we're given***

***Jesus Christ, God's son (repeat)***

***And now let the weak say "I am strong"***

***Let the poor say "I am rich***

***Because of what the lord***

***Has done for us" (repeat)***

***Give thanks (repeat 3x)***

*Please rise as able*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

In humble sacrifice, Christ offered himself on the cross in wondrous love for us.

**In mercy and compassion Christ offered us his body and blood that we might know God's forgiveness.**

And so we again listen to Christ's Words, when on the night of his betrayal, Christ took the bread, 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, Christ took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *"Take and drink, this 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."*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray in a manner as our Lord taught us:

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated. As a church of the ELCA we welcome all people to the table to receive our Lord's meal, or a blessing. Come forward to receive an empty cup from the tray. Then come forward to receive the wafer and wine (or grape juice). If you prefer, pre-packaged cups of gluten free bread and grape juice are in tray.*

## **SHARING OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior strengthen and keep you in God's grace.

**Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.**

**Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.**

**Amen.**

# BENEDICTION

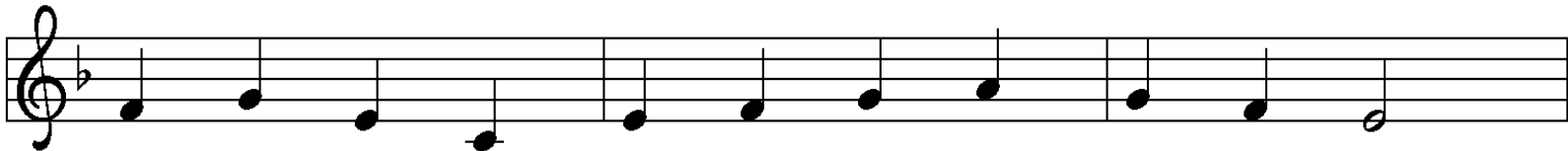
The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -  
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.  
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.  
Text © Oxford University Press.

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Please Pray for: Jennifer Johnson, Dolores Fiori, Laura Librizzi, Joan & Marx Heller, Diane Eby, Winnie Ziegler, Hannah Bonchi, Rita Ricca, Claire Gilmore, Don Haines, Henry Butterhoff, Bette Jackson, Maggie Rider, Marlene Triggian, Catherine Sabatini, Sharon Schwabs, Edythe Aselta, Toni Marinelli, Fran Penza, Bob & Ellie Frietag, Ed Shine, Christina Spahn, Emily Shenansky, Pierre LaCombe, George Cappuccio, Karin Cerrato, Heather Lang, Betty Haines, Santino Reyes, Jessica Lewis, Madilynn Rose Powell, Dawn Hatch, Dan P., Lori Horton-O'Neill, Louie Rider, Tom Dixon, Arlene Calletta, Dolores Chappine, and Ed Volpa, for the family of Robert Gratz (brother in law of Sharon Hitchens) as they mourn his death. for the NJ Synod, our Bishop and staff, and the ELCA and its ministries.**

**Prayer List Guidelines** – You may submit names after receiving the person's permission for their name to be shared publicly. **Each month, the list is created anew and you may resubmit name(s).** Please share your name so we may follow up on the progress of your loved one.

**The Prayer List is available in the Narthex**

**Office Hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:30-1:00**

**Please call to see if secretary is available.**

**Church office 609-561-4488**

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Pastor Pamela J. Werner</b> ..... | <b>609-335-3083</b>                          |
| <b>Pastor's Email</b> .....          | <b>laffinggal@comcast.net</b>                |
| <b>Amanda Dilks</b> .....            | <b>Secretary</b>                             |
| <b>Church Email</b> .....            | <b>stjameslutheran@folsom.comcastbiz.net</b> |
| <b>Web</b> .....                     | <b>www.stjamesfolsom.org</b>                 |
| <b>Organists</b> .....               | <b>Maria Doukhnaï &amp; Michael Hozik</b>    |



**THE ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY  
OF HARRY LUTZ BY JAYNE CARMEN  
AND OF BETTY ROWE BY ROSE JONES**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SUN. SEPT 17            9:00 AM    SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS  
                                 10:00 AM    WORSHIP  
**DINE OUT RSVPS DUE TODAY!**

WED. SEPT 20            7:00 PM    EVENING WORSHIP

SAT. SEPT 23            5:30 PM    DINE OUT AT MILL ST. PUB  
*CARPPOOL MEET AT CHURCH @ 5:00*

SUN. SEPT 24            10:00 AM    WORSHIP



**SAT., OCT. 7 - FAMILY AND FRIENDS FUN NIGHT**  
Come out and join us for a night of games and fun.  
Bring games you like to play. Pizza will be provided.  
Bring a light snack to share, plus your favorite  
beverage. Invite your friends.

**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

We are participating in the Halloween parades in  
Hammonton and Mays Landing again! We are  
asking for donations of individually wrapped candies  
to hand out to the children along the parade routes.  
Due October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you!



**We need your help:** Each week we need people to help set up and clean our communion ware, plus people who are willing to assist with communion. We also need readers (scriptures are sent out prior so that you can read over them.) We will train you. Please help. Thank you.

| <b>Worship Ministers</b> | <b>This Week: 09/17/23</b> | <b>Next Week: 09/24/23</b> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Reader                   | Jim Valenti                | Debbie Caglianone          |
| Communion Assistants     | Volunteers Needed          | Volunteers Needed          |
| Altar Guild              | Volunteer Needed           | Volunteer Needed           |
| Coffee Hour              | <b>No Coffee Hour</b>      | <b>No Coffee Hour</b>      |

## FORGIVENESS MATH

Peter is still trying to figure out how many times to forgive when someone does something to harm him. Can you help him solve these math problems? Use the space on the right to work them out. (Answers on back)

- 1) IF YOU FORGAVE 62 TIMES, AND THEN FORGAVE 27 MORE TIMES, HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU FORGIVE?
- 2) IF YOU FORGAVE 3 TIMES, AND THEN FORGAVE TWICE AS MANY AS 3 TIMES, HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU FORGIVE?
- 3) IF YOU FORGAVE 60 TIMES, HOW MANY MORE TIMES WOULD YOU HAVE TO FORGIVE TO REACH 77 TIMES?
- 4) IF 2 PEOPLE FORGAVE 9 TIMES EACH, AND 5 PEOPLE FORGAVE 3 TIMES EACH, HOW MANY PEOPLE FORGAVE?
- 5) IF YOU FORGAVE 6 TIMES, THEN 18 TIMES, THEN 25 TIMES, AND THEN 8 MORE TIMES, HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU FORGIVE?



### Did You Know?

Seven was a number that represented unlimited amounts. Like, when we say "infinity times infinity!" So when Jesus said to forgive seventy-seven times, that meant "more times than you can even imagine!"



### TRY IT AT HOME!

Write down something someone did to hurt your feelings. With a grown-up's



## Forgiveness

Jesus' friend, Peter, had an important question for Jesus.

"Jesus, if one of our friends does something I don't like, do I have to forgive him?" he asked.

"Of course," Jesus said.

Peter frowned. "But what if he does it more than once?"

"Forgive him more than once," Jesus answered.

"But how many times do I have to forgive him? As many as seven times?"

Jesus sighed. "Oh, Peter, Peter. Not just seven times. Or seventeen, or twenty-seven. Even as many as seventy-seven times. And more!"

Peter was surprised. "Really? Wow. That's a lot."

"No one is perfect, Peter. God wants us to forgive our sisters and brothers from our hearts so we can all live together in peace."



### REMEMBER THIS

#### **FORGIVE**

To let go of anger about something someone has done to harm us.

# Draw & Color

Draw a picture of a time you made a mistake.  
Then forgive yourself for your mistake—God does.

ANSWERS  
1)  $62 + 27 = 89$   
2)  $3 + (2 \times 3) = 3 + 6 = 9$   
3)  $77 - 60 = 17$   
4)  $2 + 5 = 7$   
5)  $6 + 16 + 26 + 8 = 67$