

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.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



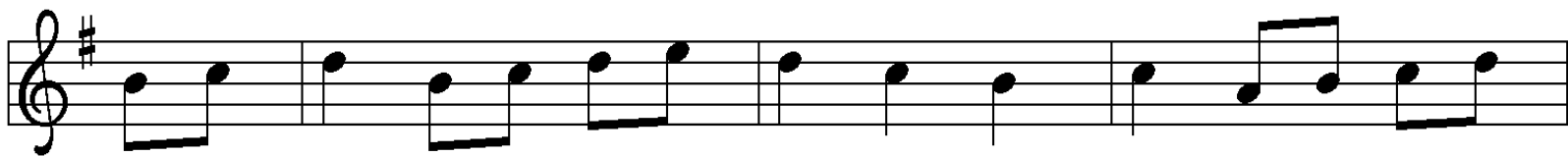
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



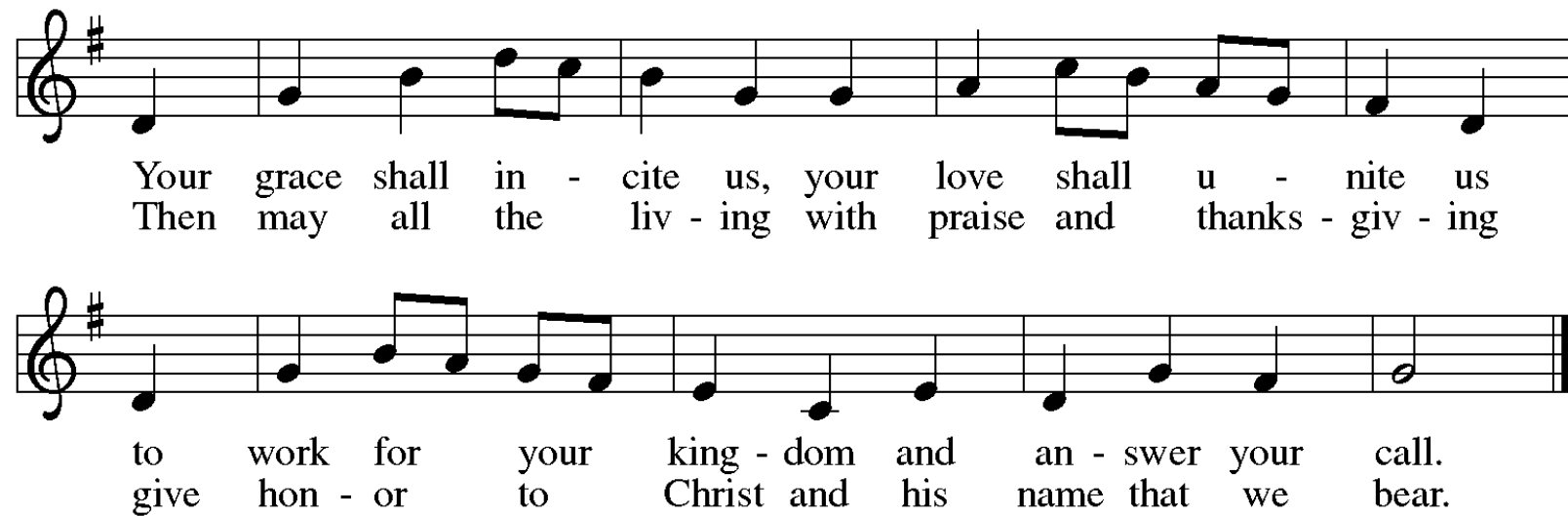
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing
 to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

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PRAYER OF DAY

Let us Pray

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

THE FIRST READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 25TH CHAPTER OF ISAIAH.

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore, strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And the Lord will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; the Lord will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of the people the Lord will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for the Almighty, so that God might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

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

Psalm

WE WILL READ PSALM 23 RESPONSIVELY.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

THE SECOND READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 4TH CHAPTER OF PHILIPPIANS.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have

struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Please rise as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE 22ND CHAPTER OF MATTHEW.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

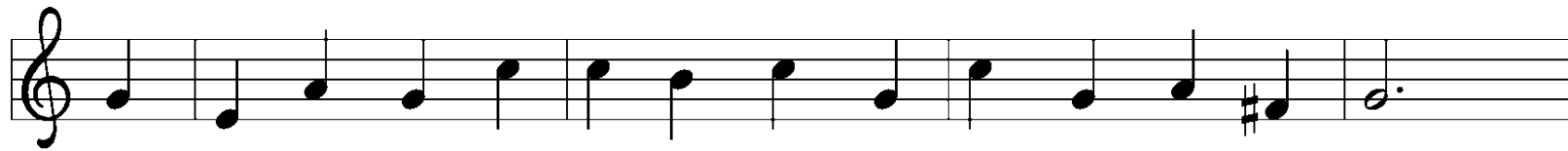
“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

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: God of grace,
the response is: **Hear our prayer.***

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Jesus offers us 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 are available (Gluten free have printing on them).

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

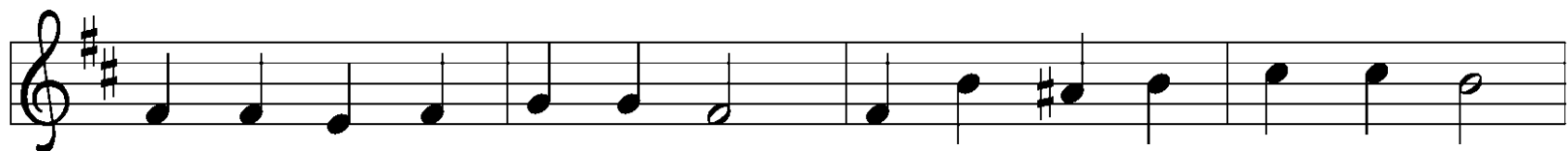
The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

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IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

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, Pierre LaCombe, George Cappuccio, Karin Cerrato, Heather Lang, Betty Haines, Santino Reyes, Jessica Lewis, Madilynn Rose Powell, Dawn Hatch, Dan P., Louie Rider, Tom Dixon, Arlene Calletta, Dolores Chappine, Ed Volpa, Mike Fountas, Gwen Forbes, Jen Robinson, Craig Denelsbeck, Liam and Dominique.

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.

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Pastor Pamela J. Werner	609-335-3083
Pastor’s Email	laffinggal@comcast.net
Amanda Dilks	Secretary
Church Email	stjameslutheran@folsom.comcastbiz.net
Web	www.stjamesfolsom.org
Organists	Maria Doukhnaï & Michael Hozik



**THE ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN
GRANDMOM JEAN GRASSO & GRANDPOP JOE
BY CHARLES, DIANE & ELIZABETH EBY**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUN. OCT 15	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:00 AM	WORSHIP
WED. OCT 18	7:00 PM	EVENING WORSHIP
SUN. OCT 22	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL/CONFIRMATION
	10:00 AM	WORSHIP
	11:00 AM	FLOAT DECORATING

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.

ALL DONATIONS ARE DUE NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND.



HALLOWEEN FLOAT PREP

OCTOBER 22ND - FOLLOWING WORSHIP

We are looking for volunteers to help prep and put together decorations for our Halloween parade float.

If you plan to walk with us in the parade, our theme is Fallen Angels. We can size you for one of our choir gowns or you can wear something white.

We have purchased halos if you need. Please sign up in Narthex.



HALLOWEEN FUN NIGHT - Oct. 28, 6pm - Join us for a night of fun at Beth and Don Grasso's, 1353 Mays Landing Rd. Explore the spooky basement, and then join us for s'mores at the campfire. Bob for apples and other games. Invite friends. Sign up in Narthex or email office to let us know if you are coming.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS: We have begun collecting food donations for our Thanksgiving baskets. We appreciate all donations. Help families in need to have a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. *Donations are due Sunday, November 12th.*



Thanksgiving Baskets

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.

Worship Ministers	This Week: 10/15/23	Next Week: 10/22/23
Reader	Linda Kisby	Holly Kiernan
Communion Assistants	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Altar Guild	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Coffee Hour	No Coffee Hour	No Coffee Hour

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Can you find 10 differences between these two party pictures?



Did You Know?

The world's largest wedding banquet was held in Madras, India in 1995. More than 150,000 people attended. But that's nothing compared to God's banquet in heaven! **EVERYONE** will be there!



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TRY IT AT HOME!

Ask a grown-up about their wedding or another wedding they've been to.

KidStuff

By Clergy Stuff
RCL Kids' Bulletin

October 15, 2023

Pentecost 20

Matthew 22:1-14

The Wedding Banquet

Jesus told another parable about God's reign.

"A king threw a wedding dinner for his son. He invited lots of people. But the people he invited didn't come. They even hurt his messengers.

"The king was angry. He sent his messengers out to invite anyone they met, no matter who they were. So they did. The dinner was full of people!

"But one guest was wearing clothing that disrespected everyone at the banquet, so the king had him thrown out.

Jesus' friends thought they understood. God had invited lots of people to follow Jesus. But lots of people had ignored Jesus or even hurt his friends. So God said, "Everyone is invited!"

Every single person, no matter what, is invited into God's banquet. But God wants us to come to the banquet dressed in love for God and others.



REMEMBER THIS

BANQUET

A big dinner party for lots of guests. God's reign (heaven) is often compared to a banquet.

Draw & Color

Imagine you're at a big party that God threw. Draw what you imagine, and yourself in your best party clothes.