



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

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WELCOME

Welcome to Saint James, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Southeast Michigan Synod. Thank you for being part of this gathered assembly as we worship the Risen Lord and receive the sacrament. If this is your first time worshipping with Saint James, we extend a special greeting to you and invite you to introduce yourself to your neighbor in the pew. If you have questions about Saint James or are looking for a spiritual home, please reach out to Pastor Grant (pastor@stjamesgp.org).

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

WORSHIP & HOLY EUCHARIST

All of the materials needed for this liturgy can be found in this bulletin and in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) book found in the pew rack. The celebration of the sacrament, **Holy Eucharist** (also called the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion), is central to our worship. As host of the meal, Jesus extends a wide welcome for all to participate. Distribution information is found on page 10. If you would prefer to commune in the pew, please alert an usher prior to the start of worship.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

As We Gather at Your Table

David N. Johnson

STAND

GATHERING

The sign of the cross is made in remembrance of Holy Baptism.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

silence for reflection & personal confession

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

+

indicates that the sign of the cross may be made here to remember the gift of forgiveness that Jesus has given to us through his death and resurrection.

This is the good news:

We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,

in whom there is no condemnation,

but only forgiveness + and the promise of eternal life.

Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN *At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing* ELW 362:1-4

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) is the red worship book in the pew rack. In the ELW,

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Drawn from John 1:29, the hymn of praise gives thanks for Jesus, who is the Lamb of God, whose sacrificial death has taken away the sins of the world.

Blessed are all who worship God, hear The Word, and share in the Holy Meal.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

SIT

Amen.

WORD

FIRST LESSON

see page 12 of this bulletin

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

see page 13 of this bulletin

SECOND LESSON

see page 14 of this bulletin

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

*STAND & SING as
the procession
moves to the
center of the
sanctuary.*



Verse: *This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation. (Isa. 25:9)*

REPEAT ALLELUIA

HOLY GOSPEL

see page 15 of this bulletin

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

*The Holy Gospel
(God's Word) is a
reminder that our
Lord is in our midst.*

after the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

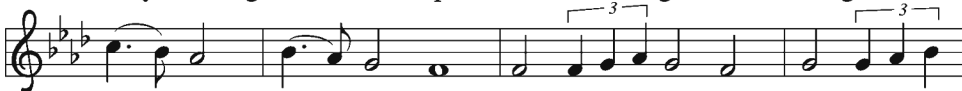
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Thy Strong Word

*The procession
returns to the
chancel as the
Acclamation is
sung by ALL.*



3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with



thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward



glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

HOMILY

SIT

HYMN OF THE DAY

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

STAND

APOSTLES CREED

The Creed is a statement of what Christian people believe about God.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

The sign of peace is a greeting between believers that invites the peace of God to dwell within and between each person. This means that sharing the peace is much more than an act of hospitality or hello.

**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.**

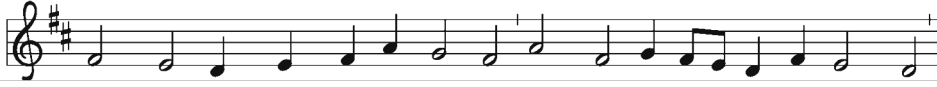
INTERCESSIONS

**Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.**

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

TABLE SETTING***Now We Join in Celebration*****ELW 462:2**

2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!



For this bread and cup of bless-ing are for us the sure pos-sess - ing



of your lov-ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,



pledge of your un - fail-ing pres-ence, fore-taste here of heav'n-ly glad - ness.

REMAIN

STANDING & SING
*as the ushers bring
the gifts of bread
and wine forward
as the table is set.*

PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord, creator of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving is understood as an act of praise and thanksgiving. Following Jewish customs, the emerging Christian liturgies blessed God (that is, thanked God) for his kindness and love.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

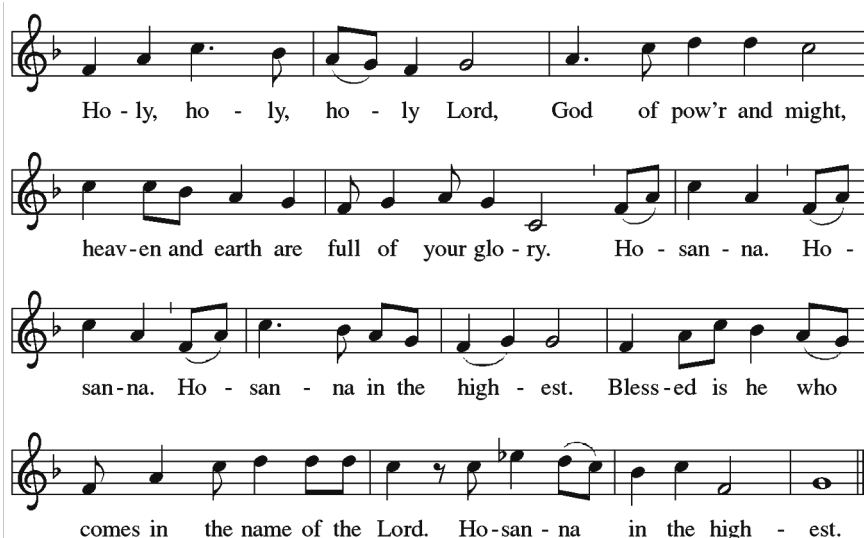
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven
we praise your name and join there unending hymn:

SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)

The Sanctus (sanctus, Latin, means holy) is a series of angelic acclamations which accompanied Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3 also Psalm 118:26).



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

The Words of Institution are spoken.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and
ascension, we await his coming in glory, as we proclaim the
mystery of faith:



Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven...

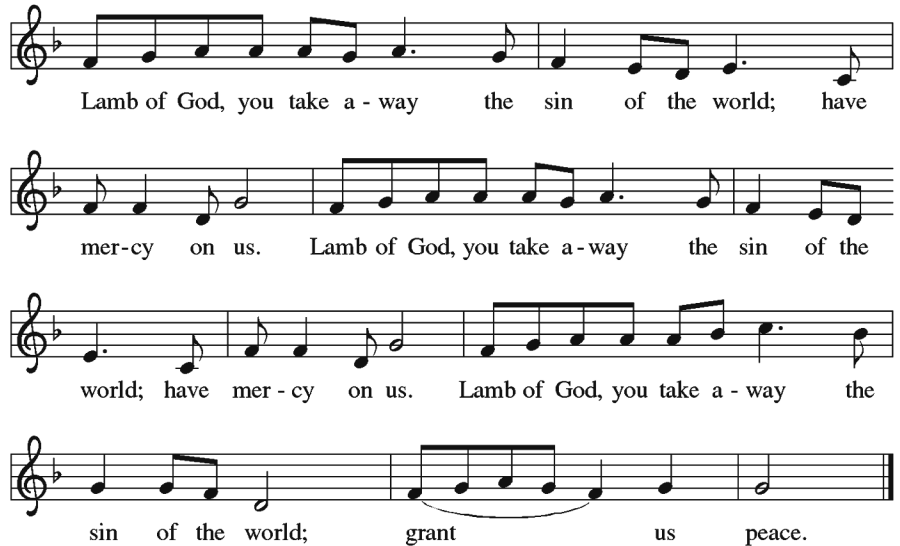
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.
Let us rejoice and be glad.

In the Eucharistic Prayer, the church gives thanks for God the Father and creator; for Jesus who saves and redeems us; and for the Holy Spirit that stirs and enlightens our faith that we might proclaim the mighty work of God in word and deed.

The word eucharist means 'thanksgiving.' When we use this term for the sacrament the emphasis is on the joy and celebration with which we thank the Risen Lord Jesus for his real presence as we receive his body and blood.

LAMB OF GOD



SIT

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

Around You, O Lord Jesus

ELW 468

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

STAND

SENDING

SENDING PRAYER

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

*The sign of the cross
is made in
remembrance of
Holy Baptism*

BENEDICTION

HYMN *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing* ELW 544

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Toccata in F* Dietrich Buxtehude

SIT
*for final prayer
and reflection
before going into
the world to shar
the good news.*

SAINT JAMES COMMUNION PRACTICE

- Welcome** Saint James practices an open table for Holy Communion, which means that all people are invited to participate in the sacrament. Jesus is the host of the meal and extends a wide welcome. Children are welcome to participate, but may also come forward with folded arms to receive a blessing.
- Benefit** What is the benefit of sharing in the meal? The words “given for you” and “shed for you” show us that the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament. (Luther’s Small Catechism)
- Distribution** Come forward via the central aisle.
- Receive the host (bread/Jesus’ body) in the hand, then **dip it** into the cup with wine (Jesus’ blood). Or consume it and take an individual cup of wine (purple) or juice (golden).
- A gluten free host is offered by saying “gluten free” to the pastor.
- Return to your place via the outside aisles for private prayer.

FIRST LESSON**Isaiah 25:1-9**

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹ 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.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ 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,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ 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.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23



The Psalm is chanted on a single pitch. Breath at the / mark.

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

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures/
and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,/
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake./

⁴Though 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./ **Refrain**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;/
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over./

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,/
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. **Refrain**

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Psalm 23:5
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SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ 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 coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, 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. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

following the lesson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ 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.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ 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.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

after the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation

