



Saturday, October 3, 2026, 5:30 pm
Sunday, October 4, 2026, 8:30 am

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Changing lives with the love of God
to the glory of God*

Welcome Guests!

We're glad you're with us today!

We hope you'll introduce yourself to the Pastor at the Church door after worship today.

Worship Schedule

Our regular worship times are:

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Sundays at 8:30 am & 10:00 am

Sunday School at 10:00 am September-June

Serving in the Lord's house today:

5:30 Sam Eisen / 8:30: Carol Chirco / 10:00: Sharon Haase

Slide Operators:

5:30: Laura Merring / 8:30: Tom Carattini / 10:00: Deb Carden

Altar flowers have been given- to the glory of God

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt

Pastor: Conner Forbes

www.stjlc.com

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

Prelude: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

setting, Tim Fields

Opening Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
2 Crown Him, ye mar-tys of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.



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The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.

Welcome and Invocation

Confession and Absolution

P Because we have faith in God's mercy, we dare to approach Him with honesty.

-Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination-

P Holy and merciful God,

C You alone know exactly how often we have veered from Your ways, misused Your good gifts, and contradicted Your love.

We confess our trespasses and offenses against You.

Have mercy on us, Lord. We are sorry and ashamed.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior, forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Hear the good news!

Jesus was given by His Father to ransom and save sinners. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Aid us, now Lord, to enjoy Your presence, share our faith, and show your ways.

P Amen.

Hymn of Praise: This is the Feast



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:21–31

A The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 18.

²¹“But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²²None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. ²³Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? ²⁴But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia



Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:28–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Prayer of the Day

L Heavenly Father, You have given us Your ways: Your commandments and statutes.

G **They teach us how to live our lives.**

L But Father, none of us have kept these commandments, we have sinned.

G **Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus,**

L and teach us true repentance

G **so that we may live as Jesus did.**

L In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now

G **and forever, Amen.**

Hymn: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



- 1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Sermon: Repentance is Righteousness

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Some time ago we stopped passing the offering plate. There is now a box in the Narthex in which you may place your offering. Even more helpful, you may give electronically either by using the QR code below or visiting stjlc.com/give. You may also give to God and the work of His Church by mailing your offering in.



Offering Prayer

L While we were still sinners, O God,
C you sent Your Son to die for us.
L Thus you proved Your love for us, O God.
C Accept these tokens of our love for You.
L And lead us to lives of service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

✠ Holy Communion ✠

To Our Guests Regarding Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is a gift Christ gives to His Church.
In it, He offers His true Body and Blood in and with the bread and wine.

It is the gift of Himself!

When received in faith, Holy Communion gives forgiveness, new life & salvation.
Those who receive the Lord's Supper at St. James Lutheran Church are baptized Christians,
committed in their faith in Christ, who have been instructed in and believe these truths.

(We run classes both for young people and adults – everyone welcome.)

God bless you!

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.



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** Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives You praise.
- C** **In the fullness of time You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to share our human nature,**
- P** to live and die as one of us,
- C** **to reconcile us to You, the God and Father of all.**
- P** He healed the sick
- C** **and opened the eyes of the blind.**
- P** He proclaimed the good news of Your kingdom to the poor and to those in need,
- C** **and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners.**
- P** He was the place on earth where people really met with You.
- C** **We give You thanks that He still receives struggling men and women, calling us friends,**
- P** for His perfect sacrifice has destroyed the barrier of sin and judgement,
- C** **and by raising Him to life You give us life for evermore.**
- P** Therefore with the angels and archangels, and with all the residents of heaven, we honor and glorify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
 pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
 glo - ry. 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.

The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

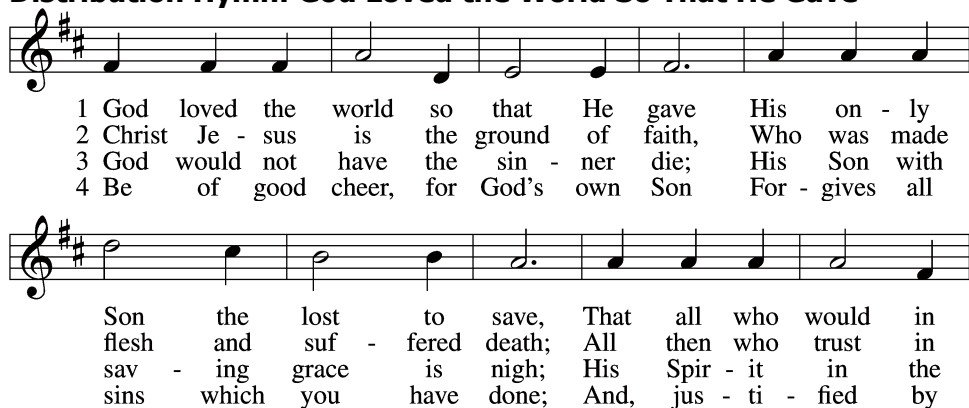
Agnus Dei



☐ Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all
Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

- △ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the



Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en__ Je - sus



Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give



thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en__



Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am



strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be - cause of

what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am
rich," _____ Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

Benediction

Announcements

Closing Hymn: Christ is Our Cornerstone

1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
Δ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;
With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus
great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Postlude: Trumpet Tune on "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

-Jerry Westenkuehler

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

LADIES NIGHT: October 9th is Ladies Night, and this month we are helping our homeless neighbors by creating care bags to keep in our cars so we are prepared to love our neighbors! Donate \$10 for buying supplies, or sign up to bring something to contribute to the bags! Join us as we enjoy time together, enjoy festive fall snacks, and put together 200 bags for our church to give away.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Please join us on Saturday, October 24th, from 2pm – 4pm for Trunk or Treat! Interested in how you can help? Please email luann@stjlc.com to let us know if you can decorate a trunk, donate some candy, or bring your family and friends! For more information, please visit stjlc.com/events

SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTOR NEEDED: Church is currently looking for a snow removal contractor for the 2026/2027 season. If you or someone you know is a contractor, please contact Ed Spear at 631-873-6429

REMINDERS

ALTAR GUILD: "Come and set the most important table you ever will set - Our Lord's Table!" Please consider joining our Altar Guild family. We have many current members who would really appreciate the additional assistance. If interested, reach out to Christine Eriksen, Altar Guild Leader, at (631) 379-6052 via text or call. God Bless and thank you for your considerations.

TUESDAY NIGHT LADIES' BIBLE STUDY: is happening most Tuesday nights at the Forbes' home! Come in your comfy clothes, enjoy snacks, and chat about all things faith and motherhood. Join the group me via the QR code on the poster in the narthex for more information and updates. Scheduled dates are 9/15, 10/6, 10/13, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15.

NEW BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Neil will be leading a new Bible study titled "Be Still". We will explore the simple, transformative practice of a daily quiet time with God. It will be held on Thursdays from 10am to 11:15am on 9/17, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, and 11/5.

CALLING ALL K-5th GRADERS: St James Lutheran Church is forming a Fellowship/Cub Scout Pack. Pack 301. Games, music, songs, puppet show, prayer followed by hands on Scouting activities! Meetings will be every third Tuesday, once a month (we follow School

Calendar) Location: Parish Hall Time: 6:30-7:45. Please contact Bill Irmscher
Eagle1troop301@gmail.com Or Scott Eriksen dseeriksen@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFERINGS: If you do not use our electronic offering service, you may mail your church offering to the Church Office, 230 Second Ave, St. James, NY, 11780. Thank you for your continued support of our church!

TO ORDER ALTAR FLOWERS: Call Connie Marohn at 862-7123 after you have signed up for your requested date in the Altar Flower Book in the Narthex. Please use an Altar Guild envelope located in the Narthex to place your check for \$25.00 for *each* Bouquet payable to St. James Lutheran Church Flowers and the wording you wish printed in the bulletin. Place the envelope into the offering plate or mail to 230 Second Ave., NY 11780. Envelopes must be received by Monday for the subsequent weekend.

Peek at the Week

SUNDAY October 4

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and Sunday School (Sanctuary)

MONDAY October 5

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

6:30pm Outreach Meeting (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY October 6

7:30pm Moms Group (Forbes Home)

WEDNESDAY October 7

10am-12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)

6:30pm – 7:30pm Confirmation (Parish Hall)

6:30pm – 7:30pm Chancel Chimes Rehearsal (Balcony)

7:45pm – 9pm Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY October 8

10am – 11:15am “Be Still” Bible study (Youth Room)

7pm – 9pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

FRIDAY October 9

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

7:30pm – 11pm Ladies’ Night Out (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY October 10

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY October 11

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and Sunday School (Sanctuary)

7pm Young Adult Dinner (Forbes Home)