



Sunday, March 15, 2026, 10 am

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
HEALING SERVICE**



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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Seder, April 2nd
7pm in the Parish Hall

Good Friday, April 3rd
11am Walkaround
7pm Service in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 5th
8am in the Sanctuary
9:30am Family Service in the Parish Hall
11:15am in the Sanctuary

Serving in the Lord's house today:
5:30: Christine Eriksen / 8:30: Carol Chirco / 10:00: Sharon Haase

Altar flowers have been given- In memory of our loving Grandmother, Barbara Harper.
From her grandchildren Michael, Coleen, and Shawn.

Opening Song: Open the Eyes of my Heart Lord

[Verse]

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

[Chorus]

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

[Verse]

[Chorus]

[Bridge - repeat 4x]

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Worship Dialogue

Hebrews 12:2, Psalm 27:4,5,13

L Look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.

C **One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:**

L that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

C **to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.**

L For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;



You are the One we a - dore. You give the heal-ing and grace our



hearts al-ways hun-ger for; oh, our hearts al-ways hun-ger for.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

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

Nar: ¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jes: Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Nar: ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him,

Jes: "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent).

Nar: So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying,

Neigh: "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he."
Others said, "No, but he is like him."

Man: He kept saying, "I am the man."

Nar: ¹⁰So they said to him,

Neigh: "Then how were your eyes opened?"

Man: ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight."

Neigh: ¹²**They said to him, "Where is he?"**

Man: He said, "I don't know."

Nar: ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

Phar: ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight.

Man: And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Phar: ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?"

Nar: And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man,

Phar: "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?"

Man: He said, "He is a prophet."

Nar: ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them,

Phar: "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

Parents: ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

Nar: ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

Parents: ²³Therefore his parents said, "He's of age; ask him."

Nar: ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him,

Phar: "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner."

Man: ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

Phar: ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

Man: ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

Phar: ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

Man: ³⁰The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

Phar: ³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Nar: ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said,

Jesus: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

Man: ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

Jesus: ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you."

Man: ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Jesus: ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

Nar: ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him,

Phar: "Are we also blind?"

Jesus: ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

L Dear God, help us to see.

C **Jesus said, "I am the light of the world,"**

L yet we will remain blind to this...

C **blind to His beauty,**

L blind to His presence,

C **blind to His saving power,**

L until You anoint us with the Spirit.

C **Our eyes may function, but we can't see what we really need to see without a miracle within.**

L By Your grace, open our eyes,

C **and the eyes of many others, that all may worship in spirit and truth;**

L through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

C **and forever. Amen.**

Sermon: Reward or Restore?

✠ Prayers ✠

(of Confession, Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication)

Prayer of Confession (with Absolution)

P Our dear Lord Jesus, we come to You now to be restored in You,

C **to be renewed in You,**

P to receive Your life and Your love,

C **and all the grace and mercy we so desperately need this day.**

(time of self-examination)

P Merciful God,

C **We confess that we have strayed from You.**

**By arrogance, unbelief, and idolatry we have been willfully blind,
failing in goodness, neglecting love, ignoring Your truth.**

Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.

P Lord Jesus, You heal the sick.

C **Lord have mercy.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, You forgive sinners.

C Christ have mercy.

P Lord Jesus, You give Yourself to restore and renew us.

C Lord have mercy and hear us.

P People of God, look to the + Son, sent by the Father to restore you.
By His cross, death, blood, and sacrifice you are ransomed and set free.
Do not doubt, but firmly believe in your forgiveness,
and in your heart take hold of the new life in God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L God the Father, you desire the health and salvation of all people.

C We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

L God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly.

C We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

L God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temples of Your presence.

C We praise and thank you, O Lord.

L With thanks to You we remember those who have experienced healing in answer to our prayer, particularly...

C We praise and thank You, O Lord.

Prayers of Intercession *(here prayer for those in need will be lifted up)*

Prayer of Dedication

L Dearest God, holy and victorious Trinity,

C You alone are worthy of all my worship, my heart's devotion,

L all my praise, and all my trust.

C I give myself over to You in my heart's search for life.

L You alone are Life,

C and You have become my life.

L You are the Light who dispels darkness of every kind, and I belong to You.

C Search me, know me, and reveal to me where You are working in my life,

L and grant to me the grace of Your healing and deliverance,

C and a deep and true repentance.

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** You have given us all things, creating God ...
- C** ... **food and family, laughter and love.**
- L** You have given us more than all things, saving God ...
- C** ... **your Son, salvation, the promise of heaven's open door.**
- L** And still you give us more and more ...
- C** ... **your protecting presence ... your comforting counsel.**
- L** Accept these gifts, for we learned to give from you! 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 also 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 Blessed are You, gracious God, maker of heaven and earth,
for You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to work Your works,

C **anointing Him with the Holy Spirit and with power.**

L He has made You truly known, and in turn has sent His church to work,

C **anointing us with the same Spirit,**

L to minister healing of soul and body,

C **and so continue to make You known.**

P Therefore with the angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we
proclaim the glory of Your name, joining in their unending hymn:

Sanctus



C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Prayer

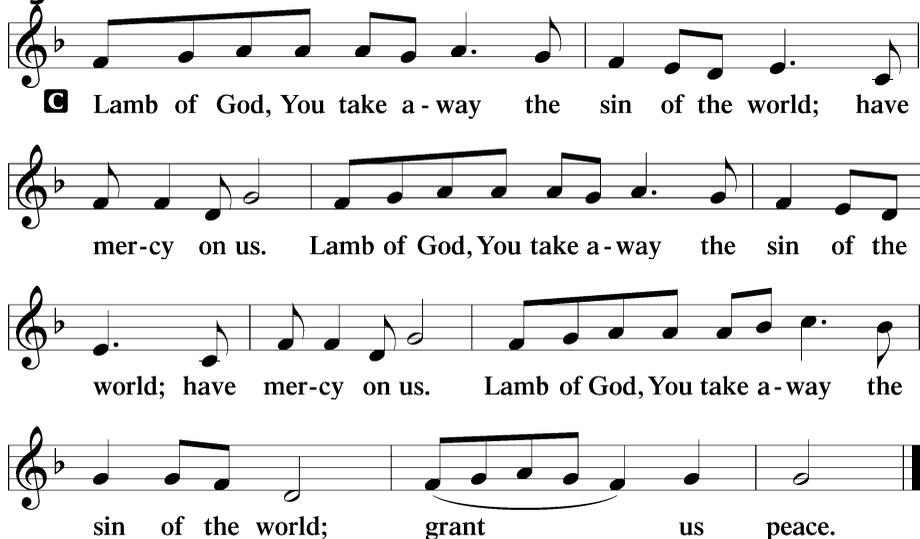
C **We do not presume to come to this Your table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but rather in Your manifold and great mercies.**

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Your table.

But You are the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy:

**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Your dear Son Jesus
Christ, and to drink His blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in
us. Amen.**

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.

Distribution

Prayer with Laying on of Hands *(and, if desired, with anointing)*

After receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord, those wishing to receive prayer for healing may come up through one of the side doors and then kneel at the altar rail. The healing sought may be physical, mental, emotional, relational, or you may come forward to receive prayer on behalf of someone else, or in order to dedicate yourself to the Lord. There are many reasons to seek the touch of Jesus and all are welcome.

Distribution Song: Way Maker *(see insert)*

Prayer after Communion

- ☐ Eternal God,
- ☑ **we give You thanks for the holy promises in this meal**
- ☐ where You have fed us with the precious body and blood of Your Son,
- ☑ **assuring us of Your favor and goodness towards us.**
- ☐ Grant that we may go with Jesus into the world
- ☑ **watching for Your Kingdom, giving ourselves for others.**
- ☐ In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- ☑ **Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Song: Grace Alone

I was an orphan lost at the fall
Running away when I'd hear you call
But Father you worked your will
I had no righteousness of my own
I had no right to draw near your throne
But Father you loved me still

And in love before you laid the world's foundation
You predestined to adopt me as your own
You have raised me up so high above my station
I'm a child of God by grace and grace alone

You left your home to seek out the lost
You knew the great and terrible cost
But Jesus your face was set
I worked my fingers down to the bone
But nothing I did could ever atone
But Jesus you paid my debt

By Your blood I have redemption and salvation
Lord you died that I might reap what you have sown
And you rose that I might be a new creation
I am born again by grace and grace alone

I was in darkness all of my life
I never knew the day from the night
But Spirit you made me see
I swore I knew the way on my own
Head full of rocks a heart made of stone
But Spirit you moved in me

And at your touch my sleeping spirit was awakened
On my darkened heart the light of Christ has shone
Called into a kingdom that cannot be shaken
Heaven's citizen by grace and grace alone

So I'll stand in faith by grace and grace alone
I will run the race by grace and grace alone
I will slay my sin by grace and grace alone
I will reach the end by grace and grace alone

✠ Spiritual Practices for Lent 2026 ✠

Read: -the Gospel of John
-some each day
-Download the Lutheran Study Bible App
onto your phone

Pray: -the `Saint and Sinner Prayer'
-pick one up from Church
-pray it a lot, like meditation

Fast: -from screens, 1 hour per day
-no social media, news, or entertainment.

The point of all this is to draw close to God.



Please join us downstairs after the 10 a.m. Service in the Parish Hall for the SJ Cafe.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESCHOOL NEWS: Thank you to our Preschool and Church Families who joined us for our Applebee's Preschool Pancake Fundraiser! We had a blast being waited on by our Preschool Dads, Teacher Husbands and their sons and nephews. Thirty beautiful baskets were raffled off too! It was a great success! Thank you!!

PRINCESS PARTY: Calling all girls ages 2-8, please join us on May 16th from 2pm-4pm in the Parish Hall for a Princess Party! There will be a puppet show, princess tea and crafts! Come dressed as a princess. Female Adult accompaniment required (and they can dress up too!) \$10 per girl. No more than \$25 per family. RSVP at stjlc.com/events

OUTREACH MINISTRY: Help spread Easter cheer through Lighthouse Missions! Please consider making up an Easter basket or two and leave in the Narthex. They will reach needy children here in Suffolk County. Besides candy (possibly a chocolate cross), other items could be small books and toys, stickers, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, jump ropes and balls. Due in Narthex by 03/28. Thank you! For any questions, please contact Debbie Spear at 631-873-6431.

GIVING TREE: The Outreach Committee is going to be putting tags on the Giving Tree asking for socks and underwear for both children and adults. These donations, will accompany all the other generous donations, given by our community when the Orphan Grain train truck comes to our Church in May. We would ask that all donations be brought to Church by Sunday April 19, the day of our Orphan Grain Train meal packing event. Any questions please feel free to call Angela Donohue 631-275-8886.

REMINDERS

FOOD PANTRY: The pantry has serviced 173 families during the month of January with food and essential products. In preparation for Easter, Easter napkins, plates, grass, candy, egg coloring kits are being collected to help spread Easter blessings and joy to the families. We can always use shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Donations may be left in the Narthex red bin. All monetary donations may be sent to: Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. "Lord, help us to be your hands and feet in our community reflecting the love and compassion of Jesus Christ." If you have any questions, contact Jeanne Harmer 631-585-5631.

TECH TEAM: Are you looking for ways to volunteer and have a particular set of skills in technology? Then we need you! We are looking for volunteers to help run slides and run livestream. If you are interested, please sign up on the sign up sheet in the back in the narthex. We are also looking for people who work in IT. Got questions? Ask Pastor Conner.

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR NEEDED: Our beloved Pre-School Director, Meredith Johansson, will be retiring at the end of this school year. We are now seeking her replacement to join our Church staff. Position description provided upon request. Contact Pr. Neil Mittelstaedt by emailing pastorneil@stjlc.com or by calling 631-584-5212.

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 March 15

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary) Baptism of Robert Gabriel after 10am Service.

11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

MONDAY March 16

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7:30pm Smithtown Stitchers (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY March 17

7:30pm Moms Group (Upper Room)

WEDNESDAY March 18

10am - 12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)

12:30pm – 2:30pm Alpha Lunch (Parish Hall)

2pm-4pm Cancer Support Group (Youth Room)

6pm – 7pm Chancel Chimes Rehearsal (Balcony)

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

7pm Alpha Course (Wheeler Home)

7:15pm- 8:15pm Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

8:15-9pm Festival Choir (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY March 19

7pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

FRIDAY March 20

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY March 21

11am Baptism of Jack Bryan Tarricone (Sanctuary)

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY March 22

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)

11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

6:30pm – 8pm TOF All Youth Party (Parish Hall)