

Sunday, April 12, 2026, 10 am

**SECOND WEEK OF EASTER
SCOUT SUNDAY**



*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: Greg Buscarino / 8:30: Sandra McIlveen / 10:00: Sam Eisen and Owen Schmideler

Altar flowers have been given- for Gregory Smith, beloved son. Happy Birthday in Heaven. From, Donald Smith.

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt

Pastor: Conner Forbes

www.stjlc.com

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

Opening Song: Here I am, and I Have Come

Here I am, and I have come
To thank You, Lord, for all You've done
Thank You, Lord!
You paid the price at Calvary
You shed Your blood, You set me free
Thank You, Lord!

No greater love was ever shown
No better life ever was laid down

You took my sin, You took my shame
You drank my cup, You bore my pain
Thank You, Lord!
You broke the curse, You broke the chains
In victory from death You rose again
Thank You, Lord!

And not by works, but by your grace
You clothe me now in your righteousness

And I will always love Your name
And I will always sing Your praise
And I will always love Your name
And I will always sing Your praise

You bid me come, You make me whole
You give me peace, You restore my soul
Thank You, Lord!
You fill me up, and when I'm full
You give me more 'til I overflow
Thank You, Lord!

You're making me to be like You
To do the works of the Father too

And I will always love Your name
And I will always sing Your praise
And I will always love Your name
And I will always sing Your praise

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Verse

P We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. *[Romans 6:9]*

C **Alleluia!**

P Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. *[John 20:29]*

C **Alleluia!**

(Children come to the front of the Church)

Children's Message

Lord's Prayer

(Children leave for Sunday School)

Song of Praise: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save

'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

A The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter 1.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. ⁴ We have been born into a new life which has an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials. ⁷ The purpose of these troubles is to test your faith as fire tests how genuine gold is. Your faith is more precious than gold, and by passing the test, it will result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Reading

John 20:19–31

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

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

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

L We have celebrated with joy the resurrection of your Son from the dead, O God –

C **joy reflected in the removal of Thomas's doubts – joy that made him cry, "My Lord and my God!"**

L We have celebrated with joy the resurrection of Your Son from the dead, O God –

C **joy reflected in Peter's letter to the church – joy that made him write, "God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."**

L Change us by the power of Christ's resurrection, O God.

C **Transform us into ambassadors of your joy.**

L Through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now,

C **and forever. Amen.**

Sermon: Hope: Dying or Living?

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Celebrating Troop 301

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** You have given us life, O God,
- C** **new life in the resurrection of Your Son from the dead.**
- L** We give our lives to You
- C** **even as we bring to You, as part of our lives, our offering.**
- L** Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Trusting in the work and triumph of Christ's cross and resurrection, let us kneel to confess our sins.

-silence is kept for reflection and self-examination-

- P** Most merciful God,
- C** **We confess that we are captive to the 'self-life' and cannot free ourselves. We have not given You the place in our hearts that You deserve, nor have we served one another as You command. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, died in our place, and made us alive together with the risen Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ I declare to you that your sins are forgiven. May God now strengthen you with power for new living through the Holy Spirit.
- 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** *It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give You thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.*
- C** **And now we give You thanks because through Him You have given us eternal life**
- P** *and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*
- C** **Therefore with Mary Magdalene,**
- P** *with Simon Peter, John, Thomas, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection,*
- C** **with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,**
- P** we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

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 -



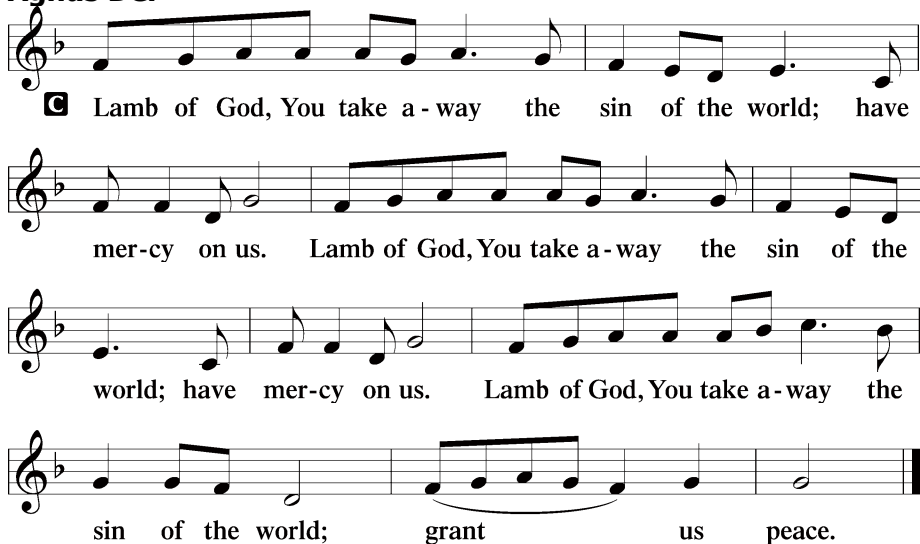
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

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

Distribution Song: The Table

I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore at His table

I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore at His table

Come all you weary; come and find
His yoke is easy; His burden light
He is able; He will restore
At the table of the Lord

There is peace at the table of the Lord
There is peace at the table of the Lord
I won't worry anymore at His table

There is healing at the table of the Lord
There is healing at the table of the Lord
I won't suffer anymore at His table

Come all you weary; come and find
His yoke is easy; His burden light
He is able; He will restore
At the table of the Lord

I know He has a place for me
Oh, what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God

Come all you weary; come and find
His yoke is easy; His burden light
He is able; He will restore
At the table of the Lord
At the table of the Lord

I'm invited to the table of the Lord
I'm invited to the table of the Lord
He says, "Come just as you are" to His table

Post Communion Prayer

- L** As Thomas asked to touch your body in order to believe...
- C** **we have touched your body in this blessed meal.**
- L** We believe, O God. And we cry to You with Thomas,
- C** **"You are our Lord. You are our God."**
- L** We bear witness to your resurrection. You are the Lord forevermore.
- C** **Amen**

Benediction

Closing Song: Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night

Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame

The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus Yours is the victory

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Jesus Christ my living hope
God, You are my living hope



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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

PIECEMAKERS: Calling all those with love for fabric, stitching and creating, PIECEMAKERS meets on Mondays from 1-3 pm in the youth room attached to the church office. Join us while we socialize and relax, designing, cutting and stitching comfort quilts. If you are new to this, we can teach you! Join us. Questions, call Jeanne Harmer 631-585-5631.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING: Sunday April 19th after the 10am service we will be packing 20,000 meals in the Parish Hall. Ages 8-adult can work the assembly lines and little children can decorate boxes on the stage. These meals will be given to Orphan Grain Train to be sent to families experiencing food insecurity here and abroad. The Café will be open for bagels and snacks.

OPRHAN GRAIN TRAIN: Saturday, May 2nd the Orphan Grain Train truck is coming! We will need help loading the truck from 9:30-noon. April 20-May 1st we will be collecting donations for the truck. WE ONLY HAVE LESS THAN TWO WEEKS!!! Donations must be clean and put into bags or containers and brought to the Parish Hall stage during the week. (After 12:00 when Tiny Tots are finished for the day or on Sunday 4/26 after services.) WE WILL BE COLLECTING: All sizes and seasons of clean clothing and shoes (infant, men, women children), towels, curtains, tablecloths, bedding material, adult/children diapers, port-a-cribs, toys, Washed stuffed animals, NO BOOKS EXCEPT BIBLES AND HYMNALS, soft and hard toys WITH NO BATTERIES crutches and canes. PLEASE NOTE that we are NOT collecting bicycles, large medical items or other baby items (ie. Ride on toys, strollers etc.) this year. The OGT warehouse is moving and cannot take these large items at this time. Lord, help us to be there for others and reflect your love! Thank you for all your dedication and help. Questions? Contact Liz Wagner at 631-862-7508.

FOOD PANTRY: Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry has been increasingly busy during its Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday hours. Thank you to everyone who has donated food, funds and willing hands to help handout food and essential products! Current needs are toilet paper, paper towels and laundry detergent. PANTRY ITEMS CAN BE LEFT IN THE PARISH HALL IN THE RED BIN FOR THE SMITHTOWN FOOD PANTRY AND NO LONGER IN THE NARTHEX. Items can also be brought to the food pantry during food pantry hours. All monetary donations may be sent to: Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. St. James Lutheran is hosting the month of May at the pantry. We will need two pantry volunteers to stock and hand out food on each pantry day. If

you can help, please call Jeanne Harmer at 631 585-5631. "Lord help us to be your hands and feet in our community reflecting the love and compassion of Jesus Christ."

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

REMINDERS

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.

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 April 12

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship with Sunday School and Scout Sunday (Sanctuary)

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

MONDAY April 13

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7pm – 9pm MAD Ministry Meeting (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY April 14

7:30pm Moms Group (Upper Room)

WEDNESDAY April 15

10am - 12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)

12:30pm - 2pm Alpha Course (Parish Hall)

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

6:30pm - 7:30pm Chancel Chimes Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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

7pm-9pm Alpha Course (Wheeler Home)

7:45pm - 9pm Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY April 16

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

FRIDAY April 17

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY April 18

5:30pm Worship and First Holy Communion

SUNDAY April 19

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship with Sunday School and baptism of Benjamin Wilson (Sanctuary)

11:15am Kid's Against Hunger Meal Packing (Parish Hall)

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