

**Sunday, April 26, 2026, 10 am**

**FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER**



*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: Jim and Laurretta Sauer / 8:30: Sandra McIlveen / 10:00: Owen Schmideler

Altar flowers have been given- to the glory of God.

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt

Pastor: Conner Forbes

[www.stjlc.com](http://www.stjlc.com)

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

## **Opening Song: Victory in Jesus**

I heard an old, old story,  
how a Savior came from glory,  
how He gave His life on Calvary  
to save a wretch like me.

I heard about His groaning,  
and His precious blood's atoning,  
then I repented of my sins;  
and won the victory.

Refrain:

O victory in Jesus,  
my Savior, forever.  
He sought me and bought me  
with His redeeming blood.  
He loved me ere I knew Him,  
and all my love is due Him,  
He plunged me to victory,  
beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about His healing,  
of His cleansing power revealing,  
how He made the lame to walk again  
and caused the blind to see.  
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,  
come and heal my broken spirit,"  
and somehow Jesus came and brought  
to me the victory. [Refrain]

I heard about a mansion  
He has built for me in glory.  
And I heard about the streets of gold  
beyond the crystal sea;  
about the angels singing,  
and the old redemption story,  
and some sweet day I'll sing up there  
the song of victory. [Refrain]

He plunged me to victory,  
beneath the cleansing flood.

## 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** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. *[John 10:14]*

**C** **Alleluia!**

*(Children come to the front of the Church)*

### Children's Message

#### Lord's Prayer

*(Children leave for Sunday School)*

### Song of Praise: How Good It Is

How good, how good, how good it is (3x)

Enter His gates with thanks  
Enter His courts with praise  
Bring Him a shout of joy  
Sing of His endless fame  
For the Lord is good and His love endures  
His love endures forever  
We remember this, we remember this

Oh, how good that it is to sing praise to the Lord  
Oh, how great is the Name above all Names  
From the rising of the morning sun  
To the setting of the same  
Oh, how good that it is to sing praise  
How good it is

How good, how good, how good it is (2x)

Rivers will clap their hands  
Mountains will lift their song  
Even the rocks cry out  
Creation stands in awe  
Of the One who was and the One who is  
And the One who reigns forever  
We remember this, we remember this

Oh, how good that it is to sing praise to the Lord  
Oh, how great is the name above all names  
From the rising of the morning sun  
To the setting of the same  
Oh, how good that it is to sing praise  
How good it is

How good, how good, how good it is

Oh, how good that it is to sing praise to the Lord  
Oh, how great is the name above all names  
From the rising of the morning sun  
To the setting of the same  
And with every breath inside our lungs  
Forever we will sing  
Oh, how good that it is to sing praise  
Oh, how good that it is to sing praise  
How good it is

How good, how good, how good it is (2x)

## **First Reading**

*Acts 2:42–47*

**A** The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 2.

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel Reading

*John 10:1–10*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Prayer of the Day

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep,

**C** **grant us Your Holy Spirit so that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd**

**L** we may know Him who calls us each by name

**C** **and follow where he leads;**

**L** through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,

**C** **now and forever. Amen.**

**Sermon:** Why Should I Go To Church?

## Nicene Creed

**C** **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.**

## **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](http://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.

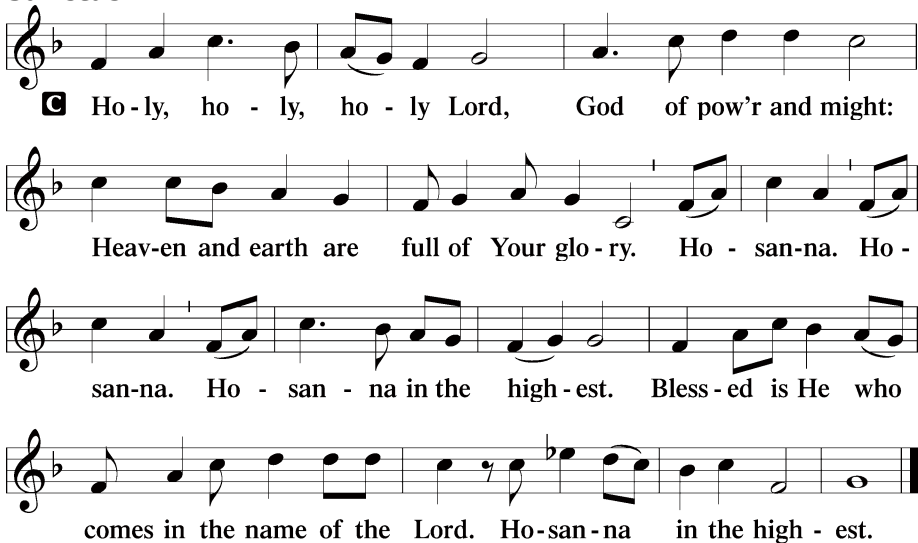
*(We run classes both for young people and adults – everyone welcome.)*

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, Simon Peter, and John,**
- P** *with Thomas, Cleopas, 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:*

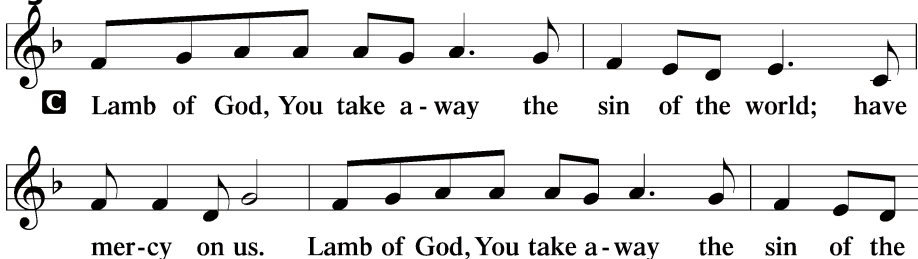
## Sanctus



**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



**C** 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: Holy Forever

A thousand generations falling down in worship  
 To sing the song of ages to the Lamb  
 And all who've gone before us and all who will believe  
 Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest  
 Your name stands above them all  
 All thrones and dominions, All powers and positions  
 Your name stands above them all

And the angels cry holy  
 All creation cries holy  
 You are lifted high, holy  
 Holy forever

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed  
 Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
 If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name  
 Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
 We'll sing the song forever and amen

And the angels cry holy  
 All creation cries holy  
 You are lifted high, holy  
 Holy forever

Hear Your people sing holy  
To the King of kings, holy  
You will always be holy  
Holy forever

Your name is the highest  
Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions  
All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all, Jesus

Your name is the highest  
Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions  
All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all

And the angels cry holy  
All creation cries holy  
You are lifted high, holy  
Holy forever

Hear Your people sing holy  
To the King of kings, holy  
You will always be holy  
Holy forever  
You will always be holy  
Holy forever

### **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: Your Grace is Enough**

Great is Your faithfulness, O God  
You wrestle with the sinner's heart  
You lead us by still waters and to mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart

[Pre Chorus]

So remember your people, remember your children  
Remember your promise, O God

[Chorus]

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation  
And all Your people sing along

[Pre Chorus]

[Chorus]

Your grace is enough, Heaven reaching down to us.  
Your grace is enough for me.  
Your grace is enough, I'm covered in Your love.  
Your grace is enough for me, for me.



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

## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FARMER'S MARKET:** Hello St. James Lutheran Church! We are so happy to announce that the Farmers market is back! Beginning on Saturday, May 30th & continuing through to September 26th, our church will once again be participating with our own booth. We're looking for volunteers to help join in and make balloon animals, play with the kids in our kids' corner and spread the word about Jesus! All are welcome and we would love to have you there! Come out and have fun with us any Saturday from 9am-1pm. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or call Jim and Lauretta Sauer at 631-523-3118. If you're looking for a way that you can Make a Difference in our community, this is a great and fun way to do it and stretch your faith! All are welcome!! God Bless!

**THANK YOU:** A huge thank you from Outreach Ministry to everyone who came out to pack 20,000 meals with Kids Against Hunger last Sunday! In less than three hours we made 20,088 meals! Bravo to all the kids who decorated those fantastic boxes too! It was a fun day especially working together to Pastor Neils lively music!!! ("Oh, Oh, Oh, good times...!") Orphan Grain Train will be shipping them here or abroad wherever they are presently needed. May God bless all the families receiving them!

**EAGLE PROJECT CAR WASH:** Our very own Sam Eisen is fundraising for his Eagle project right here at St James Lutheran Church. Please join us Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30am – 3pm in the big parking lot. "My project includes a new St James Lutheran Church exterior sign facing Woodlawn Ave. with low-maintenance plantings, and a newly constructed storage box for our Lemonade on the Lawn, along with street barricade storage." Pre-Sale Car Wash tickets are available for purchase after the 10 am service. Your support is greatly appreciated. Cost per vehicle is \$20. "Thank you for helping me fund my Eagle Scout Service Project which will benefit our Church. Hope to see you all there."

**ROOF IN A DAY:** Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we are going to shingle the Parish Hall roof ourselves. If you are able to assist, please email [office@stjlc.com](mailto:office@stjlc.com) to let us know. Please bring a hammer.

**MOTHERS DAY:** Outreach Ministry is creating a special Mother's Day bulletin to honor our mothers and those women who are in our lives both past and present. Fill out the slip and attach your **free-will offering**. The donations will be given to the **Smithtown Food Pantry** to help supple the pantry with fresh meats, various vegetables, and other perishable foods. Thank you all for your support.

**FOOD PANTRY:** Smithtown food pantry was open 13 days in March providing meals and essential products for 178 families. Our church is hosting the month of May at the food pantry. In the Narthex there is a sign-up calendar for volunteers on Tuesday, Thursday and

Saturday from 930AM – 12pm. We hope to have two volunteers each day to stock and hand out food. Current needs continue to be toilet paper, paper towels and laundry detergent. Pantry items can be dropped off at the food pantry during pantry hours or left in the Parish hall in the food pantry red bin. Monetary donations may be sent to: Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. Questions, call Jeanne Harmer 631-585-5631. "Lord help us to be your hands and feet in our community reflecting the love and compassion of Jesus Christ."

**USHERS NEEDED:** There is a great need for more volunteer ushers to help at all the regular church service times, as well as the special Holiday services. An excerpt from our manual "*The ushers make a significant contribution to the smooth running of our Church services. It is our contribution to the church's ministry, and as such we are serving all.*" If you can help on a regular basis, you will be scheduled at most once a month, working around your availability. Please feel free to contact me and I can explain what our usher program is all about and how easy it is to do. Thank you in advance for your consideration in helping with this important part of the whole worship service. If you are moved to be an usher, please call/text/email Paul Monthie Hm: 631-928-4938 Cell: 631-275-2330, [pamonthie@gmail.com](mailto:pamonthie@gmail.com)

**PRINCESS PARTY:** Calling all girls ages 2-8, please join us on May 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://stjlc.com/events)

**OPRHAN GRAIN TRAIN:** Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **REMINDERS**

**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.

**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.

**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](mailto: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 26**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)

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

### **MONDAY April 27**

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7pm-9pm MAD Ministry/Caregivers Meeting (Parish Hall)

### **TUESDAY April 28**

7:30pm Moms Group (Upper Room)

### **WEDNESDAY April 29**

12:30pm Alpha Course (Parish Hall)

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

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

7pm-9pm Evening Alpha Course (Wheeler Home)

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

### **THURSDAY April 30**

7pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

### **FRIDAY May 1**

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

### **SATURDAY May 2**

8:30am – 3pm Eagle Scout Project Car Wash (Big Parking Lot)

9:30am-1pm Orphan Grain Train Tuck Loading (Small Parking Lot)

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

### **SUNDAY May 3**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)

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