



Sunday, May 17, 2026, 10 am

**THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
AND THE COMMISSIONING OF DEACONS**



*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: Sharon Haase / 8:30: Owen Schmideler / 10:00: Owen Schmideler

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

Opening Song: Oh, Our Lord and King

- 1 [Chorus 2x]
Oh our Lord and King, our praise to You we bring
There is no other Rock but You seated high above,
You are the One we love, this is our song of praise to You
- 2 King forever! You are the first and You're the last
You are sovereign; All Your commands will always come to pass to give You glory
[Chorus]
- 3 Who is like You? Who else is worthy of our praise?
We exalt You; You reign in majesty and awesome splendour, King forever!
[Chorus]
- 4 Abba Father, Your steadfast love will never fail.
You are faithful; You are God, and I will worship in Your courts forever
[Chorus 2x]

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Ascension Proclamation

- P** *Christ has risen from the dead,*
- C** **risen and ascended. Alleluia!**
- P** *The LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,*
- C** **a great king over all the earth.**
- P** *God has gone up with a shout,*
- C** **the LORD with the sound of a trumpet!**

Anthem: Teach Me Your Way (King's Kids Choir/Thomas Eriksen, Violin)

(Children come to the front of the Church)

Children's Message

Lord's Prayer

(Children leave for Sunday School)

Song of Praise: 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

(THE LAMB BANNER IS 'ENTHRONED')

New Testament Reading

Acts 1:1–11

A The New Testament Reading is from Acts, chapter 1.

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

Revelation 12:9–12

A The New Testament Reading is from Revelation, chapter 12.

⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹²Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(THE DRAGON BANNER IS 'PROSTRATED')

Verse

P Christ has risen from the dead!
The Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

C Alleluia!

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
He has put all things under His feet.

C Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

L Give us the joy the disciples felt, O God—

C **joy that led them to worship Your Son. Joy that led them to praise Your name.**

L For we believe that on Ascension Day our Lord Jesus was lifted from the earth ...

C **hidden by a cloud ...**

L ... and taken into heaven.

C **Lift us up, O God,**

L to see that Christ is commanding from heaven. All authority has been given to Him.

C **Lift us up, O God,**

L in the encouragement that all enemies are under His feet.

C **Lift us up, O God,**

L for we have been baptized and authorized to participate in our Lord's rule on earth.

C **Lift us up, O God!**

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: Embrace the Realities of the Cross, Resurrection, and Ascension

Commissioning of Deacons

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 all good things, O God
- C** **you have enriched us and put your will in our hearts.**
- L** And so we come to you this day,
- C** **bearing gifts that express our worship.**
- L** Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** [John 1:8,9]

-silence is kept for reflection and self-examination-

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God the Father.
- C** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the ✠ Father and of the Son and of 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

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven 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: Sovereign Sacrifice

The image of God the Invisible
Revealed in the Human One, firstborn Son of God
In Christ alone, the fullness of God is known
The Savior who left His throne to bring us into life

You are above all things, You are before all things
Through You and for You we can stand and sing

Jesus, You hold it all, Jesus, You rule it all
Only through You can we receive the prize
Of Your sovereign sacrifice

The King of Kings nailed to that cursed tree
Acquainted with suffering for the sins of man
The Savior's life given to make us right
We have been reconciled by the blood of God

You are above all things, You are before all things
Through You and for You we can stand and sing
Jesus, You hold it all, Jesus, You rule it all
Only through You can we receive the prize
Of Your sovereign sacrifice

In the cross, God be praised
For the blood of the lamb who was slain
In the cross, God be praised
Where his body was broken to save

In the cross, God be praised
For the cost of redemption was paid
In the cross, God be praised
Where the king of all kings made a way

On the throne, God be praised
For his glory revealed on that day
On the throne, God be praised
He's victorious over the grave

You are above all things, You are before all things
Through You and for You we can stand and sing
Jesus, You hold it all, Jesus, You rule it all
Only through You can we receive the prize

You are above all things, You are before all things
Through You and for You we can stand and sing
Jesus, You hold it all, Jesus, You rule it all
Only through You can we receive the prize
Of Your sovereign sacrifice

Prayer After Communion

L We rejoice, O Jesus Christ, for You are in heaven,

C **seated at God's right hand.**

L We rejoice, O Jesus Christ, for You are here,

C **in bread and wine, body and blood.**

L We rejoice, O Jesus Christ, for You are in our hearts,

C **authorizing us to do Your will.**

L We bless You now and evermore.

C **Amen.**

A Little Liturgy of Parting

Closing Song: Awesome is the Lord Most High

Great are You Lord mighty in strength

You are faithful and You will ever be

We will praise You all of our days

It's for Your glory we offer ev'rything

Hallelujah hallelujah

How awesome is the Lord most high

Hallelujah hallelujah

How awesome is the Lord most high

Raise your hands all you nations

Shout to God all creation

How awesome is the Lord most high

Raise your hands all you nations

Shout to God all creation

How awesome is the Lord most high

Where You send us God we will go

You're the answer we want the world to know

We will trust You when You call our name

Where You lead us we'll follow all the way

The Lord most high

Raise your hands all you nations

Shout to God all creation

How awesome is the Lord most high

We will praise You together

for now and forever

How awesome is the Lord most high



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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

PENTECOST: Please wear red to all services on Saturday, May 23rd and Sunday, May 24th for Pentecost.

LAF: Our next LAF Luncheon will be on May 27th at 12:30pm in the Parish Hall. It will be Hawaiian themed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

CALLING ALL COOKS, BAKERS, AND FAMILY RECIPE KEEPERS: Our Church family is creating a Cookbook, and we would love for YOU to be part of it. Whether you're known for your famous casserole, delicious desserts, hearty soups, quick midweek meals, or treasured family recipes, we invite you to share with us. Recipes from cooks, bakers, and kitchen experimenters of every kind are welcomed! Together we can create a cookbook filled with Faith, Fellowship, and flavors that bring people together! Please submit your favorite recipes to Angela Donohue, at Liangel5@aol.com, or drop your recipe in the Outreach mailbox outside of the pre-school office, by June 30, 2026. We can't wait to see the special dishes that make our Church family unique.

VBS 2026: "Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God" will take place on Monday, August 3rd through Friday, August 7th. Registration started on Monday, May 4th and can be found at stjlc.com/vbs-2026. Spaces are limited & the program fills up quickly. Please sign up as soon as possible. Any questions, please contact our VBS Director Karin Ryan at 631-862-8017.

VBS SNACKS DONATIONS NEEDED: We provide our campers with a daily snack and are looking for items to be brought to prepare these snacks. A list of these items is in the narthex. If you would like to contribute, please check out the list. Any questions, please contact Eve Miceli, snack leader at 631-862-1362.

TROOP 301 ANNIVERSARY: St James Lutheran Church is celebrating our very own Scout Troop 301 -May 30th in the Parish Hall with a Dinner, Dance, auction fundraiser \$25 per person. Sign up poster is in the SJLC Use the QR code or contact Bill Irmscher or Leslie Eisen. Hope to see you all there with your dancing shoes! We are raising money for a new trailer, tents and tarps since it's been 60years!!

USHERS NEEDED: If you can help on a regular basis, you will be scheduled at most once a month, working around your availability. 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

REMINDERS

THANK YOU: to everyone who came out to help load up the Orphan Grain Train trailer and truck on May 2nd! Scouts, Youth, Adults and Kids!!! In less than two hours all the clothing, shoes, bedding, and toys were on the road back to Pa. On the way also went our 100 school kits, 80 hygiene kits, 74 pillowcase dresses sewn by our own Jeri Monthie, 50 handmade Giving Dolls, crutches and diapers from Lending Comforts. Rob Hall, manager of the Mid-Atlantic Branch, will let us know where everything will be sent either here or abroad wherever needed. Thank you all for bringing hope and love to those in need by sharing the love of Christ throughout the world! Our next Outreach project will be making more school kits. Watch for the donation tree in the Narthex in July when school supplies are on sale! Outreach Ministry meets on the first Monday of every month at 6:30/7:00. Come join us!

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!

FOOD PANTRY: 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."

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 May 17

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
10am Family Worship with Sunday School and Installation of Deacons (Sanctuary)
BBQ after 10am Service for our Deacons
Baptism of Lily Marie Scarimbolo after the 10am service
TOF Event – Rage Room

MONDAY May 18

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)
7:30pm Smithtown Stitchers (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY May 19

7:30pm Moms Group (Upper Room)

WEDNESDAY May 20

2pm-4pm Cancer Support Group (Youth Room)
6:30pm – 7:30pm Chancel Chimes Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:30pm – 7:30pm Confirmation (Parish Hall)
7:45pm-9pm Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY May 21

7pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

FRIDAY May 22

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY May 23

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY May 24

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)
10am Family Worship with Sunday School and New Member Sunday (Sanctuary)
11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)