



Saturday, May 17, 2026, 8:30am

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD



*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

Prelude: Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

setting, E. Childs

Opening Hymn: Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise



Hail the day that sees Him rise
There the glo - rious tri - umph waits:
See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives,
See, He lifts His hands a - bove;



To His throne a - bove the skies!
Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates!
Yet He loves the earth He leaves;
See, He shows the prints of love.



Christ, a - while to mor - tals giv'n,
Christ hath con - quered death and sin;
Though re - turn - ing to His throne,
Hark! His gra - cious lips be - stow



Re - as - cends His na - tive heav'n.
Take the King of glo - ry in!
Still He calls the world His own.
Bless - ings on His Church be - low.

Welcome and 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!**

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**

Hymn of Praise: This Is the Feast

Refrain



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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

(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.

Hymn: See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph



1 See, the Lord as - cends in tri - umph; Con - qu'ring King in
2 Who is this that comes in glo - ry With the trump of
5 He has raised our hu - man na - ture On the clouds to



roy - al state, Rid - ing on the clouds, His char - iot, To His
ju - bi - lee? Lord of bat - tles, God of ar - mies, He has
God's right hand; There we sit in heav'n - ly plac - es, There with



heav'n-ly pal - ace gate. Hark! The choirs of an - gel voic - es
gained the vic - to - ry. He who on the cross did suf - fer,
Him in glo - ry stand. Je - sus reigns, a - dored by an - gels;



Joy - ful al - le - lu - ias sing, And the por - tals
He who from the grave a - rose, He has van - quished
Man with God is on the throne. By our might - y



high are lift - ed To re - ceive their heav'n - ly King.
sin and Sa - tan; He by death has crushed His foes.
Lord's as - cen - sion We by faith be - hold our own.

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

Declaration of Faith and Consecration

**I believe in the ascension to heaven of the Lord Jesus Christ
and in His enthronement there at the Father's right hand,
King of kings, and Lord of lords.**

**Also that, baptized into Christ, I have been seated with Him in heavenly places,
such that I participate in His throne.**

**Lord Jesus, I receive you as my authority,
my everlasting victory against Satan and his kingdom,
and my ability to bring Your Kingdom at all times and in every way.**

**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to You,
and I worship You, giving You the place in my heart that You truly deserve,
asking that Your Word would instruct and command, and Your Spirit guide me
always.**

**You are worthy to receive all glory and honor, power and dominion,
now and forever. 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** 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.**

✠ 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.



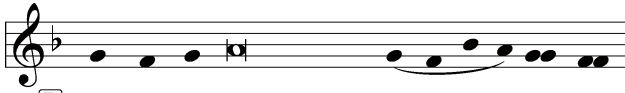
C And al - so with you.



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.

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

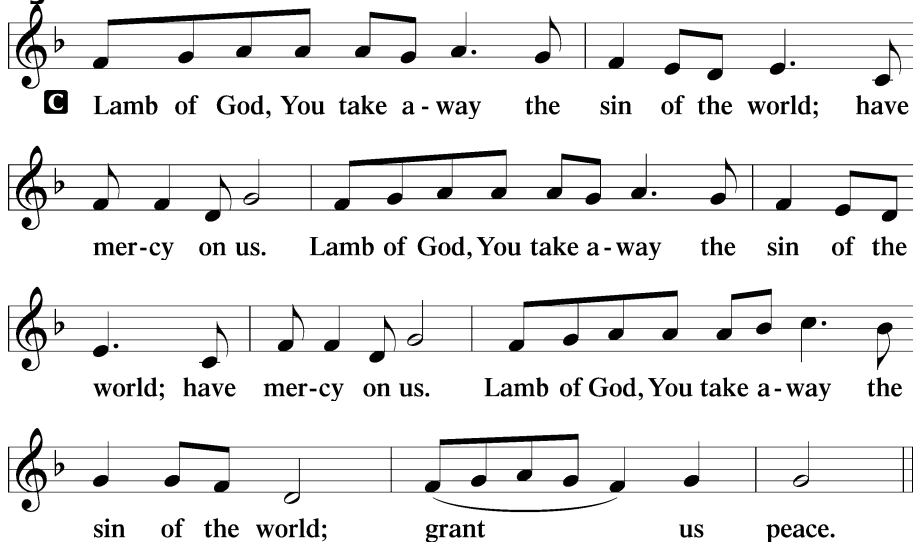


comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up -
3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why
4 "You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up

hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
on the Mount of Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia,
stand and gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia,
to the por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers
 al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior," thus they
 al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
 see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -
 say; "This is His glo - rious tri - umph
 see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 day!" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
 And be our future great reward.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Then, throned with You forever, we
 Shall praise Your name eternally.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- △ 6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
 All praise to You let earth accord:
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 You are, while endless ages run,
 With Father and with Spirit one.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Announcements

Closing Hymn: Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph
2 Death - de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual
3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spir - it,



in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure



Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our
With Your pow'r and love a - bide; Wel - come us, as



on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
You were wel - come, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide.

Postlude: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

setting, P. Manz

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 Laurretta 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 9:30AM – 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!

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)