

**Sunday, May 3, 2026, 10 am**

**FIFTH 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 Laretta Sauer / 8:30: Daisy Karika / 10:00: Sharon Haase

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: Holy is the Lord

We stand and lift up our hands  
For the joy of the Lord is our strength  
We bow down and worship Him now  
How great, how awesome is He  
And together we sing, Everyone sing

Holy is the Lord God Almighty  
The earth is filled with His glory  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty  
The earth is filled with His glory  
The earth is filled with His glory

We stand and lift up our hands  
For the joy of the Lord is our strength  
We bow down and worship Him now  
How great, how awesome is He  
And together we sing, Everyone sing

Holy is the Lord God Almighty  
The earth is filled with His glory  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty  
The earth is filled with His glory  
The earth is filled with His glory

It's rising up all around  
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown  
It's rising up all around  
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

And together we sing, Everyone sing

Holy is the Lord God Almighty  
The earth is filled with His glory  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty  
The earth is filled with His glory  
The earth is filled with His glory

## 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** If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with Him. *[John 14:23]*

**C** **Alleluia!**

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

### Children's Message

### Lord's Prayer

*(Children leave for Sunday School)*

## Song of Praise: Who You Say I Am

Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

Free at last He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

I am chosen, not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me, not against me  
I am who You say I am

I am chosen, not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me, not against me  
I am who You say I am  
I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

## Epistle Reading

*1 Peter 2:2–10*

**A** The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter 2.

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be **a holy priesthood**, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup>and "A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel Reading**

*John 14:1–14*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

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

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

## **Prayer of the Day**

- L** Almighty and eternal God, we come now right into Your heavenly presence,  
**C** **because You have made us acceptable to be here through Your Son.**  
**L** In Him we come before Your divine majesty  
**C** **as Your holy people,**  
**L** Your royal priests.  
**C** **Graciously receive our prayers!**  
**L** And teach us to minister as the priests You have called us all to be,  
**C** **praising You, singing, telling Your gospel, and sacrificing to provide care for others;**  
**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:** Royal Priesthood

## **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 made us to be Your people, O God,
- C** **a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices.**
- L** As a portion of our service, receive our offering;
- C** **we delight to give You thanks and praise;**
- 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.

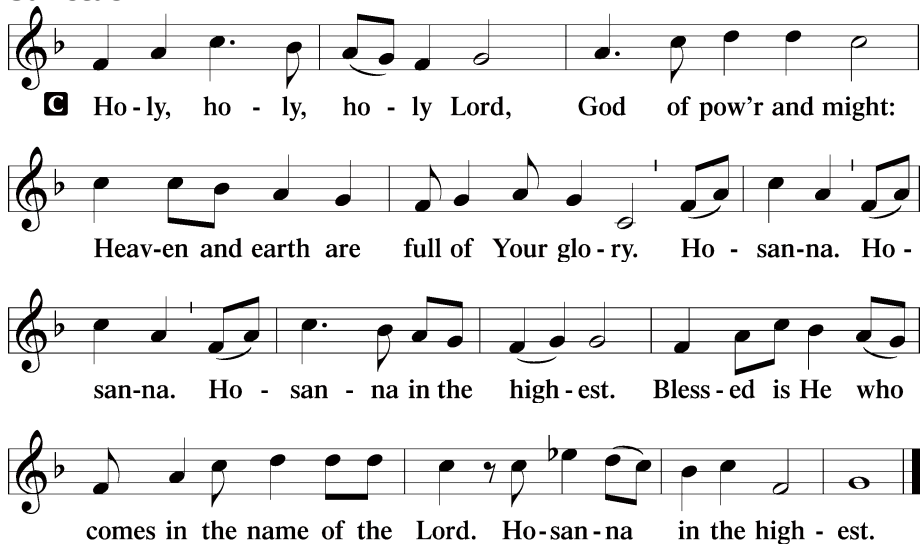
*(We run classes both for young people and adults – everyone welcome.)*

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:

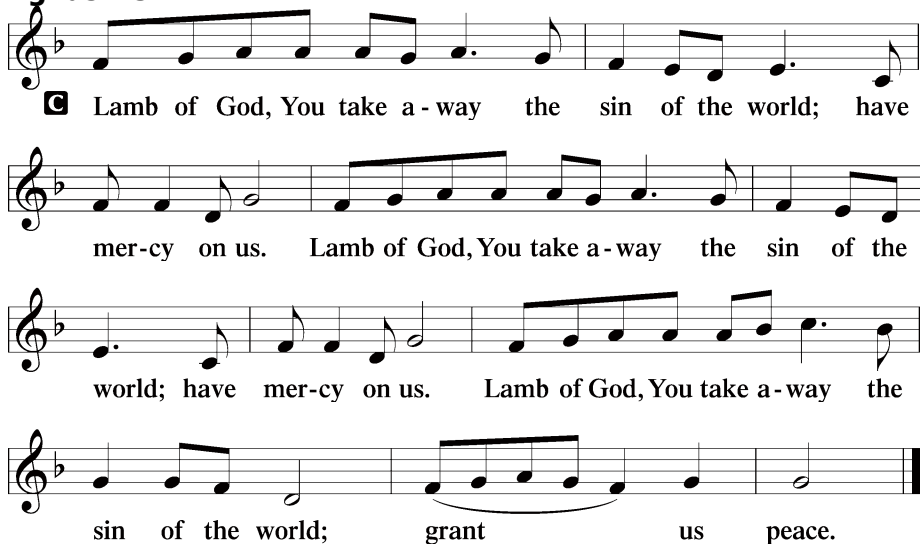
## Sanctus



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: 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

## Prayer After Communion

**L** You have called us out of darkness, O Christ,

**C** **into Your marvellous light!**

**L** By Your Body and Blood which You have given us, sustain us,

**C** **that we may walk in the light of Your Way,**

**L** that we may know the light of Your Truth,

**C** **and that we may feel the light of Your Life.**

**L** You are Lord forevermore.

**C** **Amen.**

## Benediction

## **Closing Song: Firm Foundation**

Verse 1

Christ is my firm foundation  
The rock on which I stand  
When everything around me is shaken  
I've never been more glad  
That I put my faith in Jesus  
'Cause He's never let me down  
He's faithful through generations  
So why would He fail now

He won't, He won't

Verse 2

I've still got joy in chaos  
I've got peace that makes no sense  
I won't be going under  
I'm not held by my own strength  
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus  
He's never let me down  
He's faithful in every season  
So why would He fail now

Chorus - 2x

He won't, He won't  
He won't fail  
He won't fail

Bridge - 3x

Rain came and wind blew  
But my house was built on You  
I'm safe with You  
I'm going to make it through

I'm going to make it through  
'Cause I'm standing strong on You  
I'm going to make it through  
'Cause my house is built on You

Verse 1

Chorus - 2x

He won't



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

## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**VBS 2026:** "Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God" will take place on Monday, August 3rd through Friday, August 7th. Registration will start online on Monday, May 4th and can be found at [stjlc.com/vbs-2026](http://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.

**DEACON INSTALLATION:** Sandra McIlveen, James Sauer and Laretta Sauer will be installed as Atlantic District Lay Deacons during our 10am worship on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Join us to pray and celebrate! A BBQ will follow worship.

**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)

**FARMER'S MARKET:** Hello St. James Lutheran Church! We are so happy to announce that the Farmers market is back! Beginning on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> & continuing through to September 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 Laretta 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!

**ROOF IN A DAY:** Saturday, May 16<sup>th</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 supply the pantry with fresh meats, various vegetables, and other perishable foods. Thank you all for your support.

**OUR SAVIOR NEW AMERICAN SCHOOL:** is looking to fill a couple teaching positions for the upcoming school year. They are looking for a secondary Math teacher, a secondary Spanish teacher, and a leave replacement teacher for the elementary school. Qualified candidates must be Bible-believing Christians who attend a Christ-centered church. If you have any interest, you are invited to reach out to Principal Stelzer at wil.stelzer@osnas.org.

**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

## **REMINDERS**

**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."

**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.

**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 3**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)

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

### **MONDAY May 4**

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

6:30pm Outreach Meeting (Parish Hall)

### **TUESDAY May 5**

7:30pm Moms Group (Upper Room)

### **WEDNESDAY May 6**

12:30pm 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 Evening Alpha Course (Wheeler Home)

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

### **THURSDAY May 7**

7pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

### **FRIDAY May 8**

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

7pm-11pm Ladies Night Out (Parish Hall)

### **SATURDAY May 9**

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

### **SUNDAY May 10**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)

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

6pm-7:30pm TOF High School Hangout (Forbes Home)

You are invited to a



# Princess Party

MAY 16TH

2PM-4PM

Saint James Lutheran Church

in the Parish Hall

\*For Girls ages 2-8

\*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 HERE

