

JOSHUA



POSSESSING THE PROMISES

Saturday, July 18, 2026, 5:30 pm

Sunday, July 19, 2026, 8:30 am

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST



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

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: Adagio, Concerto in A Minor

Vivaldi/Bach

Opening Hymn: My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Welcome and Invocation

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 **Almighty God, Father of great goodness,**
with my whole heart I confess my neglect and forgetfulness of Your
commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against You;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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 an 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: Now the Feast and Celebration - See Insert

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 13:1-3, 23-33; 14:1-11; 21-23, 30-31

A The Old Testament Reading is from Numbers, chapters 13 and 14.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them." ³ So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the people of Israel. [Their names were: Shammua, Shaphat, Caleb, Igal, Joshua, Palti, Gaddiel, Gaddi, Ammiel, Sethur, Nahbi, and Geuel.]

²¹ So they went up and spied out the land. ²³ And they came to the Valley of Eshcol and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them; they also brought some pomegranates and figs. ²⁴ That place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster that the people of Israel cut down from there.

²⁵ At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. ²⁶ And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸ However,...we are not able to go up against the people [living there], for they are stronger than we are." ³² So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. ³³ And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. ² And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴ And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

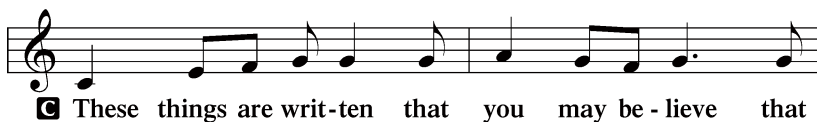
Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel. ⁶ And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. ⁸ If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them." ¹⁰ Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.

¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?... ²¹ Truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, ²² none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³ shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers... ³⁰ not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. ³¹ But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia



Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 7:13–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.

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

¹³Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

P Heavenly Father, Your word is true;

C **Your promises good and completely to be relied upon;**

P Your instructions are to be followed.

C **Yet Israel rejected it all, listening to the bad report of the 10 cowardly spies.**

P Like them, we find ourselves in a fallen world of difficulties and danger.

C **Help us not to give in to fear.**

P Help us to keep our eyes on Jesus,

C **with our faith holding tight to His word and promise and instruction,**

P not leaning on our own imagination or understanding,

C **for it is You who are faithful and true.**

P We pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

C **and forever. Amen.**

Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-br'ham praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;
3 The God of A-br'ham praise, Whose all - suf - fi - cient grace
4 He by Him - self has sworn; I on His oath de - pend.
5 Though na - ture's strength de - cay, And earth and hell with-stand,



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days And God of love.
Shall guide me all my pil - grim days In all my ways.
I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, To heav'n as - cend.
To Ca - naan's bounds I urge my way At His com-mand.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 He deigns to call me friend; He calls Him - self my God.
 I shall be - hold His face; I shall His pow'r a - dore
 The wa - t'ry deep I pass, With Je - sus in my view,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name For - ev - er blest.
 And He shall save me to the end Through Je - sus' blood.
 And sing the won - ders of His grace For - ev - er - more.
 And through the howl - ing wil - der - ness My way pur - sue.

Sermon: Faith and Fear

Apostles' Creed

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life ☩ everlasting. 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** Eternal God, if it were not enough that You provide us with every spiritual blessing,
- C** **You provide us with worldly wealth, as well.**
- L** We offer these things back to You.
- C** **Take, too, our lives. Mold them to Your will.**
- 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

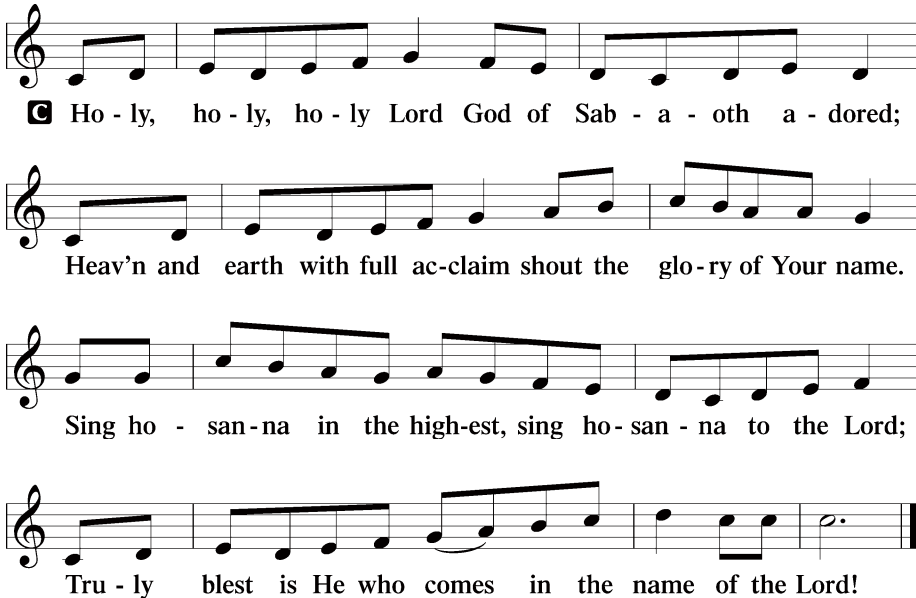
- P** *The Lord be with you.*
- C** **And also with you.**

- 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.**

- P** *Blessed are You, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth.
We give You thanks and praise that You formed us in Your own image:
male and female You created us.*
- C** **When we turned away from You in sin, You did not cease to care for us,**
- P** *but opened a path of salvation for all people, a future Savior whom You would send.*
- C** **To Your servants Abraham and Sarah You gave the promise that all nations
would be blessed.**
- P** *Through Moses You led Your people from bondage into freedom;*
- C** **and under Joshua You gave victory, leading them to possess a beautiful land.**
- P** *Through the prophets You renewed Your ancient promise of salvation*
- C** **and in the fullness of time You fulfilled Your word, sending Your Son, Jesus
Christ, our Lord,**
- P** *who triumphed over our sins by His cross,*
- C** **and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.**
- P** *You now empower Your Church to take news of this blessing to all nations.
Therefore with all the holy people who have served You in every age,
we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of Your name.*

Sanctus

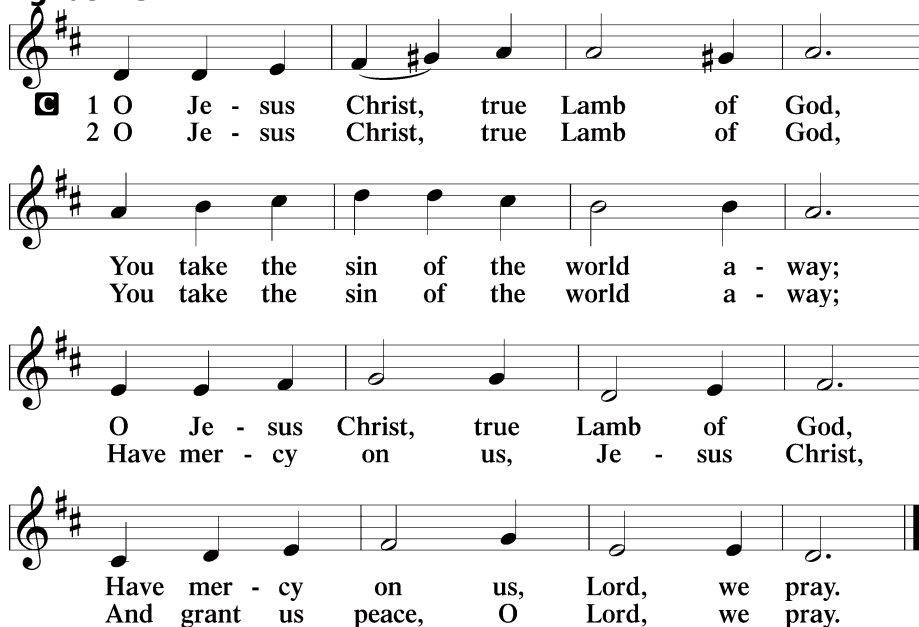


C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,
Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Nunc Dimittis

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Benediction

Announcements

Closing Hymn: Jesus, Lead Thou On



1 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And al-though the
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faith-less
3 When we seek re - lief From a long-felt grief, When temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, We will fol - low calm and fear - less.
fears o'er - take us; Let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing, Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing.
still di - rect us, Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



Guide us by Thy hand To our fa - ther - land.
For through man - y a woe To our home we go.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

Postlude: Carillon and Fugue

Matthias Van Der Gheyn

To Our Wonderful Church Family,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your overwhelming love, prayers, and support during our installation as deacons. Walking into this next chapter of ministry alongside you is a true joy. We are deeply touched by the beautiful deacon stoles and crosses which we will cherish and wear with profound gratitude.

Our sincere thanks also go to everyone who planned, decorated, cooked, baked, and celebrated with us to make this day so unforgettable. We are blessed to serve such a loving congregation and look forward to journeying together in faith.

With Love and Blessings,
Deacon Sandra, Deacon Jim, and Deacon
Lauretta

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

REVELATION BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Conner's Revelation Bible Study on Sunday Resumes on July 26! Come back and learn about the End Times in Revelation! Starts around 11:45, after the 10am service.

VBS TEEN SERVICE PROJECT: Our 6th & 7th grade teens will be doing a service project during VBS. They will be making toiletry bags to be given to the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry & other organizations. We are looking for your help to provide them with the items needed to fill these bags. The items will be collected until Sunday, August 2nd & can be left in the laundry basket labeled VBS Toiletry Donations in the narthex. Items needed are...bar soap, washcloth, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, brush, comb, socks, band aids and packs of tissues. Any questions, please contact our VBS Director, Karin Ryan at 631-862-8017. Thank you for helping the teens!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: During the month of June, 172 families were provided with food and essential products. Thank you for all your generous donations and the hard work of our volunteers! As the need in our community continues, in the months of July and August we would like to collect juice boxes, snack bars and suntan lotion along with toiletries such as feminine products, laundry detergent, diapers. Donations can be left in the Narthex red bin OR dropped off during pantry hours-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am - 12pm. Monetary donations can be sent to Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. Your donation helps to provide hope for those in need and is greatly appreciated. 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."

OUTREACH MINISTRY: School supplies are soon on sale! Outreach will be putting together 100 school kits for Orphan Grain Train. Please take a tag or two from the Narthex Giving tree to help us out! Donations are due by AUGUST 2ND. Please place them in the Narthex "school supply" bin. MANY THANKS to Janet Brienza for getting a \$250. Thrivent Action card to help us purchase some of the items needed. Also, a BIG THANK YOU to Jeri Monthie for sewing the 100 bags that will contain the supplies for each child. God loves a cheerful giver! Thank you, and please pray that each child receiving a kit is blessed and knows that God and folks they never met, love them!

SUMMER BAND: Do you play an instrument? Do you miss jamming out? Do you still jam out and want more ways to play, especially serving God? We have an opportunity for you! Starting June 28th, contemporary songs will continue to be sung at our 10am service, and this means we need new musicians to be part of our "Summer Band"! Our goal is to rotate musicians so they do not have to serve every week if they don't want to. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. If you sing or play an instrument, please contact Pastor Conner or Christine Kenny to sign up.

REMINDERS

KING KULLEN RECEIPTS: Please continue to bring in your King Kullen receipts. Last year we received about \$1000 from King Kullen to be used for our Outreach Ministry. Questions, call Liz Skadberg 631-584-5619 or email oeskadberg1@gmail.com.

MOMS PLAYGROUND MEET-UP: Preschool is out for the summer! Join other moms and kids to enjoy the STJLC playground and community time on Thursdays in July from 10am to noon. Kids of ages welcome.

VBS 2026: "Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God" will take place on Monday, August 3rd through Friday, August 7th. Online registration is now closed. 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.

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 July 19

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary)

MONDAY July 20

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7:30pm – 8:30pm Smithtown Stitchers (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY July 21

7:30pm Moms Group (Forbes Home)

WEDNESDAY July 22

6:30pm – 7:30pm Summer Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY July 23

10am-11:30am Bible Study on Revelation and the Eschaton (Youth Room)

10am – 12pm Moms Playground Meet-up (Playground)

FRIDAY July 24

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY July 25

9am-1pm Farmers Market (Big Parking Lot)

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY July 26

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary)

11:45am – 1pm Bible Study on Revelation and the Eschaton (Parish Hall)