

JOSHUA



POSSESSING THE PROMISES

Sunday, August 23, 2026, 10 am

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER 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 Christine Eriksen / 8:30: Carol Chirco / 10:00: Sandra McIlveen

Slide Operators:

5:30: Laura Merring / 8:30: Tom Carratini / 10:00: Jay Softye

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: Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
Washed away

Hosanna, hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
Washed away

Hosanna, hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

'Cause when we see You
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You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Hosanna, hosanna
Hosanna, hosanna

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

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

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Old Testament Reading

Joshua 7:2–6, 10–13, 16–26

A The Old Testament Reading is from Joshua, chapter 7.

²Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." And the men went up and spied out Ai. ³And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few." ⁴So about 3,000 men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai, ⁵and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

⁶Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads.

¹⁰The LORD said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? ¹¹Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. ¹²Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. ¹³Get up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the LORD, God of Israel, "There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you."

¹⁶So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel near tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was taken. ¹⁷And he brought near the clans of Judah, and the clan of the Zerahites was taken. And he brought near the clan of the Zerahites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. ¹⁸And he brought near his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. ¹⁹Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." ²⁰And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: ²¹when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

²²So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath. ²³And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the LORD. ²⁴And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. ²⁵And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. ²⁶And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day.

Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Reading

John 7:53—8:11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventh and eighth chapters.

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

⁵³They went each to his own house, ¹but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

L Heavenly Father, we come before You today as sinners,

C **like all the people in the bible, we have sinned against You in various ways.**

L Yet we plead in the name of Jesus to have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

C **Please, for the sake of Christ's cross, do not condemn us like You did with Achan.**

L As You forgave the sins of the woman caught in adultery, so too forgive us,

C **and teach us to sin no more.**

L In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now

C **and forever. Amen.**

(Children are dismissed for Children's Church)

Sermon: Hidden Idolatry

Apostles' Creed

C 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

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**

✠ 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!

The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei

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 Song: Once Again

Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice
You became nothing, poured out to death
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life
And I'm in that place once again
I'm in that place once again

Once again I look upon the cross where You died
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank You
Once again I lay down my life

Now You are exalted to the highest place
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow
But for now I marvel at Your saving grace
And I'm full of praise once again
I'm full of praise once again

Once again I look upon the cross where You died
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank You
Once again I lay down my life

Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross, my friend

Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross, my friend

Once again I look upon the cross where You died
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank You
Once again I lay down my life

Prayer after Communion

- L** Lord Jesus Christ, may Your Holy Spirit fill us,
- C** **even as we are filled with the rich foods offered at Your table.**
- L** Empower us.
- C** **Unite us.**
- L** And lead us all the way. For You are the Lord forevermore.
- C** **Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Song: Grace Alone

I was an orphan lost at the fall
Running away when I'd hear you call
But Father you worked your will
I had no righteousness of my own
I had no right to draw near your throne
But Father you loved me still

And in love before you laid the world's foundation
You predestined to adopt me as your own
You have raised me up so high above my station
I'm a child of God by grace and grace alone

You left your home to seek out the lost
You knew the great and terrible cost
But Jesus your face was set
I worked my fingers down to the bone
But nothing I did could ever atone
But Jesus you paid my debt

By Your blood I have redemption and salvation
Lord you died that I might reap what you have sown
And you rose that I might be a new creation
I am born again by grace and grace alone

I was in darkness all of my life
I never knew the day from the night
But Spirit you made me see
I swore I knew the way on my own
Head full of rocks a heart made of stone
But Spirit you moved in me

And at your touch my sleeping spirit was awakened
On my darkened heart the light of Christ has shone
Called into a kingdom that cannot be shaken
Heaven's citizen by grace and grace alone

So I'll stand in faith by grace and grace alone
I will run the race by grace and grace alone
I will slay my sin by grace and grace alone
I will reach the end by grace and grace alone



Please join us outside after the 10am service for lemonade on the lawn!

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUNG FAMILY/PRESCHOOL BBQ: Please join us on Thursday, August 27th at Veteran's Memorial Park in St. James, from 5pm-8pm for our young family and preschool BBQ! RSVP at stjlc.com/events. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring either a salad or dessert to share along with drinks for your family. Last day to register is 8/26/26.

HELP WANTED – PAID POSITION – CHURCH CLEANING CREW: Part time, flexible schedule, cleaning church and preschool, includes set up and general cleaning. Must be at least 16 years old, NYS working papers required. For more information contact Ed Spear. 631-873-6429

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE SWEETEST MINISTRY IN TOWN? Then consider becoming a Preschool HUGGER this September and October! What is a HUGGER? A hugger is an extra set of hands in the classroom during the first few weeks (mornings only) of preschool. Huggers come alongside the teachers and help settle our newest little 2 and 3 year old friends who might be missing their mommies and daddies. The program is flexible - you pick a morning(s) that works best for you! If you are interested in joining our program, contact Director Christie Geary at preschooldirector@stjlc.com. It's a great day at Pre-K!

REMINDERS

GRIEFSHARE: Our GriefShare class will begin on Wednesday September 16th in the Youth Room. Time of sessions is 10AM to Noon. This 13-week program encompasses a 30 minute video seminar where you will hear insights from recovery experts. A group discussion will follow to discuss grief-related issues while you are getting to know others who understand what you are going through. Through discussion you will receive comfort and support. You will gain personal recovery tips for navigating your grief and discover the 6 signs of healing through your personal workbook. The topics that are covered include the following: Your grief journey; sadness and loneliness; fear and anxiety; anger; regrets; grief and your relationships; questions for God and many more topics will be covered in this Christian based program helping you move forward from mourning to joy. Participants pay no fees for the materials used in the GriefShare program thanks

to the generous grant given to us by Saint James Funeral Home. If you are interested in GriefShare, please contact Ed Spear. 631-873-6429

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: Thank you to our teens who put together toiletry bags for the pantry during VBS! The month of July, 161 families received food and essential products. Our church will host the month of Sept at the pantry. We will need 1-2 volunteers on Tues, Thurs, Sat from 9:30-12:30 to help out. Sign up is in the Narthex. As the need in the community continues, we continue to collect toiletry items, laundry detergent, dish soap. Donations can be left in the Narthex red bin or dropped off during pantry hours. Monetary donations can be sent to Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. Your donations are 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."

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 August 23

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary)

After 10 am service: Baptism of Rylee Maura Huber

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

MONDAY August 24

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

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

TUESDAY August 25

9am – 4pm Preschool staff training day and classroom setup

7:30pm Moms Group (Forbes Home)

WEDNESDAY August 26

9am – 4pm Preschool staff training day and classroom setup

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

THURSDAY August 27

9am – 4pm Preschool staff training day and classroom setup

10am – 11:30am Bible study on Revelation and the Eschaton (Youth Room)

5pm Young Family/Preschool BBQ (Veterans Memorial Park St. James)

FRIDAY August 28

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY August 29

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

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY August 30

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and Baptism of Lilah Ann Rieder (Sanctuary)

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