



Sunday, September 20, 2026, 8:30 am

THE SEVENTEENTH 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: Deacons Jim and Laurretta Sauer / 10:00: Sharon Haase

Slide Operators:

5:30: Laura Merring / 8:30: Julie Rodriguez / 10:00: Joe Poma

Altar flowers have been given- to our wonderful daughter Melissa Spear for her wedding on Saturday September 19, 2026. We love you and Jonathan so very much. Love, Mom, Dad and Grandma Valerie.

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt

Pastor: Conner Forbes

www.stjlc.com

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

Prelude: Hymn To Joy

Charles Callahan

Opening Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!

2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,

△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.

Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.

Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.

Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash-ing sea,

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.

Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.

Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Welcome and Invocation

Confession and Absolution

P Because we have faith in God's mercy, we dare to approach Him with honesty.

-Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination-

P Holy and merciful God,

C You alone know exactly how often we have veered from Your ways, misused Your good gifts, and contradicted Your love.

We confess our trespasses and offenses against You.

Have mercy on us, Lord. We are sorry and ashamed.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior, forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Hear the good news!

Jesus was given by His Father to ransom and save sinners. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Aid us, now Lord, to enjoy Your presence, share our faith, and show your ways.

P Amen.

Hymn of Praise: This is the Feast



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be people of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



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



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 55.

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
 call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
 and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
 let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia



Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1–16

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

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

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

- L** Heavenly Father, You have called each of us into Your vineyard.
- C** **We thank You that You have graciously given all of us what we don't deserve: Your forgiveness and Your presence.**
- L** And now Lord God, we pray that You would teach us Your ways, so that like the Christians before us,
- C** **we may stand before Your throne confident of Your grace. mercy, and compassion.**
- 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.**

Hymn: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Sermon: Offensive Generosity

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

**℟ Heavenly Father, You have gathered Your people together
☩ from different families... from separate backgrounds,
℟ to be one family-
☩ with You our Father... with Christ our brother.**

- L** Receive and bless the gifts here offered,
- C** **even as You receive and bless Your family.**
- 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.

Proper Preface

- P** Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives You praise.
- C** **In the fullness of time You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to share our human nature,**
- P** to live and die as one of us,
- C** **to reconcile us to You, the God and Father of all.**
- P** He healed the sick
- C** **and opened the eyes of the blind.**
- P** He proclaimed the good news of Your kingdom to the poor and to those in need,
- C** **and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners.**
- P** He was the place on earth where people really met with You.
- C** **We give You thanks that He still receives struggling men and women, calling us friends,**
- P** for His perfect sacrifice has destroyed the barrier of sin and judgement,
- C** **and by raising Him to life You give us life for evermore.**
- P** Therefore with the angels and archangels, and with all the residents of heaven, we honor and glorify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

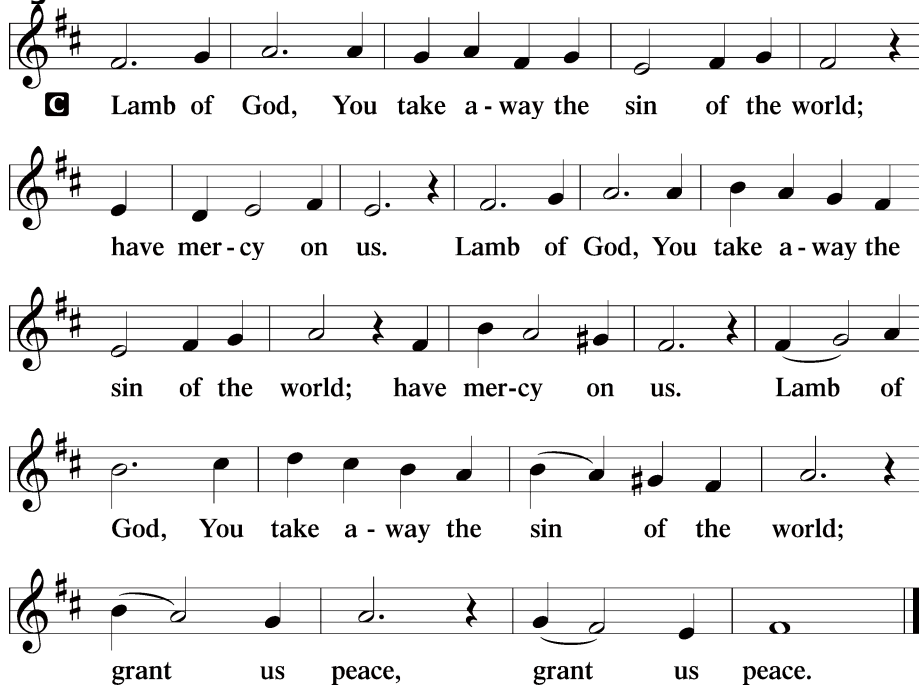
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name

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

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei



C 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, grant us peace.

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.

Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The text is as follows:

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the
Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en__ Je - sus
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give
thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en__
Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am
strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be - cause of
what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am



rich," ____ Be - cause of what the Lord has done for us.



Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

Benediction

Announcements

Closing Hymn: All Christians Who Have Been Baptized



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap - tized, Who know the God of
 2 You were be - fore your day of birth, In - deed, from your con -
 3 But all of that was washed a - way— Im - mersed and drowned for -
 4 In Bap - tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful - ly



heav - en, And in whose dai - ly life is prized The name of
 cep - tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with -
 ev - er. The wa - ter of your Bap-tism day Re - stored a -
 cov - ered With all that He once sac - ri - ficed And free - ly



Christ once giv - en: Con - sid - er now what God has done, The
 out ex - cep - tion. For like your par - ents' flesh and blood, Turned
 gain what-ev - er Old Ad - am and his sin de-stroyed And
 for us suf - fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev - 'ry - one Bap-tized in - to Christ Je - sus!
 in - ward from the high - est good, You con-stant - ly de - nied Him.
 all our sin - ful selves em-ployed Ac - cord-ing to our na - ture.
 makes us ho - ly, right, and good Be - fore our heav'n-ly Fa - ther.

Postlude: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (Lord, Revive Us) *Gilbert M. Martin*

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUESDAY NIGHT LADIES' BIBLE STUDY: is happening most Tuesday nights at the Forbes' home! Come in your comfy clothes, enjoy snacks, and chat about all things faith and motherhood. Join the group me via the qr code on the poster in the narthex for more information and updates. Scheduled dates are 9/15, 10/6, 10/13, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15.

SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTOR NEEDED: Church is currently looking for a snow removal contractor for the 2026/2027 season. If you or someone you know is a contractor, please contact Ed Spear at 631-873-6429

NEW BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Neil will be leading a new Bible study titled "Be Still". We will explore the simple, transformative practice of a daily quiet time with God. It will be held on Thursdays from 10am to 11:15am on 9/17, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, and 11/5.

KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE: Calling all boys ages 2-10 and their dads! Please join us for a Knights of the Round Table party on Saturday, October 3rd from 2pm-4pm in the Parish Hall. RSVP at stjlc.com/events.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Please join us on Saturday, October 24th, from 2pm – 4pm for Trunk or Treat! Interested in how you can help? Please email luann@stjlc.com to let us know if you can decorate a trunk, donate some candy, or bring your family and friends! For more information, please visit stjlc.com/events

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: The month of August, 185 families received food and essential products from the Smithtown Pantry (724 individuals). In addition, hope is shared through our giving to those in need and showing them, they are not forgotten. As the need increases and to those who can give, we continue to collect toiletry items, laundry detergent, dish soap. Canned items can always be used. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be left in the Narthex RED bin or dropped off during pantry hours, Tues, Thurs, Sat from 10-12. Monetary donations can be sent directly to: Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. These funds are used to purchase items such as milk, chicken and eggs. Questions, call Jeanne Harmer "Teach me to do your will, for You are my God." Psalm 143:10

REMINDERS

CALLING ALL K-5th GRADERS: St James Lutheran Church is forming a Fellowship/Cub Scout Pack. Pack 301. Games, music, songs, puppet show, prayer followed by hands on Scouting activities! Meetings will be every third Tuesday, once a month (we follow School Calendar) Location: Parish Hall Time: 6:30-7:45. Please contact Bill Irmscher Eagle1troop301@gmail.com Or Scott Eriksen dseeriksen@gmail.com.

OUTREACH: A huge thank you to everyone who helped provide school supplies to make school kits for Orphan Grain Train. Outreach Ministry put together 110 kits- the most ever! A special thank you to: Jeri Monthie for sewing/making over 100 adorable tote bags to contain the supplies, to Thrivent for a \$250 Action card that provided some of the supplies and to Janet Brienza for getting the Action Card! Special hugs to Jimmy Sauer our best "kit packer" who is indispensable to completing our many projects. These kits will go on the OGT truck coming to us in May. 110 children will be blessed with joy receiving these kits so that they can attend school. They will know of God's love through our caring! Praise and thanks be to God!

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 September 20

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship/Sunday School and Baptism for the Petroglia Family (Sanctuary)

6:30pm-8pm Youth Night Welcome Back Party (Parish Hall)

MONDAY September 21

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7:30pm Smithtown Stitchers (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY September 22

WEDNESDAY September 23

10am-12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)

6:30pm – 7:30pm Confirmation (Parish Hall)

7:45pm – 9pm Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY September 24

Witness in the Public Square

7pm – 9pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

FRIDAY September 25

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY September 26

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

9:30am – Altar Guild Meeting

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY September 27

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship and Sunday School (Sanctuary)