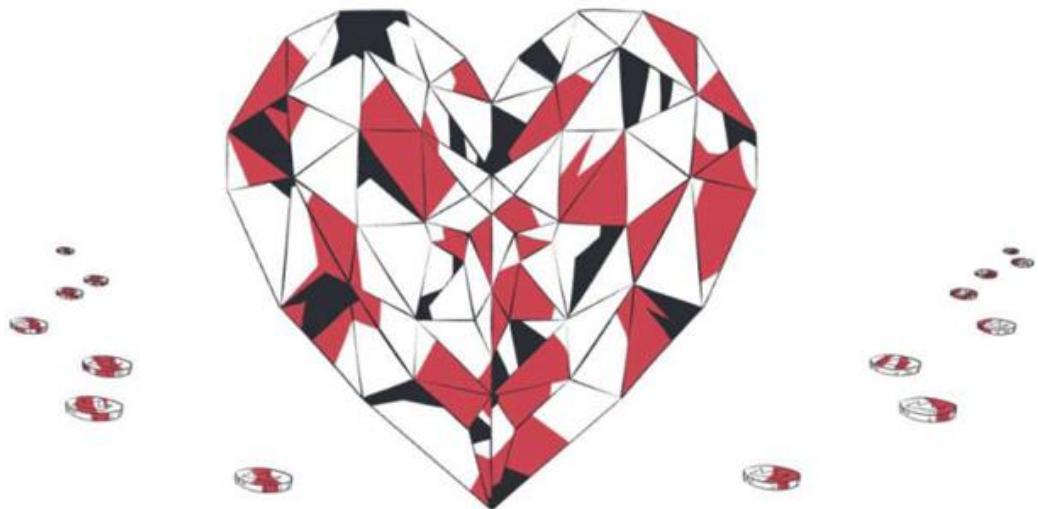


FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

# GIVING

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## CHALLENGE



**Saturday, January 17, 2026, 5:30 pm  
Sunday, January 18, 2026, 8:30 am**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**



*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: Daisy Karika / 10:00: Greg Buscarino

Altar flowers have been given- In memory of Mary-Bubb Steinmann and her birthday with our Lord. From, Holly Vassallo.

Pastor: Neil Mittelstaedt

Pastor: Conner Forbes

[www.stjlc.com](http://www.stjlc.com)

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

## Prelude: Largo, Voluntary in G Major

John Stanley

## Opening Hymn: Hail, O Source of Every Blessing



1. Hail, O Source of ev-'ry bless-ing, Fa-ther of our  
2. Once far off but now in-vit-ed, We ap-proach Your  
3. Hail, O all-in-vit-ing Sav-ior! Gen-tiles now their  
hu-man race! Gen-tiles now, Your grace pos-sess-ing, In Your  
sa-cred throne, In Your cov-e-nant u-nit-ed, Rec-on-of-f'rings bring, In Your tem-ples seek Your fa-vor, Je-sus  
courts ob-tain a place. Grate-ful now, we fall be-fore You, ciled, re-deemed, made one. Now re-vealed to east-ern sa-ges, Christ, our Lord and King. May we, bod-y, soul, and spir-it,  
In Your Church re-joice to live, See Your glo-ry  
See the Star of Mer-cy shine, Mys-t'ry hid in  
Live de-vot-ed to Your praise, Glo-rious realms of  
and a-dore You, Thank-ful for the grace You give.  
for-mer a-ges, Mys-t'ry great of love di-vine.  
bliss in-her-it, Grate-ful an-thems ev-er raise.

## Welcome and Invocation

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
  
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*-Silence is observed for self-examination-*

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 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.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. “A - men!” our glad re - ply.

## Epistle Reading

*1 Timothy 6:6-10*

**A** The Epistle is from 1 Timothy, chapter 6.

<sup>6</sup>Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup>But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia



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



**C** These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

## Holy Gospel Reading

*John 4:7, 8, 27-34*

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

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

<sup>7</sup>There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

<sup>8</sup>(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)...

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" <sup>28</sup>So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup>"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" <sup>30</sup>They went out of the town and were coming to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."

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

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

## Prayer of the Day

**L** Gracious Father, happiness is something You want for Your children,

**C** -often the word we use is 'blessed'-

**L** but the world bombards us with its own ideas on what will make us happy,

**C** theories which aren't working and can never work.

**L** Open our ears to hear Your Word,

**C** and a give us a spirit of understanding.

**L** Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

**C** Teach us until we get that;

**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: Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

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. \_\_\_\_\_

## Sermon: Giving Happily: Trading Comfort for Contentment

## 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  $\pm$  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](http://stjlc.com/give). You may also give to God and the work of His Church by mailing your offering in.*



### Offering Prayer

- L Almighty, Generous, and Eternal God, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift.**
- C All that we have comes from Your gracious hand.**
- L You provide daily bread—homes, work, abilities, and resources.**
- C We receive these gifts with thanksgiving and trust.**
- L You also gave up riches beyond measure,**
- C and humbled Yourself for our salvation.**

- ❑ Move us to give our tithes and offerings not to earn Your favor,
- ❑ **but in grateful response to Your mercy.**
- ❑ In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now
- ❑ **and forever, 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**

❑ The Lord be with you.

❑ **And also with you.**

❑ Lift up your hearts.

❑ **We lift them to the Lord.**

❑ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

❑ **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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new 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 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



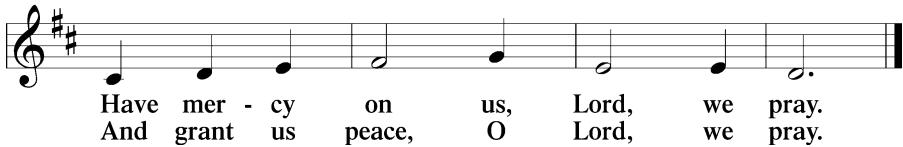
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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,



## Distribution

### Distribution Hymn: In Christ Alone

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, Full - ness of God in help - less babe.  
3. There in the ground His bo - dy lay, Light of the world by dark - ness slain.  
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow'r of Christ in me.

This cor - ner stone, this sol - id ground, Firm through the fierc est drought and storm.  
This gift of love and right - eous - ness, Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Then burst - ing forth in glor - ious day, Up from the grave He rose a - gain.  
From life's first cry to fin - al breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when striv ings cease.  
Till on that cross, as Je - sus died, The wrath of God was sat - is - fied,  
And as He stands in vic - to - ry, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
No pow'r of Hell, no scheme of man, Can ev - er pluck me from His hand;

12 G

My Com-fort er, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.  
 For ev-ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.  
 For I am His, and He is mine, Bought with the pre-cious blood of Christ.  
 Till He re-turns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

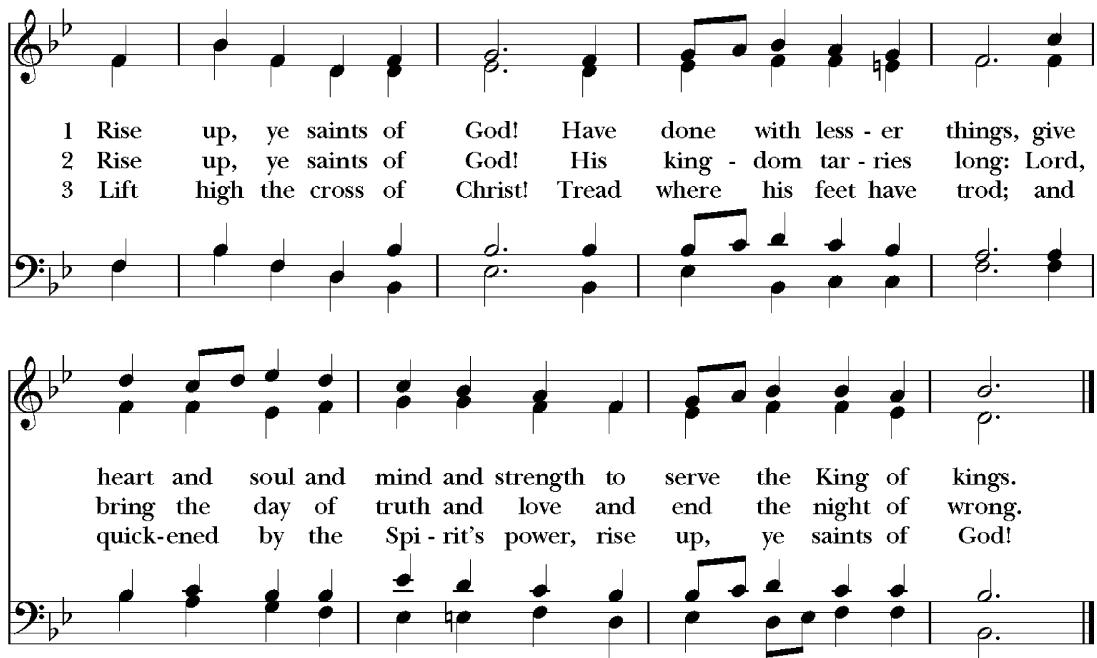
### Nunc Dimittis

C 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 be-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: Rise Up, Ye Saints of God



1 Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done with less - er things, give long: Lord,  
2 Rise up, ye saints of His king - dom tar - ries  
3 Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod; and

heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.  
bring the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong.  
quick-ened by the Spi - rit's power, rise up, ye saints of God!

heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.  
bring the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong.  
quick-ened by the Spi - rit's power, rise up, ye saints of God!

## Postlude: Vivace, Voluntary in G Major

*John Stanley*

## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GETTING CLEAR REMINDER:** There will be no “getting clear” class this Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. We will resume next week on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**JANUARY LAF LUNCHEON:** Beat the Winter blahs and come for a LAF? The Date is January 21st. Please sign up in the Narthex!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** will be held on Sunday, January 18th after the 10:00 service in the Parish Hall.

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026-2027 HAS BEGUN:** New Families - please join us at our **Open House on Tuesday, January 27th from 12:30-2:30 pm and 5:30-7:30 pm** to meet our teachers and tour our classrooms with your little one. Registration begins at Open House and is ongoing until all spots are filled. Registration Forms may be found in the Narthex in the Preschool Basket.

**LENDING COMFORTS OF SMITHTOWN:** has both regular and transport wheelchairs available for those in need. 71 Blydenburgh Ave, Smithtown, NY 11787 631-265-1674 [lendingcomforts@gmail.com](mailto:lendingcomforts@gmail.com). Lending hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 4-7 pm and Saturday 9am-12pm/

**GRIEFSHARE:** Our GriefShare class will begin on Wednesday January 21st 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

## **REMINDERS**

**FOOD PANTRY NEWS:** The pantry has been increasingly busy servicing 210 families the month of December during our Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10-1200 hours. We thank everyone who has donated food, funds and willing hands to help hand out food and essential products. We currently are in need of cereal, baked beans, chunky soups, and jelly that can be left in the church Narthex red box. Monetary donations can be sent directly to the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, NY 11787. Funds are used to purchase items such as milk, eggs, chicken or chopped meat. Volunteers are needed to hand out food and stock items on pantry days from 930-1200. Congregational youth ages 16-18 are welcome on Saturdays and can earn community hours. Questions, call Jeanne Harmer 631-484-5203. ACTS 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** are in the narthex listed alphabetically for those that use envelopes. If you give electronically, there will not be envelopes for there for you. People who give electronically may request envelopes if needed by contacting the church office.

**GIVING WITH SUBSPASH:** In order to ensure the most secure and seamless experience, we will be transitioning to a new giving platform. **We will be moving from Vanco to Subsplash.** This change will help us manage resources more effectively, at less cost, and make it even easier for you to support the mission of our church. Visit [stjlc.com](http://stjlc.com) and click on the tab that says "Give" for full directions on how to make the switch! If you need assistance, please email Sandra at [sandramcilveen@hotmail.com](mailto:sandramcilveen@hotmail.com)

**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 January 18**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)  
10am Family Worship and Baptism of Liam Candia Erickson with Sunday School (Sanctuary)  
11:30am Congregational Meeting (Parish Hall)  
11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

### **MONDAY January 19**

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

### **TUESDAY January 20**

7:30pm Moms Giving Group Group (Forbes Home)  
7:30pm Giving Group for All (Parish Hall)

### **WEDNESDAY January 21**

10am – 12pm Griefshare (Youth Room)  
12:30pm LAF Luncheon (Parish Hall)  
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 January 22**

10am Thursday Giving Group for All (Youth Room)

### **FRIDAY January 23**

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

### **SATURDAY January 24**

8am Men's Giving Group (Norway Hall)  
5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

### **SUNDAY January 25**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)  
10am Family Worship with Sunday School (Sanctuary)  
11:30am – 1:30pm Getting Clear Class (Youth Room)  
11:30am – 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)