



**Saturday, January 24, 2026, 5:30pm**

**SNOW CHURCH**



*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

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: Blessed Be Your Name**

Blessed Be Your Name, in the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name, when I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed Be Your name

*[Pre-chorus]*

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in, Lord, Still I will say

*[Chorus]*

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name!

Blessed be Your name, when the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's 'all as it should be'  
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name, on the road of this suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name

*[Pre-chorus]*

*[Chorus]*

*[Bridge - Repeat 2x]*

You give and take away, You give and take away  
I'll worship you and say, Lord blessed be Your name

*[Chorus - 2x]*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Invocation**

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

### **Children's Message**

## Lord's Prayer

*(Children leave for Sunday school during the Song of Praise)*

### Song: Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,  
  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord:  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!  
  
thou my best thought by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,  
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,  
  
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

### Epistle Reading

*2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10*

**A** The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapter 5.

<sup>1</sup>For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

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

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

## Holy Gospel Reading

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" <sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup> And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' <sup>18</sup> "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup> And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' <sup>21</sup> "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Prayer of the Day

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, in the parable of the rich fool You have warned us not to store our treasures on earth,  
**C** **for here, all things, including us, will rot, rust, and return to dust.**  
**L** You also teach us to turn our lives toward the kingdom of heaven,  
**C** **where You are teaching us to be restored, holy, and glorified.**  
**L** Teach us now to think eternally about Your forever Kingdom,  
**C** **not just for ourselves, but the people around us too.**  
**L** In your name we pray, as You reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now  
**C** **and forever, Amen.**

## Sermon: Giving Eternally

## **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  $\ddagger$  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.**
- L** Move us to give our tithes and offerings not to earn Your favor,
- C** **but in grateful response to Your mercy.**
- 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.**

## **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:
- C** **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.**

## † 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** 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!

## The Words of Our Lord

### Agnus Dei

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God, God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb Lamb of God, 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, 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: His Mercy is More

- 1 What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

2 Chorus

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

3 What patience would wait as we constantly roam

What Father, so tender, is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
(Chorus)

4 What riches of kindness He lavished on us

His blood was the payment, His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
(Chorus)

## **Benediction**

### **Closing Song: Jesus Messiah**

He became sin who knew no sin  
That we might become His righteousness  
He humbled Himself and carried the cross  
Love so amazing love so amazing

[Chorus]

Jesus Messiah Name above all names  
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel  
The Rescue for sinners  
The Ransom from heaven  
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

His body the bread His blood the wine  
Broken and poured out all for love  
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn  
Love so amazing love so amazing

[Chorus]

All our hope is in You  
All our hope is in You

All the glory to You God  
The Light of the world

[Chorus]

Jesus Messiah  
Lord of all  
The Lord of all



Please join us downstairs after the 5:30pm Service in the Parish Hall for the SJ Cafe.

### **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## You are Invited to **ALPHA**

There are 2 different Alpha courses coming up!

**Wednesday February 25th, 7pm - 9pm**

Mike Wheelers Home  
40 Marwood Place, Stonybrook, NY 11790

*or*

**Wednesday March 4th, 12:30 - 2:30 pm**

Parish Hall

RSVP [office@stjlc.com](mailto:office@stjlc.com) or 631-584-5212

**TECH TEAM:** Are you looking for ways to volunteer and have a particular set of skills in technology? Then we need you! We are looking for volunteers to help run slides and run livestream. If you are interested, please sign up on the sign up sheet in the back in the narthex. We are also looking for people who work in IT. Got questions? Ask Pastor Conner.

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR NEEDED:** Our beloved Pre-School Director, Meredith Johansson, will be retiring at the end of this school year. We are now seeking her replacement to join our Church staff. Position description provided upon request. Contact Pr. Neil Mittelstaedt by emailing [pastorneil@stjlc.com](mailto:pastorneil@stjlc.com) or by calling 631-584-5212.

**MITE BOXES – SMALL GIFTS BIG IMPACT:** The Lutheran Women's Mission League, LWML, provides these small boxes, that are in the Narthex of our Church. These MITE boxes are available for parishioners who wish to support Mission Grants in our Country and around the world, through small voluntary offerings. Even spare change adds up and helps fund Mission work locally and globally. The January Mission Grant has allowed showers to be made available to LERT locations that help in disaster areas. If you haven't used a MITE box before, we invite you to pick one up and be part of this meaningful ministry. If you have any questions, contact Durinda Dalton 631-897-0307

**FEBRUARY LADIES' NIGHT OUT:** Join us for a Galentines Ladies Night on Friday, February 6th at 7:30pm in the parish hall. We will be decorating cookies with Baked By Liv Long Island. She will teach us some cookie decorating tips and tricks! It's \$10 per person. There is a cap at 25 attendees, so sign up by 1/26!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** will be held on Sunday, February 8th after the 10:00 service in the Parish Hall.

**TAX STATEMENTS:** are available to be picked up in the Narthex from 2025.

**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/

## **REMINDERS**

**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

**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."

**GIVING WITH SUBSPLASH:** 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 [sandramcilveren@hotmail.com](mailto:sandramcilveren@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 25**

Snow Day!

### **MONDAY January 26**

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

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

### **TUESDAY January 27**

7:30pm Moms Giving Group Group (Forbes Home)

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

### **WEDNESDAY January 28**

10am – 12pm Griefshare (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 29**

10am Thursday Giving Group for All (Youth Room)

### **FRIDAY January 30**

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

### **SATURDAY January 31**

8am Men's Giving Group (Norway Hall)

5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

### **SUNDAY February 1**

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)