



**Sunday, January 4, 2026, 10 am**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**



*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: Daisy Karika / 10:00: Owen Schmideler

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: The First Noel (Band Version)**

The first Noel the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
They look-ed up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.  
This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel.*

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there, in His presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel.*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel.*

Text: Public domain

## **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: For Unto Us a Child is Born/Open the Eyes of my Heart**

For unto us a child is born  
A Son is given, a Son is given  
For unto us a child is born  
A Son is given, a Son is given  
The Messiah, oh to see Him  
To see Him high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy (repeat)

You are high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy (4x)

For unto us a child is born  
Holy, holy, holy (repeat)

### **Old Testament Reading**

*1 Kings 3:4–15*

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from 1 Kings, chapter 3.

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

<sup>11</sup>And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

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

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

### **Anthem 10 am: What Can I Give Him? (Karen Limardo, Sandra McIlveen)**

*arr. M. Schweizer*

### **Epistle Reading**

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

**A** The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 1.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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

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

## Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 2:40–52

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

<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

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

## Prayer of the Day

**L** Almighty and Everlasting Father, we thank You for sending Your only Son into this world,  
**C** **for Jesus is the Word made Flesh. He is wisdom personified.**  
**L** Teach us in this new year Your Wisdom so that like Solomon,  
**C** **we may ask and receive Your Wisdom.**  
**L** So that like Jesus,  
**C** **we may dwell in our Father's house.**  
**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.**

**Sermon:** The Wisdom of God for a New Year

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



### Offering Prayer

- L Your true Light, Lord, has come into the world—**
- C the Light that enlightens everyone ... the Light that enlivens us.**
- L Accept these gifts—signs of our inexpressible gratitude.**
- C And help us to reflect Your Light ... Your grace.**
- L Through Jesus Christ, the Light, 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.**

-a time of silent confession and prayer-

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God and our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.**  
**We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved You with our whole heart;**  
**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**  
**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His love and mercy has given His Son 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 our 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

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**L** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** *God of mercy and might*  
**C** **we praise and worship You this day,**  
**P** *for You came in silence, while all lay sleeping,*  
**C** **to enter our world as a child of humble birth.**  
**P** *We thank You for Your Son Jesus Christ,*  
**C** **born of Your handmaid, Mary.**  
**P** *In His face we behold Your glory,*  
**C** **for in His life, as in His death, is Your gift of salvation.**  
**P** *Therefore with angels from heaven, with the shepherds and the magi and with all the saints gathered around Your throne, we also raise our voices to sing the glory of Your Name:*

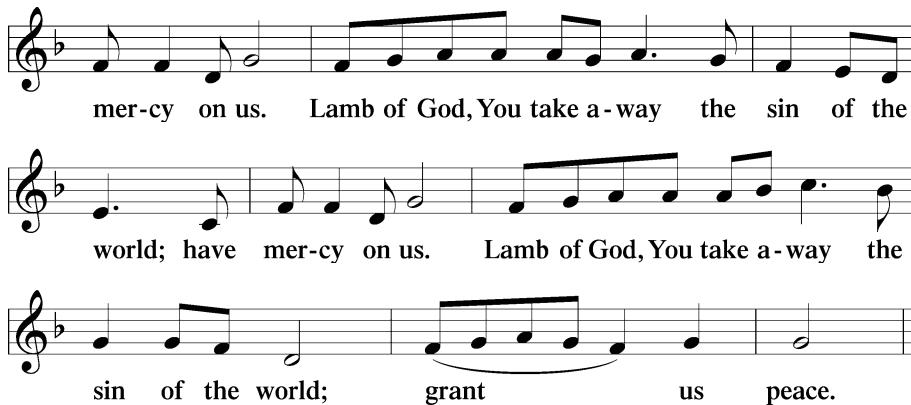
### Sanctus

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

### The Words of Our Lord

#### Agnus Dei

**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



## Distribution

### Distribution Song: The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me  
 2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;  
 3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;  
 4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;

To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!  
 New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.  
 The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.  
 God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.

Saints blest with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim  
 Here He for - gives our sins With wa - ter and His Word;  
 For - give - ness that we need Is grant - ed to us there;  
 Christ fills them with Him - self, Blest words that give them life,

That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.  
 The tri - une God Him - self Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.  
 The Lord of mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest care.  
 Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife.

5 The gifts are in the feast,  
    Gifts far more than we see;  
Beneath the bread and wine  
    Is food from Calvary.  
The body and the blood  
    Remove our ev'ry sin;  
We leave His presence in  
    His peace, renewed again.

6 All glory to the One  
    Who lavishes such love;  
The triune God in love  
    Assures our life above.  
His means of grace for us  
    Are gifts He loves to give;  
All thanks and praise for His  
    Great love by which we live!

## **Benediction**

### **Closing Song: Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)**

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and Heaven and nature sing

We will sing sing sing  
Joy to the world  
We will sing sing sing

Joy to the World the Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

We will sing sing sing  
Joy to the world  
We will sing sing sing

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders wonders of His love

We will sing sing sing  
Joy to the world  
We will sing sing sing

Joyful joyful we adore Thee  
God of glory Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee  
Op'ning to the sun above

Joyful joyful we adore Thee  
God of glory Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee  
Op'ning to the sun above

We will sing sing sing  
Joy to the world  
We will sing sing sing



Please join us downstairs after the 10 a.m. Service in the Parish Hall for the SJ Cafe.

## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GETTING CLEAR:** Different, important pieces go into our Christian Faith. Nearly everyone has trouble fitting them all together. This is the class that will help you see clearly. Getting Clear meets for three afternoons...Sunday, January 11, Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:30am – 1:30pm in the Youth Room. Babysitting is available. If you can attend, RSVP by emailing Maria at [marwar1@optonline.net](mailto:marwar1@optonline.net)

**THE GIVING CHALLENGE:** The Giving Challenge will begin on January 11, 2026. People can participate by purchasing a book and doing the challenge at home, OR by purchasing a book and joining a Small Group for discussion. Each week, we will send out a video to be watched. The cost of the book is \$15. You can purchase a book by depositing \$15 into the designated box in the Narthex and taking a book, OR by purchasing a book online and then picking up your book in the Narthex. To purchase your book online, please visit the [stjlc.com/give](http://stjlc.com/give) and choose the fund listed as "The Giving Challenge". Sign up Sheets will be located in the Narthex by the books and the table with the Giving Challenge information.

**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.

## **REMINDERS**

**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 Luann at [luann@stjlc.com](mailto:luann@stjlc.com) or call 631-584-5212. If needed, you may make an appointment for help!

**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 4**

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

### **MONDAY January 5**

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)  
6:30pm Outreach Meeting (Parish Hall)

### **TUESDAY January 6**

7:30pm Moms Group (Upper Room)

### **WEDNESDAY January 7**

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 8**

7pm Council Meeting (Library)

### **FRIDAY January 9**

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)  
7pm-11pm Ladies Night Out (Parish Hall)

### **SATURDAY January 10**

8am Bacon, Eggs, and Bible (Norway Hall)  
5:30pm Worship (Sanctuary)

### **SUNDAY January 11**

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)

# ‘GETTING CLEAR’

Different, important pieces go into  
our Christian faith.

Nearly everyone has trouble  
fitting them all together.

**This is the class that will help you  
see clearly.**

**Who is this for?**

-everyone

-especially people who have sat in church  
and had questions

**Is it interesting?**

-oh, yeah

**‘Getting Clear’ meets during three afternoons:**

**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and February 1<sup>st</sup>**

**11:30 am – 1:30 pm**

**in the Youth Room**

-Please let us know if you plan to come-

Email Maria Honnold at [marwar1@optonline.net](mailto:marwar1@optonline.net)