

**Saturday, December 13, 2025, 5:30 pm**  
**Sunday, December 14, 2025, 8:30 am**

**ADVENT WEEK 3**



*Changing lives with the love of God  
to the glory of God*

## Christmas Worship Schedule 2025

### Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve

1:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service  
With Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

3:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service  
with Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

8:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day

11:00 am Christmas Day Worship Service  
with Holy Communion

Serving in the Lord's house today:

5:30: Jim and Lauretta Sauer / 8:30: Daisy Karika / 10:00: Erin Bradbury

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

## Prelude: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*arr. Michael Burkhardt*

### Opening Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure. And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

### Welcome and Invocation

#### Advent Wreath Lighting

**Reader 1:** Today, we light the Advent candle of Joy. Just as this small light can fill a dark room, may Christ illumine our lives, bringing joy to our heart and to those around us.

**Reader 2:** Joy is at the heart of the Christmas story. In Luke 1 the virgin Mary, considering who it was she would give birth to, burst into song:

**Reader 1:** "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit **rejoices** in God my Savior!"

**Reader 2:** Great Joy: God has come to save us and is delighted to live among us! The long-awaited Messiah has come.

## **Wreath Lighting Song: A Candle is Burning (Tune: Away in the Manger)**

A candle is burning, a candle of JOY,  
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy,  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow,  
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Zephaniah 3:14–17,19-20*

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

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes," says the LORD.

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

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

## Alleluia



## Holy Gospel Reading

*Luke 1:46–55*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

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

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent empty away.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

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

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

### Prayer of the Day

**L** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come.

**C** With Elizabeth's leaping baby we wish to dance in celebration.

**L** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come.

**C** With Mary's Spirit-driven voice we wish to sing our happy praises.

**L** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come.

**C** But our feet are mired in sin's mud - our voices stifled by sin's gag.

**L** Remove the hindrance of our sin and put a right spirit within us,

**C** so that we will be free to join the party!

**L** For You are our Savior, and live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now

**C** and forever. Amen.

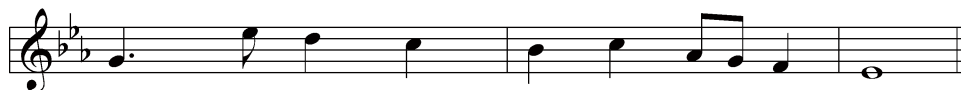
### Hymn: My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

## **Sermon: The First Christmas Carol**

### **Nicene Creed**

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. 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** *Heavenly Father, You accepted Mary,*
- C** **A daughter who lived out her faith.**
- L** *You accepted Joseph,*
- C** **A son of gentle obedience.**
- L** *Please accept these gifts.*
- C** **They are signs of our faith. They are examples of our obedience.**
- L** *Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- C** **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth,** *[Psalm 124:8]*
- P** and who, in the fullness of time, sent His own Son to be our Savior.

Advent is a season of preparation. Then let us prepare ourselves, making more room for God. Let us uncover and confront our sins, kneeling before God to ask His forgiveness, seeking also His renewal of our hearts.

*-a time of silent confession and prayer-*

- P** God Almighty,
- C** **have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and restore within us the life of Christ that we so desperately need.**
- P** Our heavenly Father loves you, the proof of that being the gift of His only Son for you. For His sake, God forgives you all your sins. This same Jesus is 'Emmanuel' (God with us), providing true hope, peace, joy and love. Receive Him in faith, 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 indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give You thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord,

**C** **for the virgin Mary heard with faith the message of the angel,**

**P** and by the power of the Holy Spirit conceived and bore the Word made flesh.

**C** **From the warmth of her womb to the stillness of the grave**

**P** He shared our life in human form.

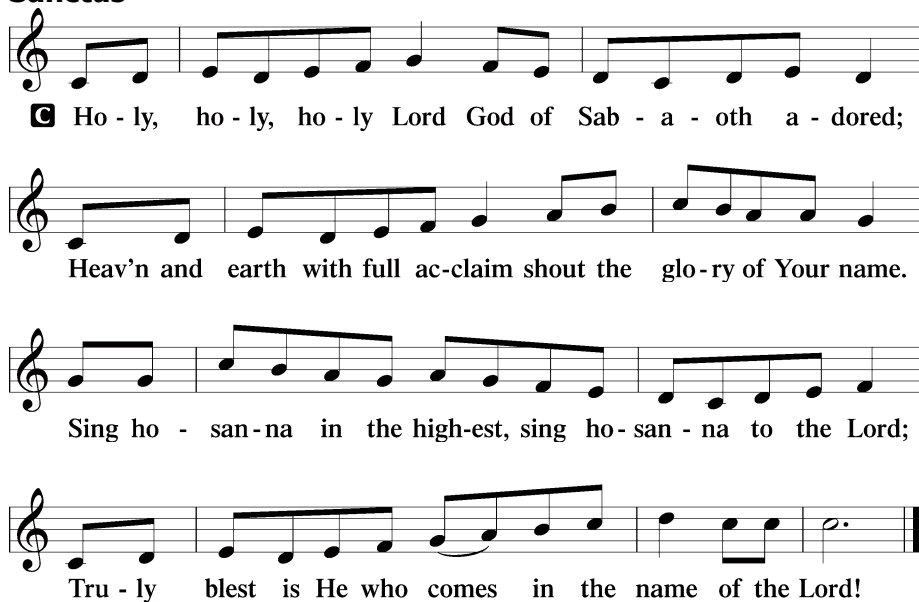
**C** **In Him new light has dawned upon the world**

**P** and You have become one with us

**C** **that we might become one with You.**

**P** Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song,  
evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



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



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: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for  
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -  
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our

sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,

O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I  
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er

let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!  
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.  
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

## Prayer After Communion

- P** God most high, whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh:  
**C** **we thank You that in this sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood**  
**P** You visit us with His real presence  
**C** **and overshadow us by Your grace.**  
**P** Strengthen us to walk like Mary in the joyful path of obedience  
**C** **and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness;**  
**P** through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Benediction

## Announcements

## Closing Hymn: On Christmas Night All Christians Sing



- 1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the  
2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er  
3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To  
made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since  
in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great  
our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us  
life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
sing, All for to see the new - born King.

## Postlude: Prepare the Royal Highway

*arr. Michael Burkhardt*

## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **End-of-Year Giving**

**Please remember your church generously in your giving this month.**

**BLUE CHRISTMAS:** We invite you to a special service for those experiencing grief, loss, and loneliness during this holiday season, Saturday, Dec. 20th from 5:30-6:30 pm. The reality is, Christmastime can amplify feelings of sorrow and pain, while also adding pressure to smother those feelings and just be 'merry'. This service will be more reflective, candle-lit, in a setting where weary hearts can come as they are to God, who came to us in Jesus ("a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief"), to find solace and a sense of hope. We invite you and maybe someone you know to join us. Come as you are, leave as you are.

### **REMINDERS**

**FOOD PANTRY:** A HUGE thank you to every volunteer who showed up with compassion and willing hands and to all who donated food and funds. Over 300 Thanksgiving boxes were handed out to local families. We can always use canned tuna or chicken, canned fruit, ravioli, chili, jelly, peanut butter, rice, pasta, tomato sauce, pasta, chunky soups, more shampoo, conditioner, feminine products, toothpaste, toilet paper and paper towels. Items can be dropped off in the church Narthex for pickup. Monetary donations can be sent to: Smitttown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smitttown, NY 11787. Funds are used to purchase items such as milk, eggs, chicken or chopped meat. Questions, Jeanne Harmer 631-484-5203

**ANGEL TREE:** The Angel Tree for Olsens is up. Please pick a resident's name off the tree. Put resident's name, your name, and phone number on the sheet. Please Return by December 14h and put gifts under the table.

**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 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 December 14**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Family Worship (Sanctuary)

6:30pm – 8pm TOF Christmas Party for Middle School and High School (Parish Hall)

### **MONDAY December 15**

1pm Piecemakers (Youth Room)

7:30pm Smithtown Stitchers (Parish Hall)

### **TUESDAY December 16**

### **WEDNESDAY December 17**

6:30pm – 7:30pm Getting Clear Part 2 (Library)

6:30pm-7:30pm Chancel Chimes Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7:45pm-9pm Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### **THURSDAY December 18**

7pm – 9:30pm Troop 301 Meeting (Parish Hall)

### **FRIDAY December 19**

8am Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)

### **SATURDAY December 20**

8am - 10am Bacon, Eggs, and Bible Men's Group (Norway Hall)

11am Rehearsal for Sunday School Pageant (Parish Hall)

5:30pm Blue Christmas Worship Service (Sanctuary)

### **SUNDAY December 21**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

10am Sunday School Christmas Pageant (Parish Hall)

11:30am - 12:15pm King's Kids Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)