



Sunday, December 14, 2025, 10 am

ADVENT WEEK 3



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

Christmas Worship Schedule 2025

Wednesday, December 24th – 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 25th – 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

631- 584-5212

Ministers: All the people of St. James

Opening Song: Even So Come

Verse 1

All of creation, all of the earth,
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint
Let every nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus

Like a bride, waiting for her groom
We'll be a church ready for You
Ev'ry heart, longing for our King, we sing

Tag

Even so come, Lord Jesus come
Even so come, Lord Jesus come

Verse 2

There will be justice, all will be new
Your name forever, faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus + Tag

Bridge (2x)

So we wait, we wait for You
God we wait, You're coming soon

Chorus (2x)

Tag (2x)

Welcome and Announcements

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 a 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.

(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: God With Us

- 1 Oh, You've come to bring peace, to be Love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life, to be Light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel, God with us
- 2 CHORUS:
Our Deliverer, You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything, our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us

- 3 Oh, You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin, to bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us (CHORUS)
- 4 You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory
(REPEAT)
(C)
- 5 Ending:
Oh God with us
You are God with us

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–17, 19-20

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

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

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

¹⁵The 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.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

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

¹⁷The 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.

¹⁹Behold, 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.

²⁰At 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.**

Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46–55

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

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

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

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

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

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

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

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

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

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as 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.**

Sermon: The First Christmas Carol

Nicene Creed

- C** **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. 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



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

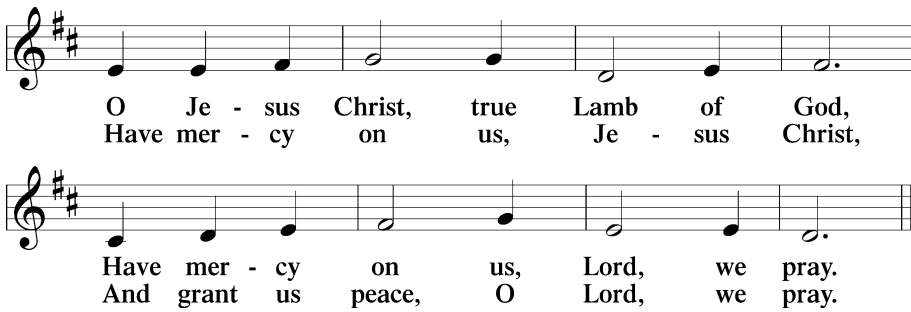
Agnus Dei



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



Distribution

Distribution Song: Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Come, Lord Jesus, Come (repeat 3x)

Fill this place (repeat 4x)

With Your love, Lord Jesus, Come
Come, Lord Jesus, Come (repeat 2x)

Fill this place (repeat 4x)

With Your love, Lord Jesus, Come
Come, Lord Jesus, Come (repeat 3x)

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

Closing 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)



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

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: Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry, PO BOX 1663, Smithtown, 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 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 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 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)