



ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2437 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 6, 2026

OUR MISSION:

We are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus through worship, witness, and ministry to our members and community.

Welcome to St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are visiting and you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your church home, but above all, we invite you to come and worship with us at any time. We worship every Sunday at 9:15 am. If you would like to speak to speak directly to Pastor Randy, please call his cell (716) 225-3591.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Prelude

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sin to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Time for silent reflection)

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Most merciful God, you have given your Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your word, so that by your grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. The Almighty and merciful God grant unto you that are penitent pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of his Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

Hymn#44 “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now, Our hearts in true devotion bow,
Thy Spirit send with light divine, And let thy truth within us shine.

2 Unseal our lips to sing thy praise, Our souls to thee in worship raise,
Our faith increase, our minds enlight, That we may know thy name aright.

3 Until we join the hosts that cry, "Thou holy art, O Lord Most High!"
And 'mid the light of that blest place Shall gaze upon thee face to face.

4 All glory to the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To thee, O blessed Trinity, Be praise throughout eternity!

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And with your spirit.

Kyrie Eleison (“Lord have mercy...”)

♪Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

♪Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis (Glory be to God on high...)”)

P: Glory be to God on High and on earth peace, good will to all.

♪Lord, we praise your name on high, worship you and glorify.
To the Lamb of God we cry and join the angel’s song.

Refrain:

*Gloria! Let the music flow. Gloria! To the earth below.
Gloria! Feel our hearts aglow with the joyful angel’s song.*

You have borne the sins of all. Mercy, Lord, and hear our call.
Everyone, both great and small, come join the angel’s song.

(Refrain)

You, alone, the Holy One, You, alone, God’s only Son,
In your name we’ve just begun to join the angel’s song.

(Refrain)

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord, always lead and follow us with your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

Psalm 32:1-8*

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

⁶I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁸You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance

Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel Acclamation

♪Hallelu! Halleluia! Give praise to the Lord for the blessings of heaven in God's holy Word. For the words of forgiveness, the words that endure, Hallelu! Hallelujah! Give praise to the Lord.

♪Glory be to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone

fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

♪Praise be to you, O Christ

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and our salvation, He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On

the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon“Who is the Greatest?”

Hymn #201.....“Children of the Heavenly Father”

1. Children of the heav'nly Father,
Safely in his bosom gather;
Nesting bird nor star in Heaven
Such a refuge ne'er was given.
2. God his own does tend and nourish;
In his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them;
In his mighty arms he bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace is showing,
And their sorrows all is knowing.
4. Though he giveth, or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them, pure and holy.

Announcements

Offering: *As a guest or visitor, we acknowledge your presence as the only offering expected today.*

Offertory: ♪We Give Thee but Thine Own

**♪We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.**

Offertory Prayer:

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for all that we have: ourselves, our time and our treasures, all that first belonged to you and has been gifted to us, your children. Accept our offerings as a sign of our devotion to you, and make us truly grateful for the many gifts we have received. In Jesus' holy name we pray. **C: Amen**

Prayers of the Church

P: "Lord, in your mercy," **C: "Hear our prayer."**

P: Lord, be merciful to us all, and when we reach our final hour, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection into your glory. **C: Amen**

Prefaces & Sanctus

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

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 everlasting God: Through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord and Savior, who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your right hand, poured out the Holy Spirit as he had promised upon the chosen disciples, causing the whole earth to rejoice. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name; evermore praising you, and singing:

♫C: Holy, Holy, Holy, God of Pow'r almighty.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer and Words of Institution

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me. Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me.

Agnus Dei & Distribution of Communion

♫C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Lamb of God, your mercies never cease. Lamb of God, you take the sins of the world. Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, you give us peace

Communion Hymns

Hymn #83 "Let Us Break Bread Together on our Knees"

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;

Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,

With my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;

Let us drink wine together on our knees. (refrain)

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;

Let us praise God together on our knees. (refrain)

Hymn #212 “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

1. O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!

Refrain:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in his wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of his glory and grace.

2. Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow him there;
Over us sin no more hath dominion,
For more than conqu'rors we are!
3. His Word shall not fail you, he promised;
Believe him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

Hymn #226..... “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; Save me from its guilt and pow'r.
- 2 Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and thou alone.
- 3 Nothing in my hands I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress; Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath, When my eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee.

Hymn # 197 “Oh Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”

- 1 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts, The fount of life, the light of all:
From ev'ry bliss that earth imparts We turn, unfilled, to hear your call.
- 2 Your truth unchanged has ever stood; You plead with all to call on you;
To those who seek you, you are good; To those who find you, life is new.
- 3 We taste you, everliving bread, And long to feast upon you still;
We drink of you, the fountainhead; Our thirsting souls from you we fill.
- 4 For you our restless spirits yearn, Where'er our changing lot is cast;
Glad, when your smile on us you turn, Blest, when by faith we hold you fast.

Hymn #196 My Jesus I Love Thee

- 1 My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine,
For thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
- 2 I love thee, because thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
- 3 I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
- 4 In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Nunc Dimittus

**C: Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, According to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, Which you have prepared before
the face of all people: A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of
your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World
without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this your salutary gift; and we ask you in your mercy to strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **C: Amen.**

Benedicamus & Benediction

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And with your spirit.**

P: Bless the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Hymn#13.....“Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, Everlasting is your reign.

2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

3 Lo, the apostolic train Join your sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, And the white-robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.

4 Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you,
Though in essence only one; Undivided God we claim you
And, adoring, bend the knee While we own the mystery.

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord...**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Next Week's Readings:

Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-12; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Let Us Remember in Our Prayers (*St. James Member)

*John Milleville	*Jim Heuer	Sabine Miskey
*Mark Voelker	* Norma DeVantier	Dan Osgood
*Roger Siegmann	Linda Arnold	William Love
*Bill Salisbury	Denise Joy	Bo O'Brien
*Deliah Licht	Ronaldo Posa	Kathy Wittmeyer
*Dennis Schmidt	Barb Haseley (St.	Ruth C.
*John Miskey III	Peters)	Gianna Bianco
*Mike DeVantier	Greg Milleville	

Also Remember in Our Prayers

Those in nursing homes and shut-ins

*Elly Milleville	*Jean Schmidt
*Julianne (Judy) Brown	James Heath
*Ruth Haseley	

Organizations and Community

Stephen Ministry

“Young Life”

Our area public and parochial schools

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Wilson)

All Emergency Services personnel

*Scott Milleville

Michael Jon DeVantier

David Nedell

The members of our armed forces

The men and women serving at the N.F. Air Base

Matthew Reddy (Niagara Falls)

Justin DeVantier (Niagara Falls)

Edmond Moloney (Hawaii)

Eric Graca (Illinois)

Michael Coulter (South Korea)

Joshua Drasgow (Washington State)

Keith Coleman (Okinawa)

Nicholas Horvath (Middle East)



Sermon Notes

Whoever
Humbles
himself
like this
Child
is the
GREATEST
in the
Kingdom
of
Heaven
matthew 18:4

