



## ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2437 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

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### OUR MISSION:

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

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 8, 2026**

*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 directly to Pastor Randy, please call his cell.*

## **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 #30 ..... Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of your name.

3 The name of Jesus charms our fears And bids our sorrows cease,  
Sings music in the sinner's ears, Brings life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free.  
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

5 To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv'n  
By saints below and saints above, The church in earth and heav'n.

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**

**P:** Stand watch over your family, O Lord, that we who depend entirely on your heavenly grace may always be protected in the mighty fortress of your love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **First Reading: Isaiah 58:3-9a**

<sup>3</sup>“Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?” Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup>Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. <sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? <sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? <sup>8</sup>Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

## **Psalm 112:1-9 (ESV)**

**<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!**

**<sup>2</sup>His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

**<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.**

**<sup>4</sup>Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

**<sup>5</sup>It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.**

**<sup>6</sup>For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.**

**<sup>7</sup>He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.**

**<sup>8</sup>His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.**

**<sup>9</sup>He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

**<sup>1</sup>I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. <sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this,**

for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” — <sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>[13]</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. <sup>14</sup>The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.]

## **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 Reading:**

### **Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20**

<sup>13</sup>{Jesus said,} “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to

your Father who is in heaven. <sup>17</sup>Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

♪Praise be to you, O Christ.

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Children's Message**

# The Light of the World Is Jesus 636

*Christ shall give thee light.* — Ephesians 5:14

Philip P. Bliss

LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
Philip P. Bliss

1 The whole world was lost in the dark-ness of sin— The Light of the  
2 No dark - ness have we who in Je - sus a - bide- The Light of the  
3 No need of the sun - light in heav - en, we're told— The Light of that

1 world is Je - sus; Like sun - shine at noon-day His glo - ry shone in-  
2 world is Je - sus; We walk in the Light when we fol - low our Guide-  
3 world is Je - sus; The Lamb is the Light in the Cit - y of Gold--

1 The Light of the world is Je - sus. 2 The Light of the world is Je - sus. 3 The Light of that world is Je - sus. Come to the Light, 'tis

shin - ing for thee! Sweet - ly the Light has dawned up-on me; Once I was

blind, but now I can see— The Light of the world is Je - sus.

**Sermon .....** “**Beyond the Letter**”

**Hymn #190 .....** “**Blessed Assurance**”

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain:*

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long,

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

Angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (*refrain*)

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (*refrain*)

## Announcements

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

**Offertory ♫ Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart**

**♫Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. And now let the weak say, “I am strong”, Let the poor say, “I am rich” because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks.**

## **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.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

## **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 #265 ..... “I Love to Tell the Story”

1 I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,

Of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, Because I know it's true;  
It satisfies my longings As nothing else could do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story; I'll sing this theme in glory  
And tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story; How pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet!

I love to tell the story, For some have never heard  
The message of salvation From God's own holy Word. [Refrain]

3 I love to tell the story; For those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.

And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story That I have loved so long. [Refrain]

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

*Postlude*

### **Next Week's Readings:**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21

## **Let Us Remember in our Prayers (\*St. James Member)**

*John Milleville	*Lenny Moll	Irene Langman(Pam
*Mark Voelker	*Beth Wruck	DeVantier's Mother)
*Roger Siegmann	Ronaldo Posa	Barb Haseley (St. Peters)
*Bill Salisbury	Linda Arnold	Greg Milleville
*Delilah Licht	Rob Cornelius	Sabine Miskey
*Steve Stumpf	Denise Joy	Mary Beth O'Brien
*Cassie Stumpf	William Love	Dan Osgood
*Dale DeVantier		April Dixon
*Judy Schoelles		

## **Also Remember in Our Prayers**

### **Those in nursing homes and shut-ins**

*Judy Brown	*Ruth Haseley
*Elly Milleville	James Heath
*Bill Rafter, Sr.	Joyce Milleville

### **Organizations and Community**

Stephen Ministry  
"Young Life"  
Our area public and parochial schools

### **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)	Michael Coulter (South Korea)
Justin DeVantier (Niagara Falls)	Joshua Drasgow (Washington State)
Edmond Moloney (Poland)	Keith Coleman (Okinawa)
Eric Graca (Illinois)	