



# ST. JAMES

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2437 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

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Office: (716) 731-4057

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## Second Sunday after Epiphany January 18, 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#247 ..... “Come Thou Almighty King”**

1 Come, thou almighty King, Help us thy name to sing;  
Help us to praise; Father, all glorious,  
O'er all victorious, Come, and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days.

2 Come, thou incarnate Word, Gird on thy mighty sword;  
Our prayer attend. Come and thy people bless,  
And give thy Word success, And let thy righteousness  
On us descend.

3 Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear  
In this glad hour! Thou who almighty art,  
Now rule in every heart, And ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of pow'r.

4 To thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be  
Hence evermore! Thy sovereign majesty  
May we in glory see, And to eternity Love and adore.

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**

Almighty and eternal God, you restrain the powers of heaven and earth. Mercifully hear your people's prayers for peace in our time. 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.

C: Amen.

## First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. <sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” <sup>4</sup>But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.” <sup>5</sup>And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him — for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength — <sup>6</sup>he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” <sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

## Psalm 40:1-11\* (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

**<sup>2</sup>He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

<sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

**<sup>4</sup>Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!**

<sup>5</sup>You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

**<sup>6</sup>In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, “Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**<sup>8</sup>I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”**

<sup>9</sup>I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

**<sup>10</sup>I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.**

<sup>11</sup>As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord

Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: John 1:29-42a**

<sup>29</sup>The next day {John} saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup>And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

<sup>35</sup>The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

<sup>38</sup>Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup>He said to them, “Come and you will see.”

So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

<sup>41</sup>He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42a</sup>He brought him to Jesus.

♪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 ..... "Behold the Lamb of God"**

## Hymn #101 ..... “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

1 On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry

Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge, and our great reward;  
Without your grace we waste away  
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
And make us rise to fall no more;  
Oh, let your face upon us shine,  
And fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,  
Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

**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: And now we praise you, that you have sent to us your only begotten Son, and that in him, being found in the form of a man, you have revealed the fulness of your glory. 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**  
**All the Communion Hymns are in St. James Sings**

**#59 Softly and Tenderly**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,

Calling for you and for me;

Patient and loving, He's waiting and watching,

Watching for you and for me.

**Refrain:**

Come home, come home, Ye who are weary, come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we linger when Jesus is pleading,

Pleading for you and for me?

Why should we wait, then, and heed not his mercies,

Mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,

Promised for you and for me;

Tho' we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,

Pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

## #52 Come Ye Sinners

1. Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,  
Bruised and broken by the fall;  
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,  
Full of pardoning love for all.  
He is able, He is able;  
He is willing; doubt no more.  
He is able, He is able;  
He is willing; doubt no more.
2. Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All that He requires of sinners  
Is to turn and trust in Him.  
He will save you, He will save you,  
'Tis the gospel's constant theme.  
He will save you, He will save you,  
'Tis the gospel's constant theme.
3. Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended;  
Pleads the merit of His blood.  
Venture on Him; venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good.

## #55 Here, O My Lord

1. Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;  
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;  
Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,  
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.
2. Here would I feed upon the bread of God,  
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of Heav'n;  
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.
3. This is the hour of banquet and of song;  
This is the heavenly table spread for me;  
Here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong  
The hallowed hour of fellowship with Thee.
4. I have no help but Thine; nor do I need  
Another arm save Thine to lean upon;  
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;  
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.
5. Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness:  
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;  
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace;  
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God!

## **#74 Peace, Perfect Peace**

1. Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?  
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.
2. Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?  
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.
3. Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?  
On Jesus' bosom naught but calm is found.
4. Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?  
In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they.
5. Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?  
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.
6. Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?  
Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.
7. It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,  
And Jesus call us to Heaven's perfect peace.

## **#57 Bread of the World**

1 Bread of the world in mercy broken,  
    wine of the soul in mercy shed,  
by whom the words of life were spoken,  
    and in whose death our sins are dead.

2 Look on the heart by sorrow broken,  
    look on the tears by sinners shed,  
    and be Thy feast to us the token  
that by Thy grace our souls are fed. Amen.

## **#56 And Now, O Father**

1. And now, O Father, mindful of the love  
That bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,  
And having with us him that pleads above,  
We here present, we here spread forth to thee  
That only offering perfect in thine eyes,  
The one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.

2. Look, Father, look on his anointed face,  
And only look on us as found in him;  
Look not on our misusings of thy grace,  
Our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim;  
For lo, between our sins and their reward  
We set the passion of thy Son our Lord. Amen.

## **Nunc Dimitus**

**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#54 ..... “Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing”**

1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,  
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, your love possessing,  
Triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,  
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration  
For your Gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation  
In our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful  
To your truth may we be found.

3 Savior, when your love shall call us  
From our struggling pilgrim way,  
Let no fear of death appall us,  
Glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever  
Reign with you in endless day

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

## *Postlude*

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

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-9 [10-14]; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25

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

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

## **Also Remember in Our Prayers**

St. Paul's Lutheran, in Wilson, NY, a sister congregation in the LCMC as of 2024, has lost their shepherd of 36 years. Pastor Ronald A. Haefer passed away on Sunday December 28th. Please keep the congregation in your prayers as they grieve this loss and as they prepare to seek a new pastor.

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

*Elly Milleville	*Ruth Haseley
*Judy Brown	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)  
Justin DeVantier (Niagara Falls)  
Edmond Moloney (Poland)  
Eric Graca (Illinois)  
Michael Coulter (South Korea)  
Joshua Drasgow (Washington State)  
Keith Coleman (Okinawa)