

Invocation

Call to Worship

LSB 260

L This is the day which the Lord has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C **Teach me Your paths.**

L Sanctify us in Your truth.

C **Your Word is truth.**

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Opening Song: "Jesus Messiah"

(On-Line Worship)

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

[Chorus]

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

[Chorus]

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

[Chorus]

Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
The Lord of all

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Epistle Reading

James 1:22-25 (GW)

22 Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves. 23 If someone listens to God's word but doesn't do what it says, he is like a person who looks at his face in a mirror, 24 studies his features, goes away, and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 However, the person who continues to study God's perfect laws that make people free and who remains committed to them will be blessed. People like that don't merely listen and forget; they actually do what God's laws say.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 7:13-14, 24-29

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.

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

[Jesus said,]¹³Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. ²⁴Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." ²⁸And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

L The world seeks our attention, O God.

C **Advertisements promise security. Politicians promise hope. The "self-help" section is spilling over into "fiction" and "how-to."**

L Save us from such shifting, insecure foundations, O God—

C **"like a foolish man who built his house on the sand."**

L Give us the foundation of Your Word

C **"like a wise man who built his house on the rock."**

L For to build on any other foundation is truly folly—

C **"and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was the fall of it!"**

L But a life built on hearing Your Words and doing them is a sturdy life, indeed—

C **"the rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."**

L Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now,

C **and forever. Amen.**

Sermon Hymn: "Step by Step"

(On-Line Worship)

Oh God, You are my God
And I will ever praise you
Oh God, You are my God
And I will ever praise you
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days
(repeat)

And I will follow You all of my days
And I will follow You all of my days
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

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Sermon: Red Letter Challenge - Introduction

Response to the Word

(8:30 & 10:30)

- L** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**
- L** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Apostles' Creed

- C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Offering Message

Currently, the offering plate will not be passed. There is a plate in the Narthex for you to place your offering. During the outdoor services, an offering box is on a table as you enter the tented area. You may give to God and the work of His Church by mailing them in, but you can also give electronically using the Church App (see "Pushpay button"), or Simply Giving or PayPal.

Offering Prayer

- L** *Merciful Father,*
- C** **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us-
our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of Him Who offered Himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Exhortation

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching 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 unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name, Amen.**

Absolution

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- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Closing Song: "Build Your Kingdom Here"

(On-Line Worship)

Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your pow'r in us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captives' hearts released
The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray revive this earth

[Chorus]

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back

Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here we pray

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church
We are the hope on earth [Chorus]

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Benediction

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- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C Amen.**

Announcements

Announcements

9/20/20

St. James Lutheran, a Giving People:

ALTAR FLOWERS have been given:
to the glory of God.

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 envelope into the offering plate or mail to 230 Second Ave., NY 11780. Envelopes must be received by Monday for the subsequent weekend.

MAILING LIST/HOUSEHOLD INFO. FORM: Please help us to update our database and church mailing list! There are copies of Family Household Information forms in the Narthex. If you've had any changes in your household over the past few years, please complete a form, put it in the envelope provided and either drop it in with your offering, or mail to 230 Second Ave., NY 11780.

Other Announcements:

GRIEFSHARE: is now meeting at 9:30AM on Wednesdays in the Multipurpose Room (formerly Youth Room). The 13-week program is a bereavement support group for those seeking help and encouragement following the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. Each session will include an information-packed video featuring leading grief recovery experts, a group discussion about the video content and a workbook for journaling and personal study that reinforces the weekly session topics. **GriefShare** is offered free of charge to all members of the community seeking Christ-centered bereavement support and a warm, caring group "oasis" during their long journeys through grief. It is Bible-based and underwritten by a generous grant from St. James Funeral Home. Contact Deacon **Jim Lundgren** (jameslundgren48@gmail.com) or Care Giver **Bonnie Spiegel** (ladybon@optimum.net) for additional information or to register for **GriefShare**. Complete information is available from Jim or Bonnie, or online at www.griefshare.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking for people to volunteer to be on our **Tech Team** at STJLC. Our online worship opportunities are going very well, and we need more people to help make them even better!

No prior experience is necessary, but people who work well with computers would be ideal team members. You will be trained in all aspects of the position. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please email DCE Ryan Howard at ryan@stjlc.com. Thank you!

EAGLE SCOUT CARWASH FUNDRAISER: Alex Rodriguez is running a car wash fundraiser this weekend, Saturday, September 19th and Sunday, September 20th, 9 am – 2 pm at Wendy's in St. James (570 Middle Country Rd, St. James). Please come out to support him to earn his Eagle Scout rank!

BLOOD DRIVE: Friday, 10/2, 3:30-8 pm, at St. James Episcopal Church, Mills Hall, 490 N. Country Rd. St. James, NY 11780. Call Michelle Torres at 646-983-0661 for more information.

THE RED LETTER CHALLENGE:

In many of our Bibles, when we read the words of Jesus (that is, the words that He said while He was here on Earth in the flesh, as recorded in the four Gospels), they are often colored red. The idea for the Red Letter Challenge came from that color. What if we took those words of Jesus - the ones He says in red - and put them into practice? The Red Letter Challenge is unique because it takes Christ's literal words and gives you practical daily challenges based on those words. Do you have what it takes to really follow Jesus and do what He said? We believe you do!

We are going to attempt this challenge together as a Congregation, and we believe Jesus will do great things with us as we take this challenge! **Beginning on September 20th, we will spend 6 weeks putting Jesus's words into practice. Everyone who takes the challenge will have a book that will guide them with individual devotions and challenges over the 6 week period.** We will also be centering our worship services around the challenge, and you will have the opportunity to **meet together in Small Groups with other brothers and sisters who are taking the challenge with you!**

You'll be able to sign up for the challenge and obtain your book at worship over the next few weeks, or by contacting the Church Office. The cost of this challenge is \$20 per person - that pays for the book as well as the 6 week course. It's absolutely worth it! If you have any questions, please email DCE Ryan Howard at ryan@stjlc.com. Let's take on this challenge together!

PEEK AT THE WEEK

SUNDAY September 20

5:15-7:45 am AA- Multipurpose Room
8:30 am (Sanctuary) / 10:30 am (Sanctuary) Worship Service

MONDAY September 21

5:15-7:45 am AA- Multipurpose Room
1-3:00 pm Piecemakers-Multipurpose Room
6-9:00 pm Smithtown Stitchers

TUESDAY September 22

5:15-7:45 am AA- Multipurpose Room
9-12:00 pm Mom's Group-Multipurpose Room (upstairs)
9:30 am Pastoral Circuit Meeting - Library
6:30-8:30 pm AA Multipurpose Room

WEDNESDAY September 23

5:15-7:45 am AA- Multipurpose Room
9:30-11:30 am Griefshare-Multipurpose Room

THURSDAY September 24

5:15-7:45 am AA- Multipurpose Room

10-11:00 am - Bible Study-Parish Hall
7:30 pm- Sunday School Teachers Meeting-Sub-Story of Parish Hall

FRIDAY September 25

5:15-7:45 am AA- Multipurpose Room
8-9:00 am Morning Prayer-Sanctuary

SATURDAY September 26

5:15-7:45 am AA- Multipurpose Room
5:30 pm Worship Service (Outdoors, weather permitting)

SUNDAY September 27

5:15-7:45 am AA- Multipurpose Room
8:30 am (Sanctuary) / 10:30 am (Sanctuary) Worship Service

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