



ST. JAMES

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2437 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

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Second Sunday after Christmas January 5, 2025

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 directly to Pastor Randy, please call his cell.

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 #104 – From Heaven Above

1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home:
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 "This is the Christ, our God Most
High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

4. The blessing which the Father
planned
The Son holds in his infant hand,
That in his kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us his glory share.

5. These are the signs which you will
see

To let you know that it is he:
In manger-bed, in swaddling clothes
The child who all the earth upholds.

6. How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us his own dear Son.

7. Lord, look, dear friends, look over
there!

What lies within that manger bare?
Who is that lovely little one?
The baby Jesus, God's dear Son

8. Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom this sinful world is
blest!

You turned not from our needs
away!

How can our thanks such love repay.

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 everlasting God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son, we might be made to abound in good works. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:4-15

⁴The king {Solomon} went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” ¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Psalm 119:97-104 (ESV)

⁹⁷ Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

⁹⁸ **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.**

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰ **I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.**

¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

¹⁰² **I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.**

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ **Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things

according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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.

Gospel: Luke 2:40-52

♪Glory be to you, O Lord

⁴⁰The child {Jesus} grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her

heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

♪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.....”Be About Your Father’s Business”

Hymn #233: Take My Life and Let It Be

- 1 Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move
With the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from thee.**
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Ev'ry pow'r as thou dost choose.**
- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.**

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: For in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have given us a new revelation of your glory; that seeing you in the person of your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things that are not seen. 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.

Hymn #84: O Bread of Life from Heaven

1 O Bread of life from heaven, O Food to pilgrims given,
O Manna from above: Feed with the blessed sweetness
Of your divine completeness The souls that want and need your love.

2 O Fount of grace redeeming, O River ever streaming
From Jesus' wounded side: Come now, your love bestowing
On thirsting souls, and flowing Till all are fully satisfied.

3 We love you, Jesus, tender, In all your hidden splendor
Within these means of grace. Oh, let the veil be riven,
And our clear eye in heaven Behold your glory face to face.

Hymn #120: Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

2 Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race;
And the babe, the world's redeemer, First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

3 This is he whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him; Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to you, with God the Father And the Spirit, there shall be
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And the shout of jubilee:
Honor, glory, and dominion And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

Hymn #40: Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory, thou dwellest in light;
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

(SJS) Hymn #108: I Cannot Tell

1. I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,
Should set His love upon the sons of men,
Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wand'ers,
To bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that He was born of Mary,
When Beth'hem's manger was His only home,
And that He lived at Nazareth and labored,
And so the Savior, Savior of the world, is come.

2. I cannot tell how silently He suffered,
As with His peace He graced this place of tears,
Or how His heart upon the Cross was broken,
The crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted,
And stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,
And lifts the burden from the heavy laden,
For yet the Savior, Savior of the world, is here.

3. I cannot tell how He will win the nations,
How He will claim His earthly heritage,
How satisfy the needs and aspirations
Of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,
And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,
And some glad day His sun shall shine in splendor
When He the Savior, Savior of the world, is known.

4. I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
When, at His bidding, every storm is stilled,
Or who can say how great the jubilation
When all the hearts of men with love are filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
And countless voices then will join to sing,
And earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:
At last the Savior, Savior of the world, is King.

(SJS)Hymn #111: I Wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus, the savior, had come for to die
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, t'was in a cow's stall
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high in god's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages, it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
Or all of god's angels in heaven to sing
He surely could have had it, for he was the king!

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus, the savior, had come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

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 #58: Sent Forth By God's Blessing

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended; oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us; his love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face,
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing his children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us; with your light now lead us.
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

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

Postlude

Next Week's Readings:

Lessons for Next Week:

Malachi 3:1-7b; Psalm 66:1-12; Philippians 1:2-11; Luke 3:1-14 [15-20]

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

*John Milleville

*Jan Voelker

*Mark Voelker

*Roger Siegmann

*Bill Salisbury

Alfred Swift

Linda Arnold

Michelle Foster

Bob Foster

Cassie Stumpf

Greg Milleville

Denise Joy

Kate Hughey

James Heath

Sabine Miskey

Mary Beth O'Brien

Pete Burns (friend of the Schoelles Family)

Also Remember in Our Prayers

Those in nursing homes and shut-ins

*Morrie Johnson

*Elly Milleville

*Judy Brown

*Bill Rafter

Organizations and Community

Stephen Ministry

*Young Life"

Our area public and parochial schools

All Emergency Services personnel

*Scott Milleville

Michael Joh 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 (Virginia)

Eric Graca (South Korea)

Michael Coulter (Korea)

Joshua Drasgow (Washington State)

Keith Coleman (Okinowa)