

Reformation Sunday

October 26th, 2025



Divine Service 9am

St. James Lutheran Church

1213 US Hwy 22

Phillipsburg, NJ

908.454.2864

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome to St. James!

Founded in 1750, the year 2025 marks our 275th anniversary of being God's church. We're so glad you're here! We pray you feel warmly welcomed as we gather to celebrate God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ. He who is the same, yesterday, today, and forever!

If you are visiting today: Thank you for joining us today! If you have any questions, please ask! Pastor Levi and the members of our church-community would be glad to help you out. Please sign the guest book or complete a hospitality card located in the pew racks.

Introduction to Reformation Sunday: On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ--the good news--that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's Table.

Following along in the bulletin: *indicates the congregation stands. In our liturgical worship, **bold words** are spoken by the congregation. LBW refers to content found in the green hymnbook *Lutheran Book of Worship*. WOV refers to content found in the blue hymnbook *With One Voice*.

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Musician

The Rev. Levi Q. Powers
Dan Gulick
Dave Miller

I. GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Th sign of the cross ✙ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Almighty and most Holy God,

we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, through our own fault, our own most grievous fault. We acknowledge our lack of faithfulness in holy service, our lack of discipline and obedience, and our lack of love. And so, we pray to you, O God, have mercy upon us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: ELW 459 - Wade in the Water**

Refrain
All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader All

1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All Refrain



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

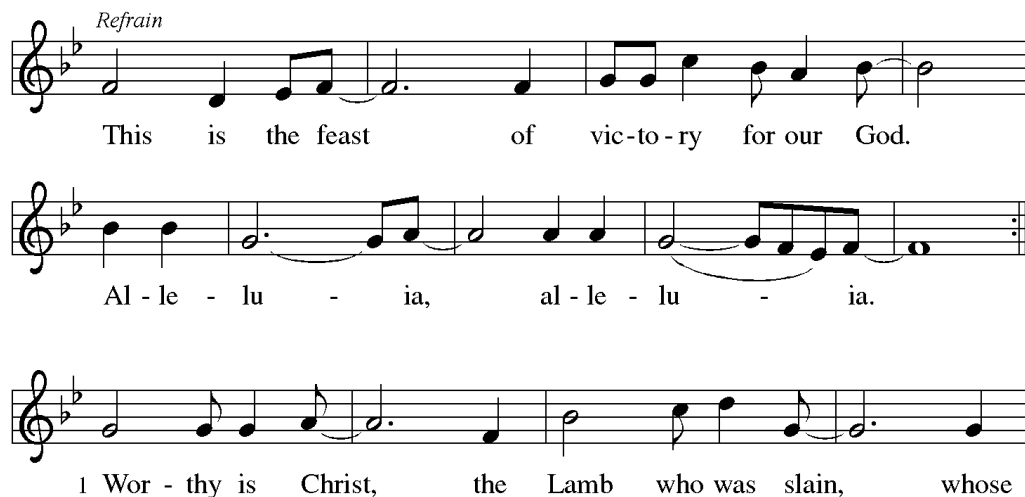
*GREETING

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

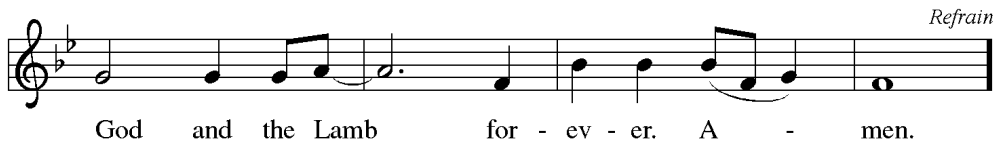
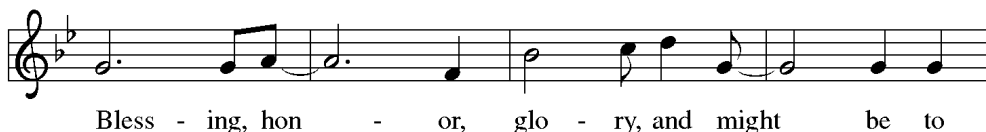
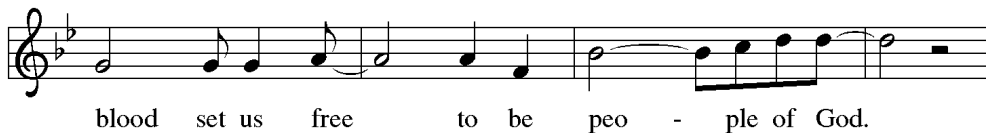
And also with you.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE: This is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

The Psalm is read responsively.

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,**

³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ **The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸ **Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction,

²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 172 – Halle, Halle, Hallelujah**

{sung before and after gospel reading}

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL READING: John 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,

³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are descendants of Abraham, yet you look for an opportunity to kill me because there is no place in you for my word. ³⁸ I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 229 - A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism with New Member Affirmation of Baptism

Introduction

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather at the font together with those making public affirmation of baptism and with the ministers. The assembly may be seated. The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Presentation for Baptism

Sponsors for candidate for baptism presents the candidate.

I present Kinsley Quinn Lopez for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves.

Called by the Holy Spirit,
trusting in the grace and love of God,
do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: I do

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do

The presiding minister addresses sponsors of candidate for baptism.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith
as you are empowered by God's Spirit,
and to help her live in the covenant of baptism
and in community with the church?

Response: I do

Presentation for New Member Affirmation of Baptism

A representative of the congregation presents those making affirmation.

I present Jocelyn Parry and Taylor Parry of the former St. John's Lutheran Church in Phillipsburg, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

The presiding minister may continue with prayer for those making affirmation.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters in Christ,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called them to yourself,
enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses the parents and sponsors of the young child who is to be baptized and those making public affirmation of baptism.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

New Member Affirmation of Baptism

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

Sisters in Christ who are affirming baptism today:

You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response (one-by-one): I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,

do you promise to support the one to be baptized today,

and those standing here who are making public affirmation of their baptism,

and to pray for them all in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Thanksgiving at the Font

The presiding minister leads the following form of the thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Water may be poured into the font during the thanksgiving.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and by your Word you created the world,

calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family,

and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection

you set us free from the power of sin and death

and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word,

that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

*The assembly may be seated. The presiding minister baptizes the candidate.
Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:*

Kinsley Quinn Lopez, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

and of the Son,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

and of the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give your daughters and sons new birth,
cleansing them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Kinsley with the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the Spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the newly baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Kinsley, child of God,
you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister may also pray for those making affirmation of baptism.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth,
cleansing us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

The presiding minister may lay both hands on the head of each person making affirmation of baptism and say:

Stir up in Jocelyn/Taylor the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the Spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Welcome

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and those gathered at the font face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome the newly baptized
and rejoice with those making public affirmation of baptism.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Applause is given.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition ends: "...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**"

Prayers conclude: "Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior." **Amen.**

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

III. THE LORD'S SUPPER

OFFERTORY



Scan the QR Code to give electronically.
An offering plate is in the back of the sanctuary if you wish to give check or cash. You are welcome to give to the ministry of St. James Lutheran Church freely and spontaneously. There is no guilt or shame. If you do give, give with a cheerful heart.

*OFFERING VERSE: TFF 216 – Give Me a Clean Heart

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow thee.

1 I'm not asking for the riches of the land.
2 Some-times I am up and some-times I am down.

I'm not asking for the proud to know my name.
Some-times I am almost level to the ground.



Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that I may fol - low thee.
Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that I may fol - low thee.



Give me a clean heart, a clean heart and I will fol - low thee.
Give me a clean heart, a clean heart and I will fol - low thee.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Together with the bread and the cup we receive the body and the blood of Christ. We invite all baptized Christians to this sacrament. Children and adults who do not yet receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward with arms folded for a blessing. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know. We commune in tables of 10-15 people. The pastor will give you the bread, an assistant will give you a cup. Then two will come to pour into your cup-the first with grape juice, the second with wine. Whoever partakes receives orally the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...**Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:** ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

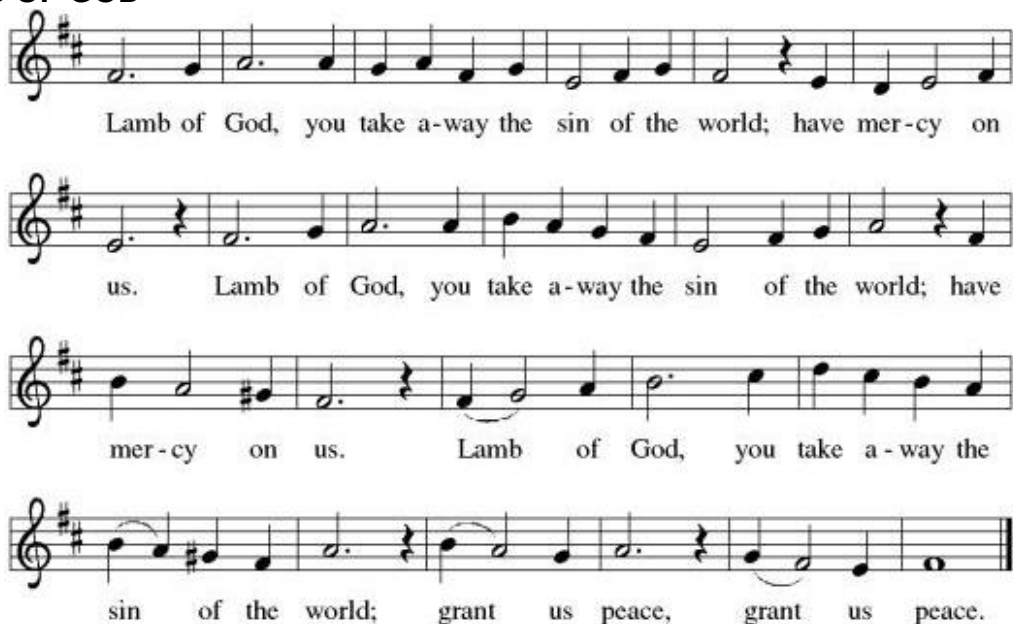
Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine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

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

COMMUNION

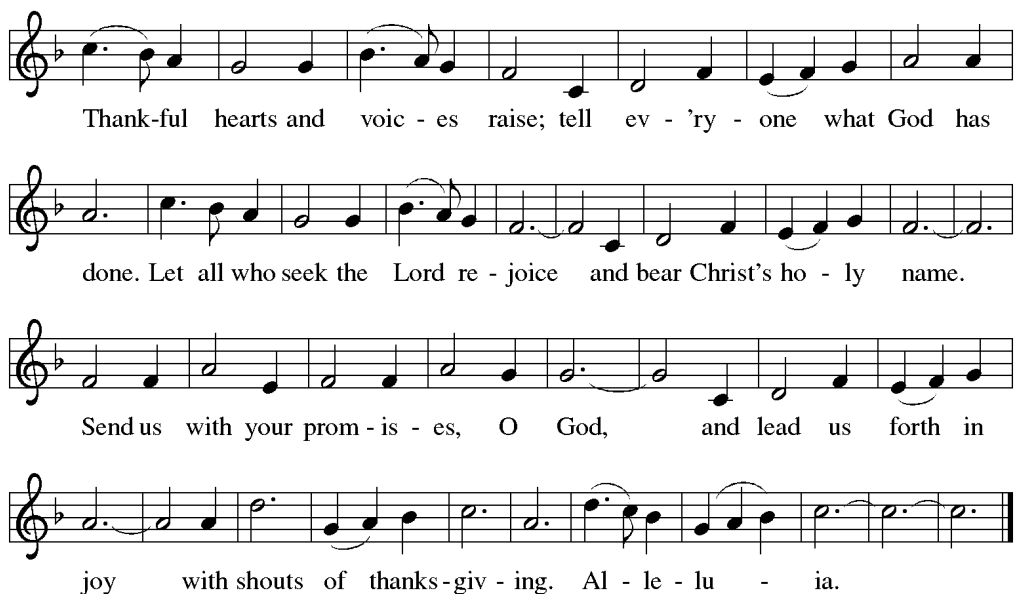
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*POST COMMUNION SONG: ELW 206 – Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

IV. SENDING

*BLESSING

Blessing concludes: **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG: ELW 591 - That Priceless Grace

1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less
2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less
3 That pain-ful death, that pain-ful death, that pain-ful
4 That pre-cious word, that pre-cious word, that pre-cious

grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.
blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.
death took sins a - way: Je - sus' death is price-less grace.
word, which brought me light: Je - sus' word is price-less grace.

That price - less grace is life for me.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Please join us after the service today in Frey Hall for refreshments to further celebrate the baptism of Kinsley Quinn Lopez and the affirmation of baptism of Jocelyn and Taylor Parry. Join us next week to celebrate the baptism of James Yarnell Jr. and James Yarnell III and the New Member, Jalyssa Rodriguez, formerly a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Phillipsburg.

Remember in prayer: The Family & Friends of Max Williams, The Family & Friends of Brett Marino, The Lombardi Family, Justin, Stacey, Debbie, Carol, Ryan, Kevin, Keith, Sara, Bob, Patrick, John, Gary, Sharon and those unable to attend church service; Janet, Janice, Greg, Helen, Alayne and Elsie.

Social Ministry Donation Collections:

- Veterans needs collection now thru November 9th. Items needed are posted on the Veterans barrel in Frey Hall Lobby.
- Food Drive collection: Social Ministry supports 175 Families thru River of Life & St. Luke's Church in Phillipsburg.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Wednesday 10/29:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm
- **Thursday 10/30:** Proverbs Bible Study with Pastor Levi – 10am at church
- **Saturday, 11/1:** Church Breakfast 7am-10am
- **Sunday, 11/2: All Saints' Sunday-** Please bring in your own flower to remember a loved one who has died. We will make a bouquet of everyone's flowers. There will extra flowers if needed.

UPCOMING

- **Tuesday, 11/11:** Social Ministry meeting 10am at the church. All are welcome!
- **Tuesday 11/11:** Property Committee 10am at the church.

Worship Helpers: Joanne Willauer will be coordinating the monthly schedule. Please contact her at 610-393-6317 or jwillauer@rcn.com with your available dates!

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP HELPERS

Usher/Greeter: Bob Agans

Lector: Jamie McRoberts

Altar Guild: Steve Stocker

Tellers: Sandy Wismer/Don Willauer

NEXT SUNDAY'S WORSHIP HELPERS(11/2)

Usher/Greeter: Harvey Walters

Lector: Rick Brunsell

Altar Guild: Steve Stocker

Tellers: Steve Stocker/Jon Slaton