

*Welcome!*

***Second Sunday in Lent  
March 16, 2025***



**St. James Lutheran Church  
1213 U. S. Route 22  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865  
Pastor Levi Powers**

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## 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! We ask that you sign our guest book or complete a hospitality card located in the pew racks.

**The Lord's Supper:** Together with the bread and the wine we receive the body and the blood of Christ. We invite all baptized Christians to this meal. Children and adults who do not yet receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing with their arms folded. If you need communion brought to you, 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.

**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

Assisting Minister

Musician

The Rev. Levi Powers

Dan Gulick

Dave Miller

## **GATHERING**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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 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.**

Most merciful God,

**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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority alone, I forgive you the entirety all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN: WOV 778 – “O Christ the Same”**

### **\*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.**

### **KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

## WORD

### First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: Psalm 27

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then I shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one I thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze  
upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God I in the temple. R**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will I give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- I on a  
rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies I who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I  
will sing and make music I to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, I when I call;  
have mercy on me and I answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— I “Seek my face.”  
Your face, O LORD, I I will seek. R**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- I vant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God  
of I my salvation.

<sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my moth- I er forsake me,  
the LORD will I take me in.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your I way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of I my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will I of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses I breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness I of the LORD  
in the land I of the living!

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD I and be strong.  
Take heart and wait I for the LORD! R**

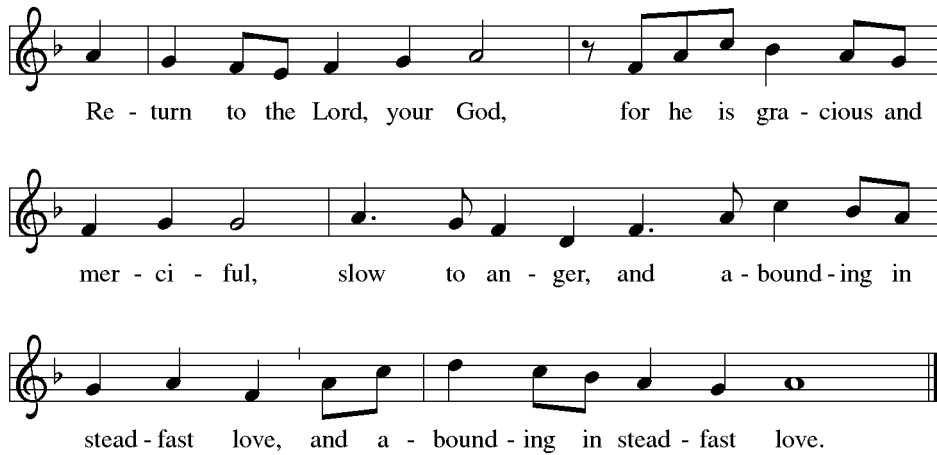
## **Second Reading: Philippians 3:17—4:1**

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \* LENTEN ACCLAMATION



## \* GOSPEL READING: Luke 13:31-35

The Gospel according to St. Luke

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 333 – “Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land”**

# Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

*Refrain - All*



Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a



wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a



wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

*Leader or All*



1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a  
2 When Je - sus was on earth, . . . the . .  
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .



mum - bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -  
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -  
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

*Refrain*



- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.  
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.  
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual



## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

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

### **Installation of Leaders in the Congregation**

The following people have been elected to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that they will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Jon Slaton, **president**  
Ashley Wrede, **secretary**

### **Address and Questions**

*A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

*A reading from Mark:* Jesus said, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among

you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many. (Mark 10:42-45)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you:  
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you carry out this office to which you have been elected in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church and in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

*Response:* Amen.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all the baptized?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as council president and council secretary of this congregation. Almighty God +bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**Amen.**

## **\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition ends: “ ...God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**”

## **\* PEACE**

## **OFFERTORY**

### **\* OFFERING VERSE:**

#### Create in Me a Clean Heart

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.'

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

## \* OFFERING PRAYER

### \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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 musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

## 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 Testament in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **\* 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.**

### **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, 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.

**\* POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

**\* POST COMMUNION SONG – ELW 591 – “That Priceless Grace”**

# 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.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949

Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional

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## \* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

### SENDING

## \* BLESSING

## \* SENDING SONG: WOV 737 - "There is a Balm in Gilead"

## **\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Beginning March 5 (Ash Wednesday) through April 13 (Palm Sunday) the Social Ministry Committee will be selling “Links of Love” to benefit single mothers for St. Ann’s.**

- **Monday 3/17:** Bible Study – 4pm at Panera
- **Tuesday 3/18:** Church Council – 7pm at the church
- **Wednesday 3/19:** Midweek Lenten Service: 6:15PM meal, 7PM service
  - Please see sign up sheet for soup/bread for mid-week services

## **UPCOMING**

- **Wednesday 3/26:** Midweek Lenten Service: 6:15PM meal, 7PM service
  - Please see sign up sheet for soup/bread for mid-week services

Let us remember in prayer: Pope Francis, The Family & Friends of Viola Raub, The Family & Friends of Tom Cogan, The Family & Friends of Joe Devlin, Bob, Sara, Debbie, Judy, Scott, Gary, Ruthie, Patrick, John, Greg, Jaime, Pam and our homebound; Helen, Alayne, Anderson and Elsie