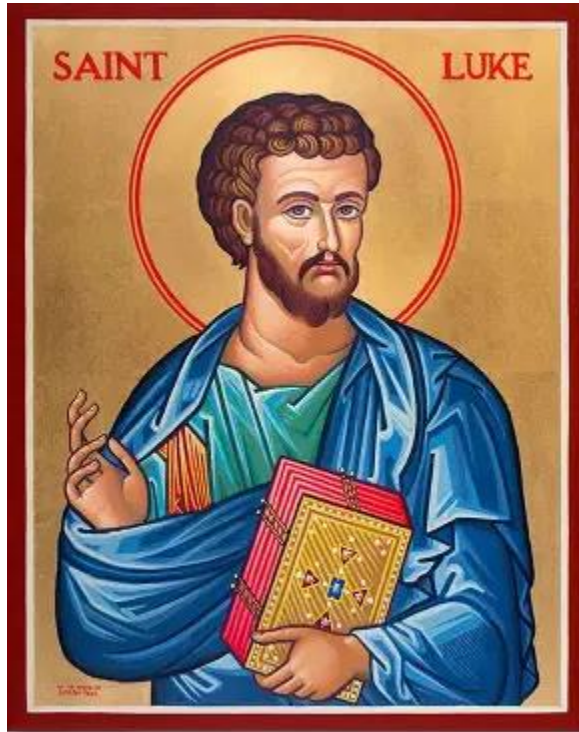


St. Luke, Evangelist

October 18, 2026



Divine Service 9am

St. James Lutheran Church
1213 US Hwy 22
Phillipsburg, NJ

908.454.2864

www.strawchurch.com

strawchurch@gmail.com



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome to St. James!

Founded in 1750, the year 2025 celebrated 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 and complete the "Please Stay In Touch Card" for any inquiries.

To those with young children: We are very happy you are here today. Relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't be embarrassed by it! Encourage your kids to sing and pray with us, and be sure to sing and pray your parts as an example to them.

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
Crucifer

The Rev. Levi Q. Powers
Dan Gulick
Dave Miller
Cassie Zellner

I. GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 servant of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority alone, I forgive you the entirety of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: WOV 737 – There is a Balm in Gilead**

***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

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:8-13

A reading from Isaiah.

⁸ Bring forth the people who are blind yet have eyes,
who are deaf yet have ears!

⁹ Let all the nations gather together,
and let the peoples assemble.

Who among them declared this
and foretold to us the former things?

Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,
and let them hear and say, "It is true."

¹⁰ You are my witnesses, says the LORD,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.

¹¹ I, I am the LORD,
and besides me there is no savior.

¹² I am the one who declared and saved and proclaimed,
not some strange god among you;
you are my witnesses, says the LORD, and I am God.

¹³ Indeed, since that day I am he;
there is no one who can deliver from my hand;
I work, and who can hinder it?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 124

Refrain sung first by Pastor, then by all. Congregation sings bold verses.



¹ If the Lord had not been | on our side,
 let Isra- | el now say;
² **if the Lord had not been | on our side,**
when enemies rose | up against us,
³ then would they have swallowed us | up alive
 in their fierce | anger toward us;
⁴ **then would the waters have | overwhelmed us**
and the torrent gone | over us;
⁵ then would the | raging waters
 have gone right | over us.
⁶ **Blessed | be the Lord**
who has not given us over to be a prey | for their teeth. R
⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the snare | of the fowler;
 the snare is broken, and we | have escaped.
⁸ **Our help is in the name | of the Lord,**
the maker of heav- | en and earth. R

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:5-11

A reading from 2 Timothy.

⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

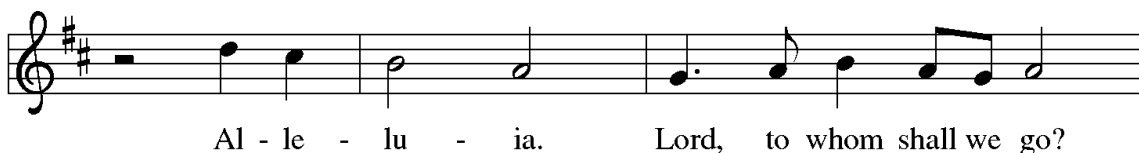
⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰ for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me in ministry.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1:1 Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³ I, too, decided, as one having a grasp of everything from the start, to write a well-ordered account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may have a firm grasp of the words in which you have been instructed.

24:44 ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 611 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad,
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

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 for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition ends: "...Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**"

Prayers conclude: **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: ELW 184 – Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



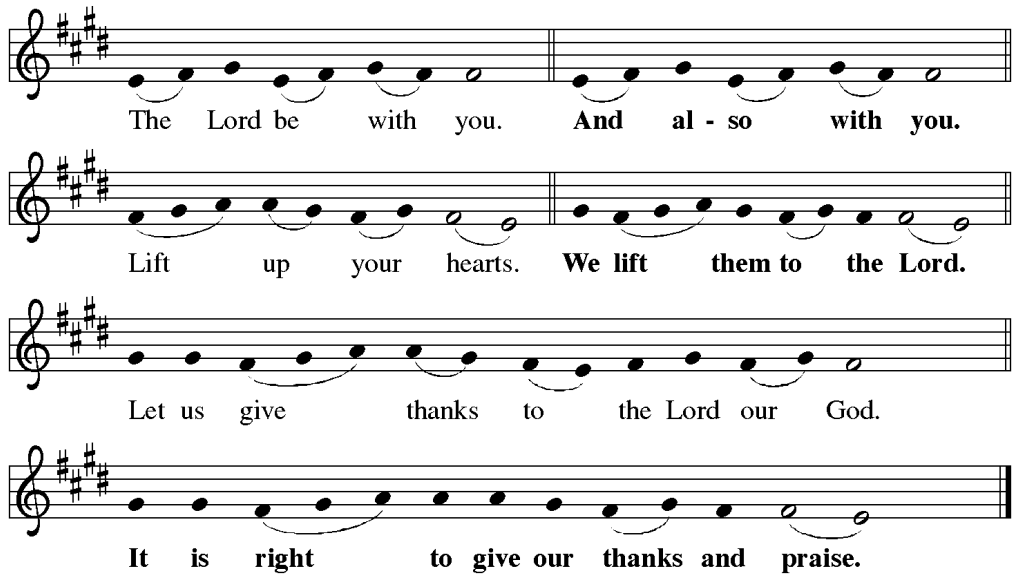
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERING PRAYER

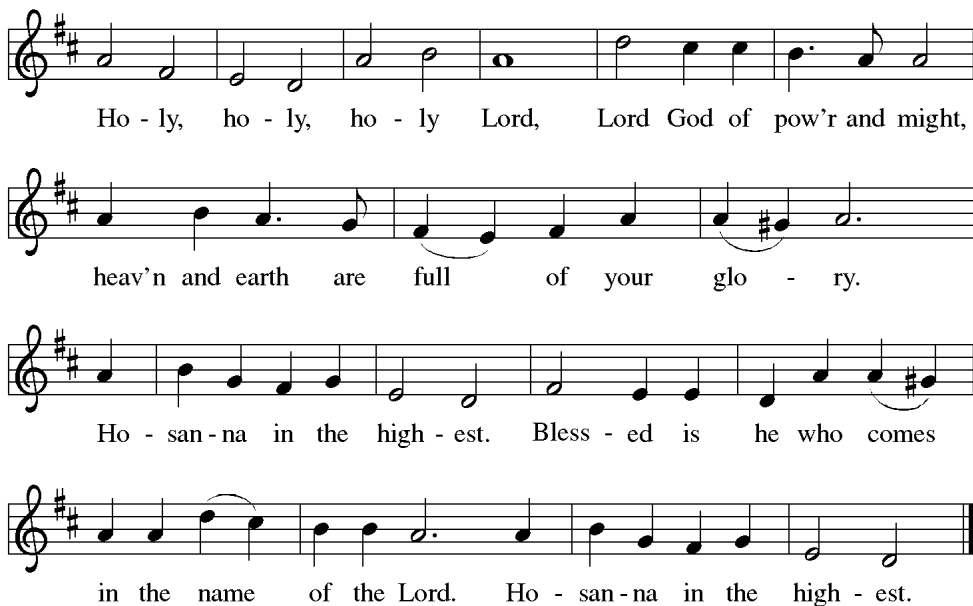
Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Together with the bread and the cup we receive the true body and true blood of Christ. All who are baptized into Christ are welcome to join us at the altar. We commune in tables of 10-15 people. Pastor will distribute the wafer for you to eat. An assistant will hand you a cup to drink from. The first chalice has grape juice. The second chalice has wine. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know. Adults and children not yet communing are welcome to come forward with their arms crossed for a blessing.



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 GIFT**

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.

***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 205 – 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-joyce 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**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: LBW 221 – Sent Forth by God's Blessing

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Today, Sunday, October 18:** Sunday Forum after church:
Crossroads4Hope will give their workshop "Health Champion" which will help people build key skills in supporting those facing a cancer crisis.
Crossroads4Hope, based out of Bedminster. They are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free supportive cancer care services to individuals and families impacted by cancer. They believe we believe "that no one should face cancer alone, and we are on a mission to educate multicultural communities about cancer. We offer free professionally led support groups, individual support, educational workshops, nutrition programs, mind & body classes, financial assistance resources, and opportunities for social connection.
- **Tuesday, October 20:** Church Council 7pm at church
- **Wednesday, October 21:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm
- **Friday, October 23:** Line Dancing returns! Join us from 7pm-9pm for another fun night-open to the public, all are welcome!

UPCOMING

- **Sunday, November 1: All Saint's Day-** Please bring a flower to church service to remember loved ones who have died.
- **Tuesday, November 3:** "Faith, Family, & Food," 5:30-7pm. A time for families of preschool children to grow in faith together. Eat 5:30-6. Read a book together, sing together, learn and play together at 6-7pm. Invite anyone with kiddos.

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP HELPERS(10/18)

Usher/Greeter: Bob Agans

Lector: Harvey Walters

Altar Guild: Barbara & Jim Sikra

Tellers: Carol & Lois Steible

NEXT SUNDAY'S WORSHIP HELPERS(10/25)

Usher/Greeter: Doris Lauer

Lector: Jamie McRoberts

Altar Guild: Steve Stocker

Tellers: Steve Stocker

Let us remember in prayer: Rose, Kelly, Maureen, Barbara, Nancy, Jerry, Jess, Ginny, Kate, Donald, Sue, Jackson, Harvey, Keith, Patrick, John, Sara, Gary and those unable to attend church service; Mae, Janet, Janice, Alayne, Esther and Elsie.