

**Welcome!**  
***Second Sunday of Easter***  
***April 27, 2025***  
***9am***



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

908.454.2864

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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.

**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  
Ashley Wrede  
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: LBW 132 – “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”**

**\*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.

**THIS IS THE FEAST**

*Refrain*

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

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

*Refrain*

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

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

*Refrain*

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

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

*Final refrain*

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

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

## \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

### WORD

#### **First Reading: Acts 5:27-32**

*A reading from Acts.*

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm: Psalm 150**

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise God in the | holy temple;  
praise God in the | mighty firmament.
- <sup>2</sup> **Praise God for | mighty acts;**  
**praise God for ex- | ceeding greatness. R**
- <sup>3</sup> Praise God with | trumpet sound;  
praise God with | lyre and harp.
- <sup>4</sup> **Praise God with tambou- | rine and dance;**  
**praise God with | strings and pipe.**
- <sup>5</sup> Praise God with re- | sounding cymbals;  
praise God with loud | clanging cymbals.
- <sup>6</sup> **Let everything | that has breath**  
**praise the LORD. | Hallelujah! R**

## Second Reading: Revelation 1:4-8

*A reading from Revelation.*

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### \* GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

The Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 375 – “Alleluia! Christ is Arisen”**



# Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen

## ¡Aleluya! Cristo resucitó

*Refrain/Estrillo*



¡A - le - lu - ya! Cris - to re - su - ci - tó  
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is a - ris - en.



de ma - dru - ga - da el do - min - go.  
Bright is the dawn-ing of the Lord's day.



1 Fue - ron mu - jer - es al se - pul - cro. La pie - dra, un  
1 Run, faith - ful wom - en, to the grave - side. Mar - vel, the  
2 Rise, Mag - da - len - a, from your weep - ing; Christ stands be -  
3 Gath - er, dis - ci - ples, in the eve - ning; sud - den - ly  
4 Thom - as, where were you on that eve - ning? "I'll not be -



án - gel re - mo - vió; les di - jo: "Ha re - su - ci -  
stone is rolled a - way! Hear from the an - gel, "He is  
fore your ver - y eyes. Quick - ly re - turn to the dis -  
Christ your Lord ap - pears. "Look, it is I, your wound - ed  
lieve un - less I see." Christ comes a - gain, and ev - 'ry

*Refrain/Estrillo*



ta - do." Y al ir - se, les sa - lió el Se - ñor.  
ris - en." Christ goes be - fore you all the way.  
ci - ples; bear the good news: "He is a - live."  
Sav - ior. Peace be with you, and do not fear."  
Lord's day: "Touch me and see; have faith in me."

2 La Magdalena fue a llorarle  
y Cristo se le apareció;  
le pidió ir a sus hermanos  
con un encargo que le dio. Estrillo

3 A los discípulos, de tarde,  
Cristo también se presentó.  
Les enseñó las cinco heridas;  
dando la paz los saludó. Estrillo

4 Tomás no estaba en ese encuentro;  
y ver, pidió, para creer.  
Cristo volvió, le dijo: "Mira,  
palpa mi herida y ten fe." Estrillo

Text: Luis Bojos, b. 1937; tr. Martin A. Selz, b. 1951

Music: SANTO DOMINGO, Luis Bojos, b. 1937

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## **\*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.**”

## \* PEACE

### 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:

### 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.

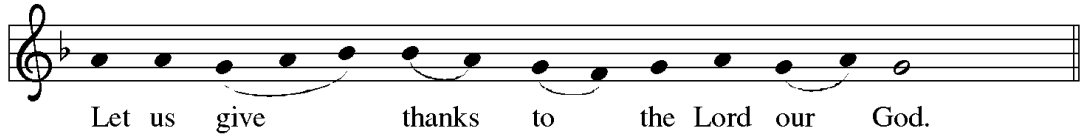
Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949  
Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional  
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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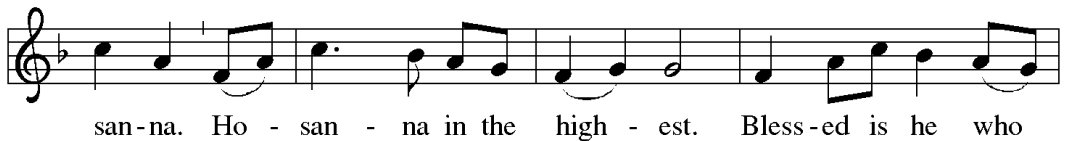
## \* OFFERING PRAYER

### \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

***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.



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



## 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 205 –“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”**

## 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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

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Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

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### \* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

### SENDING

### \* BLESSING

### \* SENDING SONG: WOV 674 - "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"

### \* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Sunday 4/27:** 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee meeting – 10:15am
- **Monday 4/28:** No Bible Study
- **Saturday 5/3:** Church Breakfast
- **Saturday 5/3:** "We Believe in One God" An Ecumenical Celebration of the 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed.  
11am at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold.

## **UPCOMING**

- **Tuesday 5/13:** Social Ministry 10am at Alpha Family Restaurant
- **Tuesday 5/13:** Property Committee 10am at church

Let us remember in prayer: Lena, Joy, Jennie, Max, Fan, Annie, Pam, Patrick, John, Judy, Gary, Sharon, Cindy, Jack, and those unable to attend church service; DJ, Greg, Helen, Alayne and Elsie.

# Gala of Grace



## You are Cordially Invited to our Gala of Grace

**June 22, 2025**

**3:00 - 7:00 pm**

**St. James Lutheran Church**

**Ed Frey Hall**

**1213 US 22**

**Phillipsburg, NJ 08865**

**RSVP by May 22, 2025**

**[barbiegulick@icloud.com](mailto:barbiegulick@icloud.com)**

**please indicate any food allergies or restrictions**