

***Sixth Sunday of Easter***  
May 10, 2026



**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 celebrated our 275<sup>th</sup> 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.

**To the parents of our younger children:**

We invite you to sit towards the front so the little ones can see and hear all that is going on. This way you can quietly explain parts of the service and what pastor, ushers, etc. are doing.

Don't sweat the small stuff: God gave your littles the wiggles, noise and energy they have and we don't want to suppress that in God's house! Children are always welcome here! If you feel as if you need to step out of the service with your child, feel free but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

To the members of our church: Please welcome children and their parents, their presence is a sign our congregation is growing and a gift to us all. God can handle the extra energy the children bring! 😊

**Following along in the bulletin:** An asterisk(\*) 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. Dr. Timothy Wengert  
Polly Newbod  
Dave Miller

# I. GATHERING

## \*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The 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.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

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.**

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

Merciful God, **we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance; we have sinned in weakness; we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name.**

**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, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your heart through faith.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN: ELW 361 - The Day of Resurrection!**

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,  
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son.

the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Lord in rays e - fer - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,  
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.  
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
 and lis - tining to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;  
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

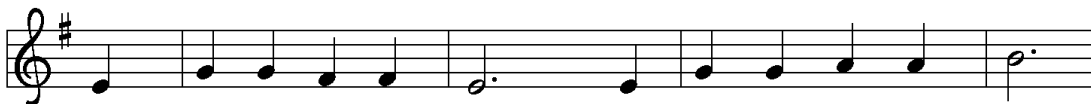
our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.  
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!  
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - scribe to God a - lone!

## \*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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE: COME LET US JOIN OUR CHEERFUL SONGS



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;  
2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”  
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;  
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
“Wor - thy the Lamb,”our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”  
and bless-ings,more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **II. WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31**

*A reading from Acts.*

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,

<sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: 66:8-20**

**<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, you peoples;**

**let the sound of praise be heard.**

<sup>9</sup> Our God has kept us among the living  
and has not allowed our feet to slip.

**<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.**

<sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

**<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.**

<sup>13</sup> I will enter your house with burnt offerings  
and will pay you my vows—

**<sup>14</sup> those that I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

<sup>15</sup> I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats.

**<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.**

<sup>17</sup> I called out to God with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord with my tongue.

- <sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;**  
<sup>19</sup> but in truth God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.  
**<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing love from me.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

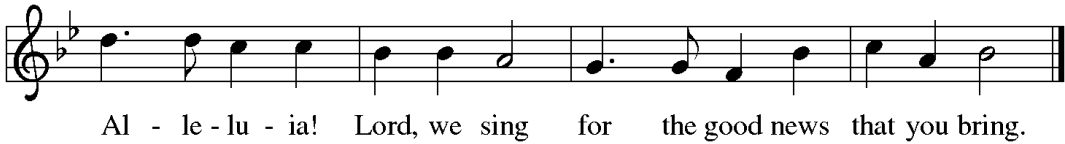
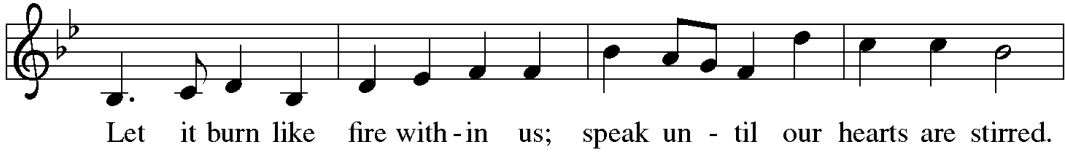
*A reading from 1 Peter.*

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**GOSPEL READING: John 14:15-21**

*The holy gospel according to St. John.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

*The gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 474 - Children of the Heavenly Father**

## **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: "...Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**"

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 465 – As the Grains of Wheat**

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
 all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,  
 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

**\*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 also 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 to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, 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.

### **LAMB OF GOD**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

#### **COMMUNION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

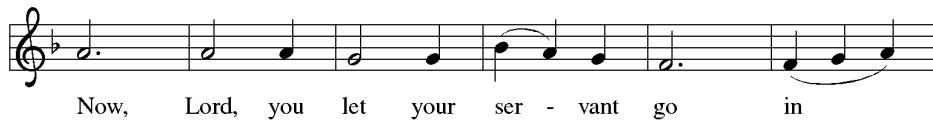
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

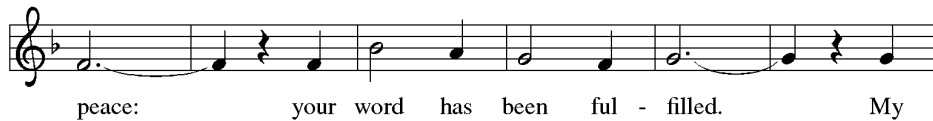
*and each person may respond*

Amen.

### **\*POST COMMUNION SONG: ELW 200 – Now, Lord**



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in



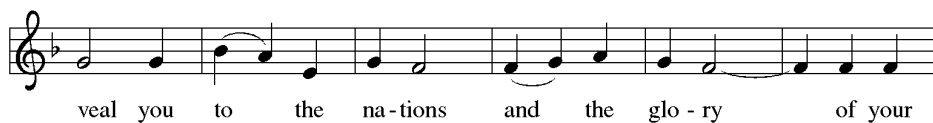
peace: your word has been ful - filled. My



own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of all peo - ple: a light to re -




veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther,



and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and



will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## **\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

## **IV. SENDING**

### **\*BLESSING**

The Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, blesses you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **\*SENDING SONG: LBW 534 - Now Thank We All Our God**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Worship Helpers:** Joanne Willauer will be coordinating the monthly schedule. Please contact her at 610-393-6317 or [jdwillauer@rcn.com](mailto:jdwillauer@rcn.com) with your available dates!

Pastor Levi will be away from May 1 through May 15 for his wedding and honeymoon. Please reach out for church president Bob Agans at 908-295-1136 if you are in need of emergency pastoral care during this time. Bob will put you in touch with the on-call pastor.

Social Ministry Donation Collections for May:

These items are most needed for our local food pantries. Each month we will coordinate with them their needs.

Collecting white bath towels & hypoallergenic laundry detergent for St Ann's for single moms now thru May 17.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Coffee Fellowship every Sunday after church service in Frey Hall**
- **Tuesday, May 12:** Social Ministry meeting 10am at church. New members always welcome!
- **Thursday, May 14:** NO Bible Study

## **UPCOMING**

- **Sunday, May 24:** Confirmation of Emma Russoniello
- **Sunday, May 31:** Baptism of Mia Raine Regitz

## **THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP HELPERS(5/10)**

**Usher/Greeter: Doris Lauer**

**Lector: Rick Brunsell**

**Altar Guild: Barbara and Jim Sikra**

**Tellers: Steve Stocker**

## **NEXT SUNDAY'S WORSHIP HELPERS(5/17)**

**Usher/Greeter: Bob Agans**

**Lector: Jamie McRoberts**

**Altar Guild: Steve Stocker**

**Tellers: Steve Stocker**

Let us remember in prayer: John, Barb, Rose, Callum, Connie, Eddie, Troodle, Debbie, Donald, Doris, Ron, Keith, Sara, Bob, Gary and those unable to attend church service; Mae, Janet, Janice, Alayne and Elsie.