

Welcome!

***Holy Thursday
April 17, 2025
7pm***



**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

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil--all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation.

On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

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.

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 strengthens you with power through the Holy Spirit. Now Christ lives in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Laying on of Hands

The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn.

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

The person may respond: Amen.

HYMN: ELW 616 – “Jesus, Remember Me”

Jesus, Remember Me

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Jesus, Remember Me". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The lyrics are: "Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king - dom." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end of the second system.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community

Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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We will sing this hymn repeatedly until the conclusion of the Laying On of Hands.

GATHERING HYMN: LBW 203 – “Now We Join in Celebration”

***GREETING**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

A reading from Exodus.

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

¹ I love the LORD, who has ¹ heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹ supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ¹ ear to me
whenever ¹ I called.**

¹² How shall I re- ¹ pay the LORD
for all the good things God has ¹ done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup ¹ of salvation
and call on the name ¹ of the LORD. R**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows ¹ to the LORD
in the presence of ¹ all God's people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your ¹ sight, O LORD,
is the death ¹ of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I ¹ am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me ¹ from my
bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice ¹ of thanksgiving
and call upon the name ¹ of the LORD.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows ¹ to the LORD
in the presence of ¹ all God's people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of ¹ the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, ¹ O Jerusalem. R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

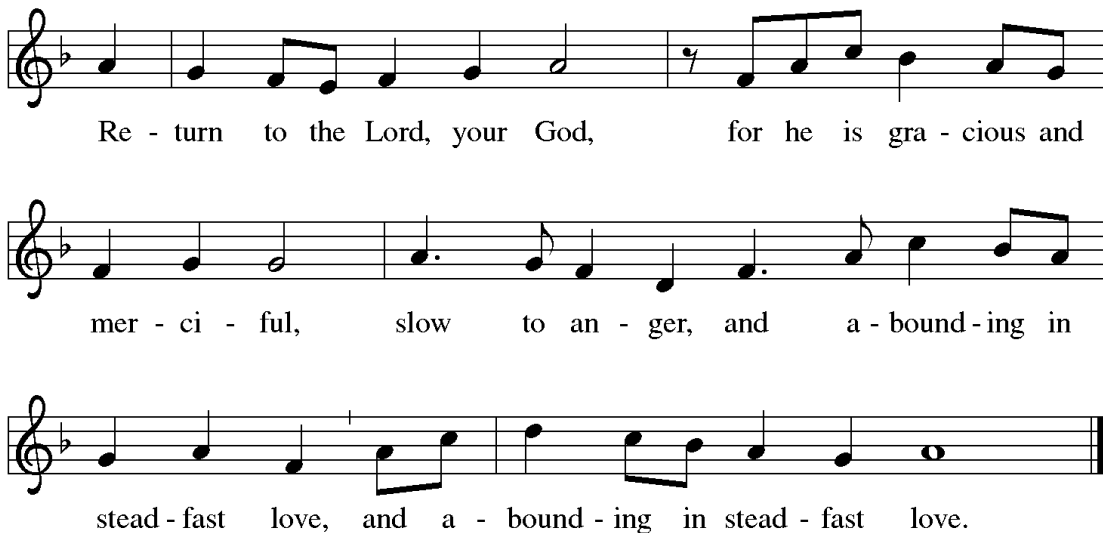
A reading from 1 Corinthians.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*** LENTEN ACCLAMATION**



* GOSPEL READING: Luke 22:7-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." ⁹They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" ¹⁰Listen, he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' ¹²He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." ¹³So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 98 – “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”**

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world, and God's love for all who are in need.

[Pastor concludes:] We pray to you, O God, in the name of the one who endured the cross, forgives our sin, and feeds us at his table, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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:**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

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.

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 first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

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.

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 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

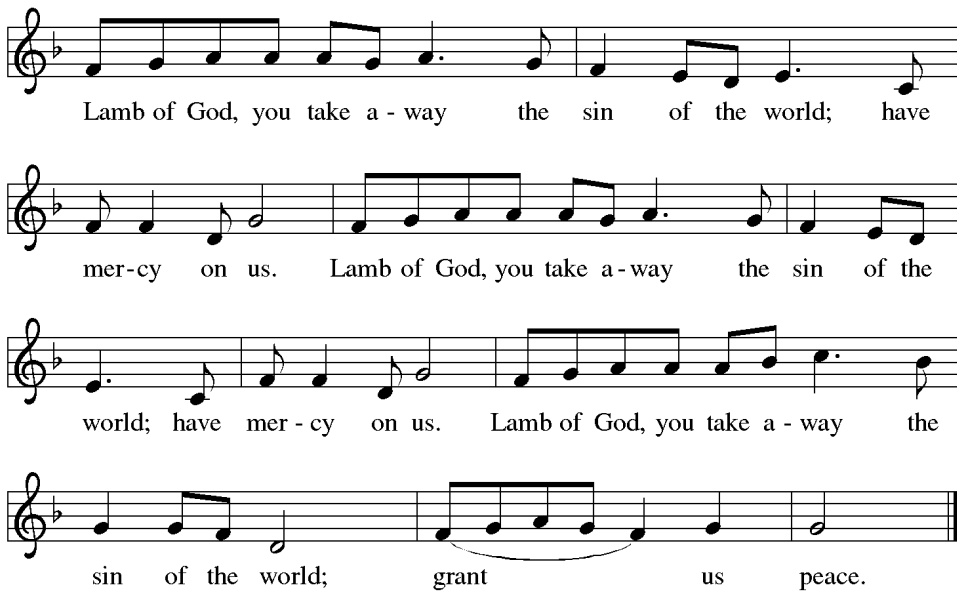
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

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 BLESSING

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Stripping of the Altar

The service concludes with the stripping of the altar. The assembly sits or kneels. The sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, and books are removed from the worship space. Psalm 88 is said. Lights may be dimmed as the worship space is stripped.

Psalm 88

¹O LORD, God of my salvation,
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,
²let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry.
³For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
⁴I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;
I am like those who have no help,
⁵like those forsaken among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.
⁶You have put me in the depths of the Pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.
⁸You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a thing of horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
⁹my eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call on you, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to you.
¹⁰Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the shades rise up to praise you?
¹¹Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
¹²Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?
¹³But I, O LORD, cry out to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴O LORD, why do you cast me off?
Why do you hide your face from me?

¹⁵Wretched and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.

¹⁶Your wrath has swept over me;
your dread assaults destroy me.

¹⁷They surround me like a flood all day long;
from all sides they close in on me.

¹⁸You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me;
my companions are in darkness.

All depart in silence.

The service continues on Good Friday at 7:00pm.