

Welcome!
Seventh Sunday of Easter
June 1, 2025
9am



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

908.454.2864

www.strawchurch.org

strawchurch@gmail.com



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

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: LBW 369 – “The Church's One Foundation”

***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 16:19-34

A reading from Acts.

¹⁶ One day we were going to the place of prayer. On the way we were met by a female slave. She had a spirit that helped her tell people what was going to happen. She earned a lot of money for her owners by doing this. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us around. She shouted, "These men serve the Most High God. They are telling you how to be saved."

¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became upset. Turning around, he spoke to the spirit that was in her. "In the name of Jesus Christ," he said, "I command you to come out of her!" At that very moment the spirit left the woman. ¹⁹ Her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone. So they grabbed Paul and Silas. They dragged them into the market place to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them to the judges. "These men are Jews," her owners said. "They are making trouble in our city. ²¹ They are suggesting practices that are against Roman law. These are practices we can't accept or take part in." ²² The crowd joined the attack against Paul and Silas. The judges ordered that Paul and Silas be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³ They were whipped without mercy. Then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ When he received these orders, he put Paul and Silas deep inside the prison. He fastened their feet so they couldn't get away.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying. They were also singing hymns to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a powerful earthquake. It shook the prison from top to bottom. All at once the prison doors flew open. Everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up. He saw that the prison doors were open. He pulled out his sword and was going to kill himself. He thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ "Don't harm yourself!" Paul shouted. "We are all here!" ²⁹ The jailer called out for some lights. He rushed in, shaking with fear. He fell down in front of Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out. He asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him. They also spoke to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night, the jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. Right away he and everyone who lived with him were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house. He set a meal in front of them. He and everyone who lived with him were filled with joy. They had become believers in God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 97

The Lord rules. Let the earth be glad.

Let countries that are far away be full of joy.

**² Clouds and thick darkness surround him.
His rule is built on what is right and fair.**

³ The Lord sends fire ahead of him.
It burns up his enemies all around him.

**⁴ His lightning lights up the world.
The earth sees it and trembles.**

⁵ The mountains melt like wax when the Lord is near.
He is the Lord of the whole earth.

**⁶ The heavens announce that what he does is right.
All people everywhere see his glory.**

⁷ All who worship statues of gods or brag about them are put to shame.
All you gods, worship the Lord!

**⁸ Zion hears about it and is filled with joy.
Lord, the villages of Judah are glad
because of how you judge.**

⁹ Lord, you are the Most High God.
You rule over the whole earth.
You are honored much more than all gods.

**¹⁰ Let those who love the Lord hate evil.
He guards the lives of those who are faithful to him.
He saves them from the power of sinful people.**

¹¹ Good things come to those who do what is right.
Joy comes to those whose hearts are honest.

**¹² You who are godly, be glad because of what the Lord has done.
Praise him, because his name is holy.**

Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-21

A reading from Revelation.

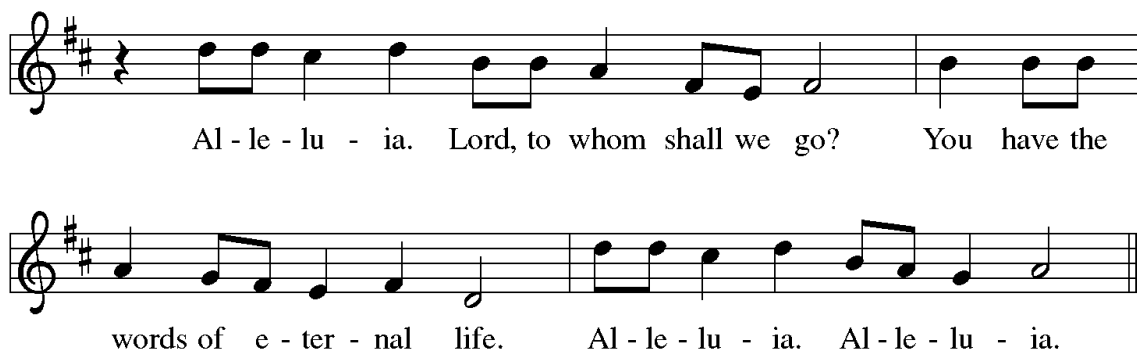
¹² “Look! I am coming soon! I bring my rewards with me. I will reward each person for what they have done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega. I am the First and the Last. I am the Beginning and the End. ¹⁴ “Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will have the right to come to the tree of life. They will be allowed to go through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ Outside the city are those who are impure. These people include those who practice witchcraft. Outside are also those who commit sexual sins and murder. Outside are those who worship statues of gods. And outside is everyone who loves and does what is false. ¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this witness for the churches. I am the Root and the Son of David. I am the bright Morning Star.”

¹⁷ The Holy Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And the person who hears should say, "Come!" Anyone who is thirsty should come. Anyone who wants to take the free gift of the water of life should do so. ¹⁸ I am warning everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book. Suppose someone adds anything to them. Then God will add to that person the plagues told about in this book. ¹⁹ Suppose someone takes away any words from this book of prophecy. Then God will take away from that person the blessings told about in this book. God will take away their share in the tree of life. God will also take away their place in the Holy City. ²⁰ Jesus is a witness about these things. He says, "Yes. I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen

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 17:20-26**

The Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰ "I do not pray only for them. I pray also for everyone who will believe in me because of their message. ²¹ Father, I pray they will be one, just as you are in me and I am in you. I want them also to be in us. Then the world will believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory you gave me. I did this so they would be one, just as we are one.

²³ I will be in them, just as you are in me. This is so that they may be brought together perfectly as one. Then the world will know that you sent me. It will also show the world that you have loved those you gave me, just as you have loved me. ²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am. I want them to see my glory, the glory you have given me. You gave it to me because you loved me before the world was created. ²⁵ “Father, you are holy. The world does not know you, but I know you. Those you have given me know you have sent me. ²⁶ I have shown you to them. And I will continue to show you to them. Then the love you have for me will be in them. I myself will be in them.”

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 129 – “Awake My Heart with Gladness”**

***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

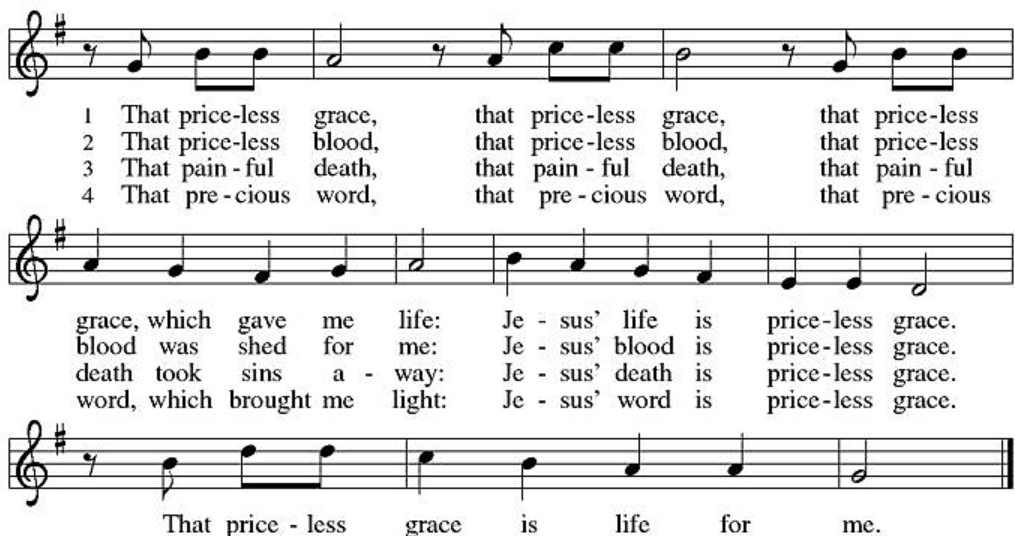
OFFERTORY



*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.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*** 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.

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 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

Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

* BLESSING

* SENDING SONG: LBW 364 - "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Ministry is collecting food for the local food pantry-please leave donations in lobby.

The 275th Committee is collecting donations to purchase tables for the gala and future use. Please drop donations in church office box or see Steve Stocker.

- **Monday 6/2:** Bible Study – 4pm at the church
- **Wednesday 6/4:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm
- **Thursday 6/5-Saturday 6/7:** NJ Synod Assembly
- **Saturday 6/7:** Church Breakfast
- **Sunday 6/8:** Please bring red flowers to decorate the altar
- **Sunday 6/8:** Please join us as we welcome new members

UPCOMING

- **Tuesday 6/10:** Social Ministry Committee at church 10am

Let us remember in prayer: The Friends & Family of Ron Vanderbilt, Elijah, Debbie, Lena, Joy, Jennie, Max, Fan, Annie, Pam, Sara, Bob, Patrick, John, Judy, Gary, Sharon, Cindy, Jack, and those unable to attend church service; Janice, DJ, Greg, Helen, Alayne and Elsie.