

Welcome!
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 25, 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
Tina & Emma Russoniello
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 377 – “Lift High the Cross”

***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.

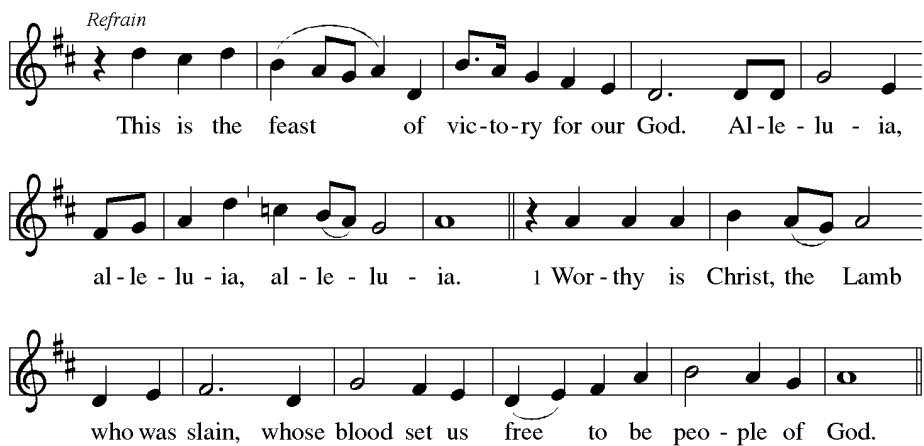
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

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

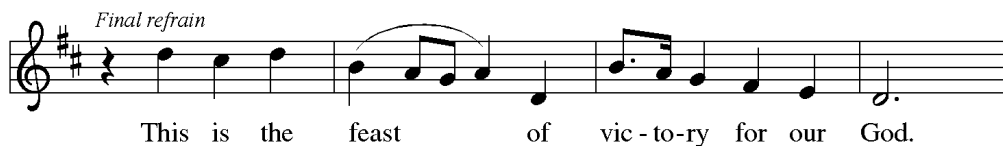
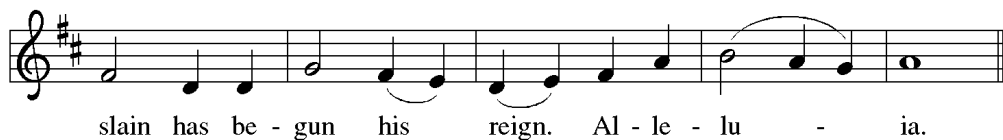


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

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,



* PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

A reading from Acts.

9 During the night Paul had a vision. He saw a man from Macedonia standing and begging him. "Come over to Macedonia!" the man said. "Help us!" **10** After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia. We decided that God had called us to preach the good news there.

11 At Troas we got into a boat. We sailed straight for Samothrace. The next day we went on to Neapolis. **12** From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony. It is an important city in that part of Macedonia. We stayed there several days. **13** On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate. We walked down to the river. There we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered together. **14** One of the women listening was from the city of Thyatira. Her name was Lydia, and her business was selling purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to accept Paul's message. **15** She and her family were baptized. Then she invited us to her home. "Do you consider me a believer in the Lord?" she asked. "If you do, come and stay at my house." She succeeded in getting us to go home with her. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 67

God, have mercy on us and bless us.

May you be pleased with us.

² Then your ways will be known on earth.

All nations will see that you have the power to save.

³ God, may the nations praise you.

May all the people on earth praise you.

⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy.

You rule the people of the earth fairly.

You guide the nations of the earth.

⁵ God, may the nations praise you.

May all the people on earth praise you.

⁶ The land produces its crops.

God, our God, blesses us.

⁷ May God continue to bless us.

Then people from one end of the earth to the other
will have respect for him.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

A reading from Revelation.

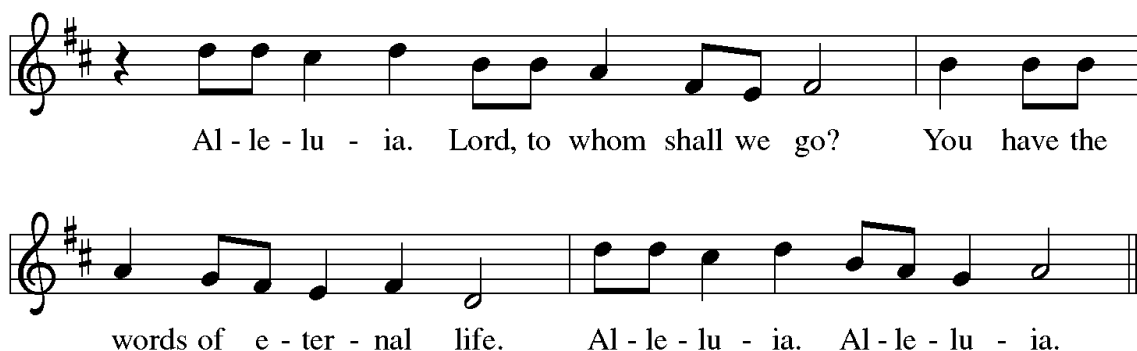
¹⁰ Then he carried me away in a vision. The Spirit took me to a huge, high mountain. He showed me Jerusalem, the Holy City. It was coming down out of heaven from God.

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life. It was as clear as crystal. It flowed from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² It flowed down the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing 12 crops of fruit. Its fruit was ripe every month. The leaves of the tree bring healing to the nations. ³ There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city. God's servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face. His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun. The Lord God will give them light. They will rule for ever and ever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



*** GOSPEL READING: John 14:23-29**

The Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them. We will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. The words you hear me say are not my own. They belong to the Father who sent me. ²⁵ "I have spoken all these things while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you.

²⁷ I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid. ²⁸ “You heard me say, ‘I am going away. And I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad I am going to the Father. The Father is greater than I am. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens. Then when it does happen, you will believe.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 410 – “All Glory Be to God on High”**

All Glory Be to God on High



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
 2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and
 3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
 hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we
 au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and
 la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to
 give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,
 source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O
 sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
 and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your
 Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and
 bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!
 lord - ship is our bless - ing.
 on us all have mer - cy.
 lives are in your keep - ing. A - men.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485-1550; tr. composite
 Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius
 Text st. 1 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; sts. 2-4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

***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.

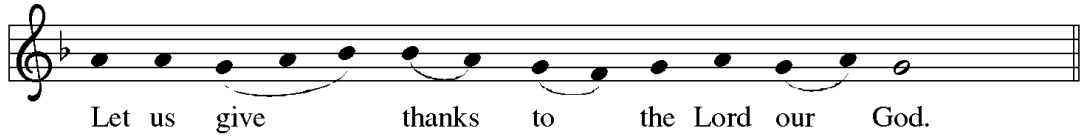
Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949
Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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

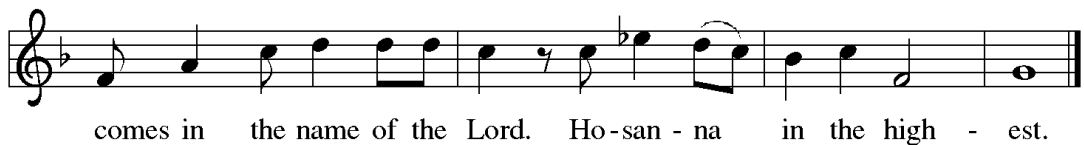
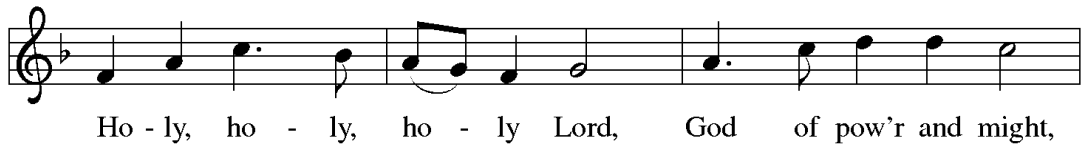
* OFFERING PRAYER

* 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.



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

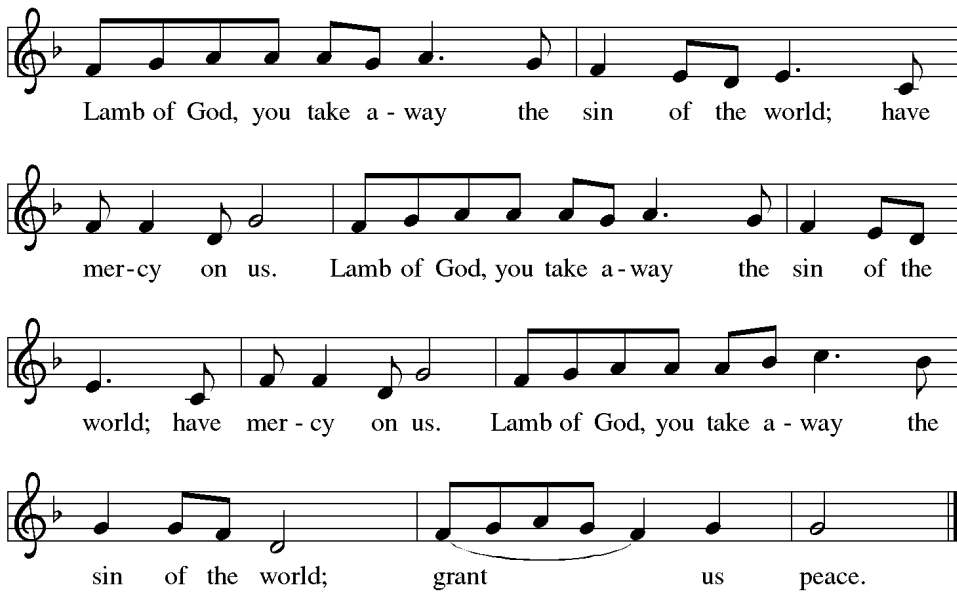
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

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

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: WOV 781 - "My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: LBW 332 – “Battle Hymn of the Republic”

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 5/26: No Bible Study**
- **Wednesday 5/27: Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm**
- **Thursday 5/29: Ascension Day service 7pm**

UPCOMING

- **Saturday 6/7: Church Breakfast**
- **Tuesday 6/10: Social Ministry Committee at church 10am**

Let us remember in prayer: The Friends & Family of Ron Vanderbilt, Brian, 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.