

**Welcome!**  
***Day of Pentecost***  
***June 8, 2025***  
***9am***



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

908.454.2864

[www.strawchurch.org](http://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  
Polly Newbold  
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: ELW 400 – “God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”**

1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl-wind, as on Pen - te -  
 2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your  
 3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from  
 4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's

cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;  
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,  
 leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,  
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,

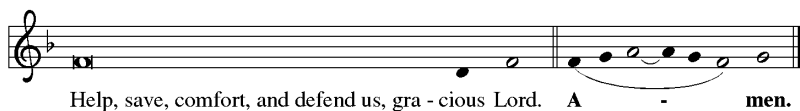
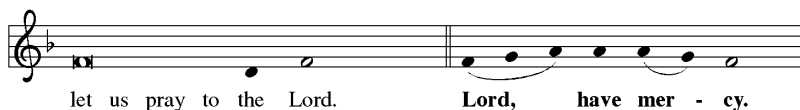
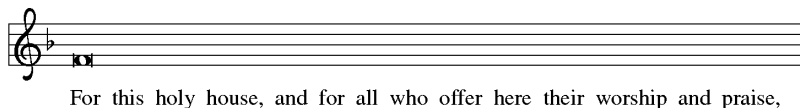
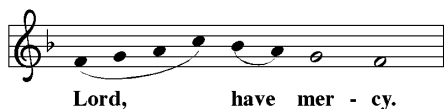
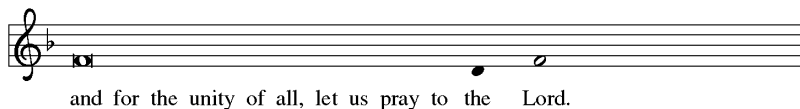
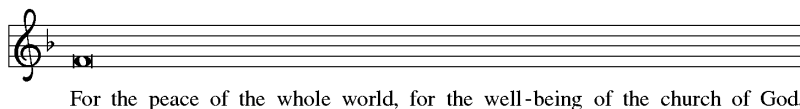
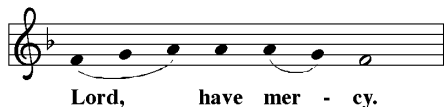
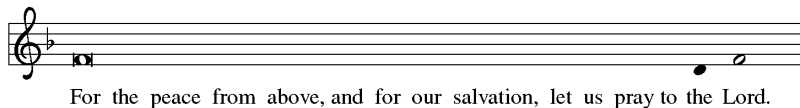
past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,  
 let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,  
 for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;  
 may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;

there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!  
 kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!  
 make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!  
 claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

## \*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



# 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*

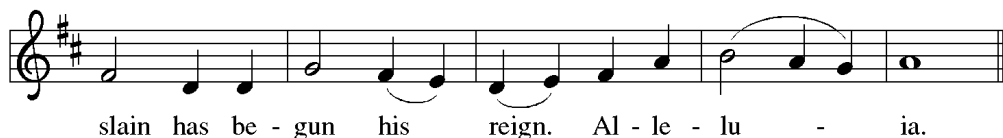
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

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

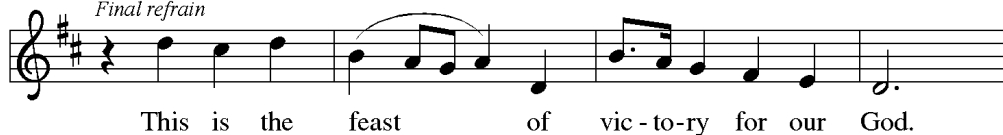
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



*Refrain*



*Final refrain*



## \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

### WORD

#### **First Reading: Genesis 11:1-9**

*A reading from Genesis.*

**11** The whole world had only one language, and everyone spoke it. <sup>2</sup> They moved to the east and found a broad valley in Babylon. There they made their home.

<sup>3</sup> They said to one another, "Come on! Let's make bricks and bake them well." They used bricks instead of stones. They used tar to hold the bricks together. <sup>4</sup> Then they said, "Come on! Let's build a city for ourselves. Let's build a tower that reaches to the sky. We'll make a name for ourselves. Then we won't be scattered over the whole earth." <sup>5</sup> But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup> He said, "All these people are united and speak the same language. That is why they can do all this. Now they will be able to do anything they plan. <sup>7</sup> Come on! Let us go down and mix up their language. Then they will not be able to understand one another." <sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them from there over the whole earth. And they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> There the LORD mixed up the language of the whole world. That's why the city was called Babel. From there the LORD scattered them over the whole earth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 104:24-35**

<sup>24</sup> **LORD, you have made so many things!**

**How wise you were when you made all of them!**

**The earth is full of your creatures.**

<sup>25</sup> Look at the ocean, so big and wide!

It is filled with more creatures than people can count.

It is filled with living things, from the largest to the smallest.

<sup>26</sup> **Ships sail back and forth on it.**

**Leviathan, the sea monster you made, plays in it.**

<sup>27</sup> All creatures depend on you

to give them their food when they need it.

<sup>28</sup> **When you give it to them,**

**they eat it.**

**When you open your hand,**

**they are satisfied with good things.**

<sup>29</sup> When you turn your face away from them,

they are terrified.

When you take away their breath,

they die and turn back into dust.

<sup>30</sup> **When you send your Spirit,**

**you create them.**

**You give new life to the ground.**



<sup>31</sup> May the glory of the LORD continue forever.  
May the LORD be happy with what he has made.

<sup>32</sup> **When he looks at the earth, it trembles.**

**When he touches the mountains, they pour out smoke.**

<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the LORD all my life.

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

<sup>34</sup> **May these thoughts of mine please him.**

**I find my joy in the LORD.**

<sup>35</sup> But may sinners be gone from the earth.

May evil people disappear.

I will praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD.

## **Second Reading: Acts 2:1-21**

*A reading from Acts.*

**2** When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers gathered in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this. <sup>5</sup> Godly Jews from every country in the world were staying in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> A crowd came together when they heard the sound. They were bewildered because each of them heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> The crowd was really amazed. They asked, "Aren't all these people who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> Then why do we each hear them speaking in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites. We live in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia. We are from Pontus, Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia. Others of us are from Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene. Still others are visitors from Rome. <sup>11</sup> Some of the visitors are Jews. Others have accepted the Jewish faith. Also, Cretans and Arabs are here. We hear all these people speaking about God's wonders in our own languages!" <sup>12</sup> They were amazed and bewildered. They asked one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But some people in the crowd made fun of the believers. "They've had too much wine!" they said. <sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the 11 apostles. In a loud voice he spoke to the crowd. "My fellow Jews," he said, "let me explain this to you. All of you who live in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> You think these people are drunk. But they aren't. It's only nine o'clock in the morning!

<sup>16</sup> No, here is what the prophet Joel meant. <sup>17</sup> He said, “ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Holy Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions.

Your old men will have dreams.

<sup>18</sup> In those days, I will pour out my Spirit on my servants.

I will pour out my Spirit on both men and women.

When I do, they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above.

I will show signs on the earth below.

There will be blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will become dark.

The moon will turn red like blood.

This will happen before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

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 14:8-17

The Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father. That will be enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, “Don’t you know me, Philip? I have been among you such a long time! Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. So how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father? Don’t you believe that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. The Father lives in me. He is the one who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say I am in the Father. Also believe that the Father is in me. Or at least believe what the works I have been doing say about me. <sup>12</sup> What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who believes in me will do the works I have been doing. In fact, they will do even greater things. That’s because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do anything you ask in my name. Then the Father will receive glory from the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name. I will do it. <sup>15</sup> “If you love me, obey my commands. <sup>16</sup> I will ask the Father. And he will give you another friend to help you and to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> That friend is the Spirit of truth. The world can’t accept him. That’s because the world does not see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you, and he will be in you.

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

## **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 163 – “ Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord”**

### **Welcoming New Members to the Congregation** **Presentation**

*Those being welcomed, representative of the congregation, and minister gather at the font before the assembly.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly in these words.*

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

*A representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may introduce each new member or household.*

Joanne and Don Willauer have come to our congregation from the former St. John’s Lutheran Church in Phillipsburg.

## **Confession of the Apostles' Creed**

*The presiding minister asks the new members to confess our common faith with the congregation.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Address and Questions**

*The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.*

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Siblings in Christ,

do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

RESPONSE (one-by-one): I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God,

do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

## **WELCOME**

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

*Applause.*

### **Blessing of the New Members**

We give thanks for our new members,  
whom you have drawn to yourself by the cross of Jesus Christ  
and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith.  
Keep them close together with us in your Spirit,  
in the breaking of bread and the prayers,  
and in service to others.

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### **\* 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.

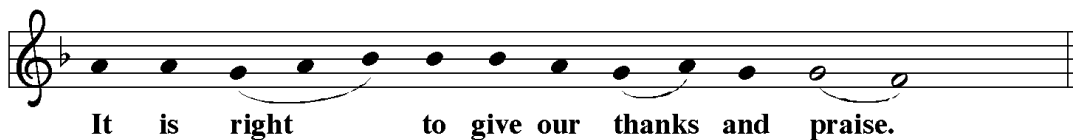
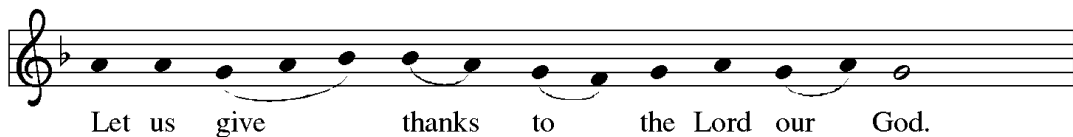
Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949  
Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional  
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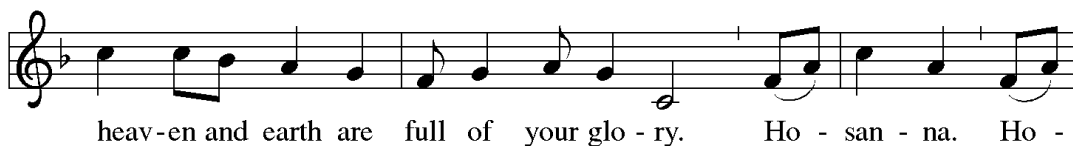
## \* OFFERING PRAYER

### \* 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*

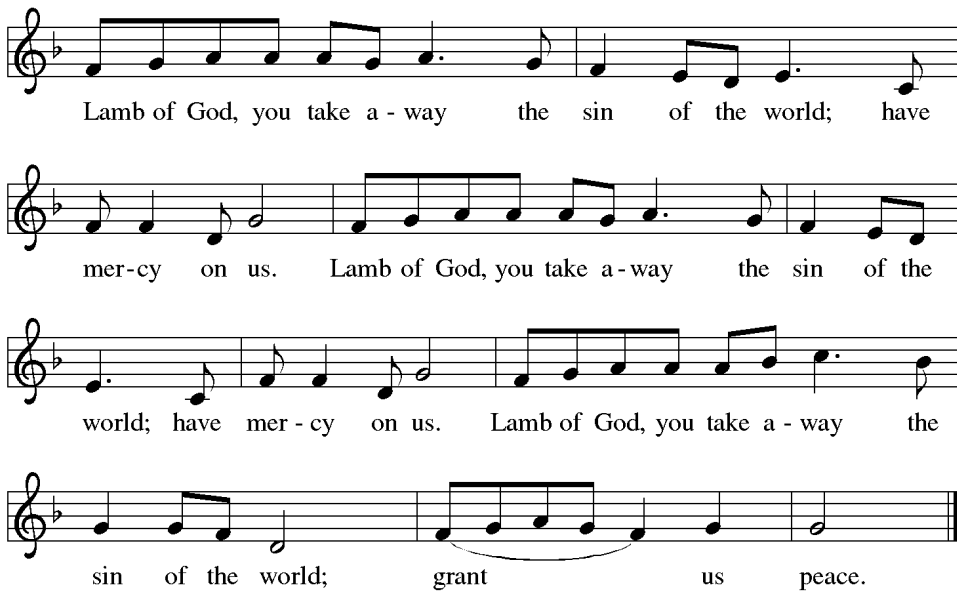
The body of Christ, given for you.

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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### \* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

### SENDING

### \* BLESSING

### \* SENDING SONG: WOV 684 - "Spirit of Gentleness"

**\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please stay after the service for refreshments as we welcome  
our new members Don and Joanne Willauer**

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

The 275<sup>th</sup> 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 6/9:** Bible Study – 4pm at the church
- **Tuesday 6/10:** Social Ministry Committee at church 10am
- **Wednesday 6/11:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm

**UPCOMING**

- **Tuesday 6/17:** Church Council meeting at church 7pm

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, Jack, and those unable to attend  
church service; Janice, DJ, Greg, Helen, Alayne and Elsie.

# Gala of Grace

