

**Welcome!**

***Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Day***

***April 20, 2025***

***9am***



**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.

**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, Rob Adams & Rebecca  
Hansen

## 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 151 – “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”**

### **\*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*



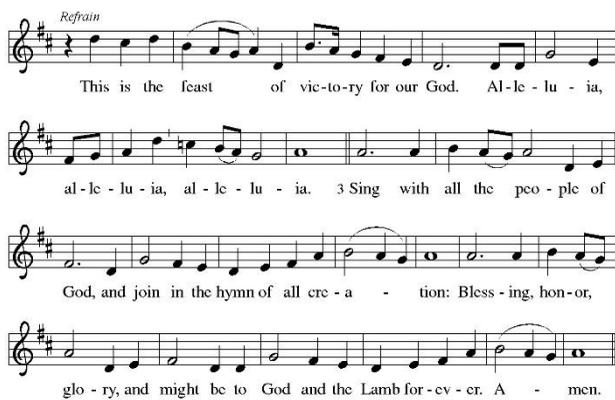
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

*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-cr. 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: Isaiah 65:17-25**

*A reading from Isaiah.*

- <sup>17</sup> I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.
- <sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.
- <sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.
- <sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
- <sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- <sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
- <sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—  
and their descendants as well.
- <sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
- <sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the Lord is exalted!  
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the Lord. R**

<sup>18</sup> The Lord indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

<sup>20</sup> "This is the gate of the Lord;  
here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation. R**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **By the Lord has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

## Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

*A reading from Acts.*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

<sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

<sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

<sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

<sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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 20:1-18**

The holy gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

<sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

<sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

<sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

## **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 147 – "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"**

### **\*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: “ ...God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**”

#### **\* 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.

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.

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### \* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

### SENDING

### \* BLESSING

### \* SENDING SONG: LBW 145 - "Thine is the Glory"

### \* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Monday 4/21: No Bible Study**

## **UPCOMING**

- **Saturday 5/3: Church Breakfast**
- **Tuesday 5/13: Social Ministry 10am at Alpha Family Restaurant**
- **Tuesday 5/13: Property Committee 10am at church**

Let us remember in prayer: Lena, Joy, Jennie, Max, Fan, Annie, Pam, Patrick, John, Judy, Gary, Sharon, Cindy, Jack, Greg, Carol, Janice, Bob, Sara, Debbie and those unable to attend church service; Helen, Alayne and Elsie.



Save the Date

## Gala of Grace

June 22, 2025

3:00 pm

**St. James Lutheran Church**

Ed Frey Hall

1213 US 22

Phillipsburg, NJ 08865