

Welcome!  
*Third Sunday of Easter*  
*April 14, 2024*



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

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## **Welcome to St. James!**

We are so glad you are here! The people of God have been worshipping in this place since 1750. Much has changed since then, but God has not changed. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is our anchor in every storm, a light to our feet, our savior and our friend. Jesus rejoices that each of us has come to His house!

## **Introduction to the day**

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

**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. If you would like more information about us, please don't hesitate to contact the church office.

*Presiding*

*Liturgist*

*Musicians*

*Rev. Levi Powers*

*Dan Gulick*

*Dave Miller*

**‡ WE GATHER ‡**

*We prepare our hearts and minds to receive God's grace through Word & Sacrament*

**PRAYER CONCERNS, GOD-SPOTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *\*(please stand if able) \**

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.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN: WOV 674 - "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen"

## 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.

A musical score for a hymn, consisting of ten staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men."

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

Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God, for the  
 Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -  
 - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

‡ WORD ‡

*God speaks to us through scripture, sermon and song.*

*\*(The congregation may be seated.) \**

**First Reading: Acts 3:12-19**

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 4**

*The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)*

<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender <sup>|</sup> of my cause;  
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and <sup>|</sup> hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>**“You mortals, how long will you dishon- <sup>|</sup> or my glory;  
how long will you love illusions and seek <sup>|</sup> after lies?”**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders <sup>|</sup> for the faithful;  
the LORD will hear me <sup>|</sup> when I call.

<sup>4</sup>**Tremble, then, and <sup>|</sup> do not sin;  
speak to your heart in silence up- <sup>|</sup> on your bed. R**

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed <sup>|</sup> sacrifices,  
and put your trust <sup>|</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>Many are saying, “Who will show us | any good?”  
Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.  
<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness | in my heart,  
more than when grain and | wine abound.  
<sup>8</sup>In peace, I will lie | down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure. R

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:36b-48** *\*(please stand if able)\**

*Alleluia. Our hearts / burn within us\* while you open to / us the scriptures. Alleluia.*  
*(Luke 24:32)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*\*(The congregation may be seated.) \**

**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow*

**HYMN: WOV 703 – “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”**

**NICENE CREED** *\*(please stand if able)\**

**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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became**



**incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, sin, and death, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of the good news of Christ's resurrection.

O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human capability. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God who in Jesus Christ is our elder brother, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and

anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty especially Jeri, Barbara, Shirley J and our homebound; Beverly, Helen, Alayne & Elsie. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our center, you bring all people together in Christ. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry as St. James Lutheran Church. That the gospel that takes our burdens away in Christ may shine brightly here. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in your beloved community. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died in our faith. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

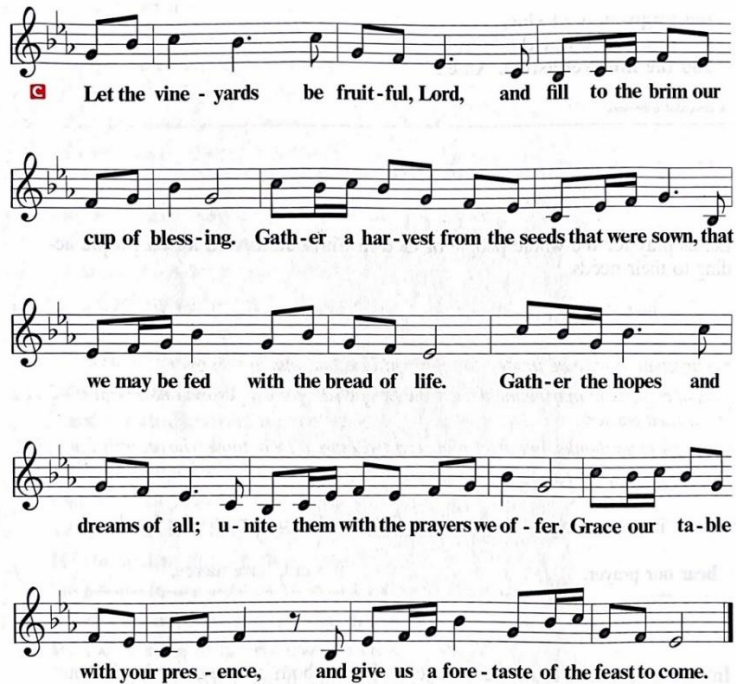
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also, with you.**

*\*(The congregation may be seated.) \**

**OFFERTORY**

## OFFERTORY CANTICLE:



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and  
dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER\**(please stand if able)* \*

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**† THE MEAL †**

*We are invited by God, to receive God.*

The Lord be with you.

**And Also 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 him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes  
In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest**

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



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, grant us peace.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING** *\*(please stand if able)\**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

#### *Liturgist*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks,  
almighty God, that you  
have refreshed us through  
the healing power  
of this gift of life.

In your mercy,  
strengthen us through  
this gift, in faith  
toward you and in  
fervent love toward  
one another; for the  
sake of Jesus Christ  
our Lord,

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

## **SENDING HYMN: WOV 722 - "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"**

## **DISMISSAL**

"Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!"**

**Altar Flowers:** There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

**Communion:** Please fill out the communion cards so record of who takes communion can be kept.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Social Ministry is collecting donations for Veteran's Haven North. Please see UPDATED wish list below:

### Cleaning Supplies

- Clorox wipes

### We have exciting news!

Based on your feedback, we have started an Amazon Wishlist! Follow the below link for ease of access to desired items. Please include your name and address on any purchases so we know who sent us the item, can express our gratitude and confirm receipt. Thank you!

<https://a.co/8cEyvVe>

We are so very, very grateful for the recent outpouring of support! Due to inventory and space, at this time we are not able to accept donations of items not on this list. Thank you again for your generosity and your understanding. Our Wish List is a living document; we will update it again as your donations are distributed and our needs change.

### Personal Use Items

- Men's Wallets
- Watches
- Gift Cards (ShopRite, Walmart, Dunkin Donuts, Uber/Lyft, Visa, etc.)
- Water Bottles with Spout Lid
- Black Work Boots (Non-slip, Oil-resistant, Mens/Womens, All Sizes)
- Winter boots, (Mens/Womens, All Sizes)
- Black Work Pants (Mens/Womens, All Sizes)
- Comforters Sets (XL-Twin sheet set included)
- Pillows
- Towels
- Small Garbage Cans
- Coffee (Regular Only)
- Coffee Makers
- Small Desk Lamps
- Alarm Clocks
- Musical Instruments & Accessories (Acoustic and Electric Guitars, Strings, Guitar Stands, Amplifiers, Cables)

## EVENTS

**Boy Scouts:** Every Wednesday 7p-8:30p.

**Church Council:** Tuesday, April 18 @ 7:00pm at the church.

**Executive Committee:** TBD

**Financial Committee:** TBD

**Worship and Music:** TBD

**Property:** Tuesday, May 14 @ 10:00am at the church.

**Social Ministry:** Wednesday, May 15 @ 10am at the church.