

Welcome!

O Come, let us worship! (Ps. 95:6)

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday August 7, 2022



St. James Lutheran Church

1213 U. S. Route 22

Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Vice Pastor: Chris Halverson

908.454.2864

www.strawchurch.org

strawchurch@gmail.com

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

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

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. Scott Schantzenbach
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: "Bind Us Together" (WOV 748)

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

748

Bind Us Together

Refrain
F

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

C⁷ F F

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

Dm Gm C F

bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

F C⁷ F F C⁷ F

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam - ly of God. You are the prom - ise di - vine.

Refrain
F C⁷ F F C⁷ F B⁷/C

There . . is on - ly one Bod - y; that . . is why we can sing;
You are God's cho - sen de - sire, you are the glo - rious new wine.

Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946
Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946

© 1977 Thankyou Music, admin. (in Western Hemisphere) Integrity's Historical Music

BIND US TOGETHER
6.77.6 and refrain

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also, with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

† WORD †

God speaks to us through scripture, sermon and song.

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 13:12-22

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,

our helper and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our ^l hope in you.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: **(please stand if able)**

Alleluia. **Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. *Alleluia.*** *(John 8:12)*

The Holy Gospel according to **Luke 12:32-40**

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow

APOSTLES' CREED **(please stand if able)**

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.

Amen

THE PRAYERS

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you especially the friends and family of Naomi Wrede and our homebound; Beverly, Betty, Helen & Elsie. Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let your loving kindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation and all who care for those in need. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also, with you.

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

OFFERTORY

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

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

† THE MEAL †

We are invited by God, to receive God.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 covenant 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

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

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Liturgist

Let us pray.

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

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

SENDING HYMN- "Lift High the Cross" (LBW 377)

Lift High the Cross

377

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied tree,
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
As thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.

5 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, Share the Good News

We will! Thanks be to God.

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



This week's flowers donated by Dan and Barbara Gulick in honor of Dan's birthday.

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

Offertory: Due to Covid-19 precautions, please place your offering in the plate as you arrive to church. The plate will then be brought up by the ushers during the offertory.

Social Ministry will be collecting items one more week for Veteran's Haven North until August 14th.

The Wish List:

Cleaning Supplies

- **Laundry soaps & dryer sheets**
(Limited to following brands only)

<u>Laundry Soaps</u>	<u>Dryer Sheets</u>
All Mighty Pacs	Snuggle
All Mighty Pacs Free & Clear	All- Free & Clear
Tide Pods	GAIN
Tide Pods – Free & Clear	Berkley Jensen (BJs)
Kirkland Ultra Clean Pacs	Laundry Bags
Kirkland Single Dose	
Purex Liquid	

- **Dishwashing Liquid:** **(Limited to the following brands only please):**
Ajax, Palmolive, Dawn Ultra
- **Clorox Wipes**
- **Toilet Bowl Brushes**
- **Soap Holders**

- **Travel Mugs (Stainless) with Lid**
- **Water Bottles with Spout Lid**
- **Toothpaste**
- **Hairbrushes/Hair Picks/Combs**
- **Plastic Clothes Hangers**
- **(2) Blood Glucose Monitoring (Diabetes Testing) System Kits**
- **L, XL, 2XL, 3X, 4X Men's Clothing** (Sweatpants, sweatshirts, boxers, Short and long sleeved T-shirts/Polos, Hoodies)
- **Comforters/Sheet Sets (XL-Twin)**
- **Pillowcases (individual packs)**
- **(2) Inflatable Twin/Double Beds**
- **Bath Mats (Cloth)**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Approx. \$Amt</u>
Outdoor Tables	8	Pricing from \$720-\$1120ea +shipping
Fridge 21.1cuft	3	\$1100ea+shipping

LARGER ITEMS:

Please contact VHN for specifics

EVENTS

Boy Scouts: Meetings resume again in September.

Church Council: There is no August meeting. Next meeting will be Tuesday, September, 13 @ 7:00pm at the church.

Executive Committee: TBD

Financial Committee: TBD

Worship and Music: Sunday, August 14 @ 10am at the church.

Property: Tuesday, August 9 @ 10:00am at the church.

Social Ministry: Wednesday, August 17 @ 10:00am at the church.