

**Welcome!**

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

***First Sunday of Lent  
Sunday, February 18, 2024***



**St. James Lutheran Church**

**1213 U. S. Route 22**

**Phillipsburg, NJ 08865**

**Vice Pastor: Rev. Scott Schantzenbach**

908.454.2864

[www.strawchurch.org](http://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**

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

**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  
Polly Newbold  
Dave Miller*

### **Vice-Pastor Contact Information:**

Pastor Scott Schantzenbach  
908-892-8299  
[pastorschantzenbach@gmail.com](mailto:pastorschantzenbach@gmail.com)

**‡ 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: LBW 503 - "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

## 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



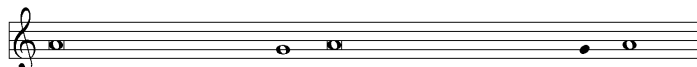
☐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☐ **Lord, have mer - cy.**



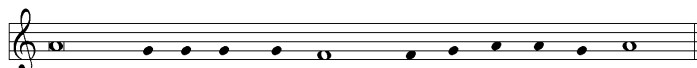
☐ For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ **Lord, have mer - cy.**



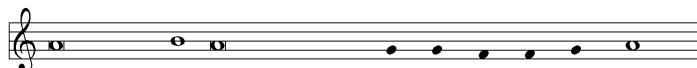
☐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ **Lord, have mer - cy.**



☐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ☐ **Lord, have mer - cy.**



☐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. ☐ **A - men**

**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.  
**B** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:  
 We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.  
 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:  
 You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
 You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.  
 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over

us, through 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: Genesis 9:8-17**

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

*Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths. R**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness,

O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way. R**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

***One does not live by / bread alone,\* but by every word that comes from the / mouth of God. (Matt. 4:4)***

The Holy Gospel according to **Mark 1:9-15**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow*



## **HYMN OF PRAISE: LBW 106 - "In the Hour of Trial"**

**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.**

### **THE PRAYERS**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people (*especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling especially Jim, Barbara, Pr. Brndjar, Steve, Shirley J and Aric, Lindsey & family and our homebound; Beverly, Helen, Marcia, Alayne & Elsie. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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 PRAYER** *\*(please stand if able) \**

Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.  
Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.  
Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.  
We pray this in your name.

**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 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

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

## 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)\**

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

**Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Liturgist*

Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

*Pastor*

Beloved,  
we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

**† SENDING †**

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

**SENDING HYMN: LBW 229 - "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

No Flowers during Lent 2/14-3/31

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Social Ministry will be taking donations for Links of Love until Palm Sunday, March 24. They are \$1 for one or \$5 for 6.
- Social Ministry is collecting donations for Veteran’s Haven North. Please see wish list below:

## Cleaning Supplies

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

Laundry Soaps	Dryer Sheets
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	

- Clorox Wipes
- Soap Holders

## Seasonal Items

- Flowers
- Mulch

### LARGER ITEMS:

Fuse ball Table  
Air Hockey Table

## Personal Use Items

- Men’s Wallets
- Watches
- Gift Cards (ShopRite, Walmart, Dunkin Donuts, Uber/Lyft, Visa, etc.)
- Coffee/Travel Mugs (Stainless) with Lid
- Water Bottles with Spout Lid
- Mouthwash (Alcohol Free Only)
- **Black Work Boots/Shoes** (Non-Slip, Oil-Resistant)

**Winter boots, sneakers and slippers**  
*Men Sizes 8-13 and Women's Sizes 7-10*

- **L, XL, 2XL, 3X, 4X Men’s & Women’s Clothing** (Sweatpants, sweatshirts, boxers, Short and long sleeved T-shirts, Hoodies)
- **Men’s & Women’s Jeans**
- **Reading Glasses of all strengths**
- **Comforters/Sheet Sets (XL-Twin)**
- **Throw Blankets**
- **Pillows**
- **Body Wash**
- **Chapstick**
- **Towels**
- **Laundry Bags**
- **Electric Shavers**
- **Disposable Razors (Men’s & Women’s)**
- **Coffee (Regular Only)**

## **EVENTS**

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

**Church Council:** Tuesday, February 20@ 7:00pm at the church.

**Executive Committee:** TBD

**Financial Committee:** TBD

**Worship and Music:** TBD

**Property:** Tuesday, February 13@ 10:00am at the church.

**Social Ministry:** Wednesday, February 14@ 10am at the church.