

**Welcome!**

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

***5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany***

***Sunday, February 4, 2024***



**St. James Lutheran Church**

**1213 U. S. Route 22**

**Phillipsburg, NJ 08865**

**Vice Pastor: Rev. Scott Schantzenbach**

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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**

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

**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*

### **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: WOV 730 - "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

## 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



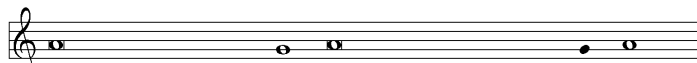
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



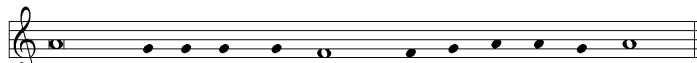
**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



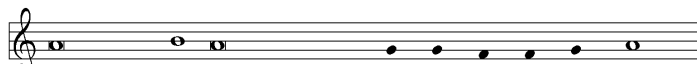
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



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

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, 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: Isaiah 40:21-31**

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?  
<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**

*The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises <sup>1</sup> to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor <sup>1</sup> God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD re- <sup>1</sup> builds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the ex- <sup>1</sup> iles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the <sup>1</sup> brokenhearted  
and binds <sup>1</sup> up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number <sup>1</sup> of the stars  
and calls them all <sup>1</sup> by their names. R**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and might- <sup>1</sup> y in power;  
there is no limit <sup>1</sup> to God's wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts <sup>1</sup> up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked <sup>1</sup> to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp <sup>1</sup> to our God,

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heav- <sup>1</sup> ens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- <sup>1</sup> on the mountains. R**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food <sup>1</sup> for the cattle  
and for the young ravens <sup>1</sup> when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might <sup>1</sup> of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed <sup>1</sup> of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>20c1</sup> Hallelujah! **R**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

*Alleluia. The servant of God took | our infirmities\* and bore | our diseases. Alleluia. (Matt. 8:17)*

The Holy Gospel according to **Mark 1:29-39**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*



<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow*

## **HYMN OF PRAISE: WOV 779 - "On Eagle's Wings"**

**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**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need especially Jim, Barbara, Pr. Brndjar, Shirley J, and our homebound; Beverly, Helen, Marcia, Alayne & Elsie. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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) \**

Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek  
and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.

**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 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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

## 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*

Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

*Pastor*

God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## **✠ SENDING ✠**

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

## **SENDING HYMN: WOV 781 - “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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



This week’s flowers donated by Church Council

**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 wish list below:

## Cleaning Supplies

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

<b>Laundry Soaps</b>	<b>Dryer Sheets</b>
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.