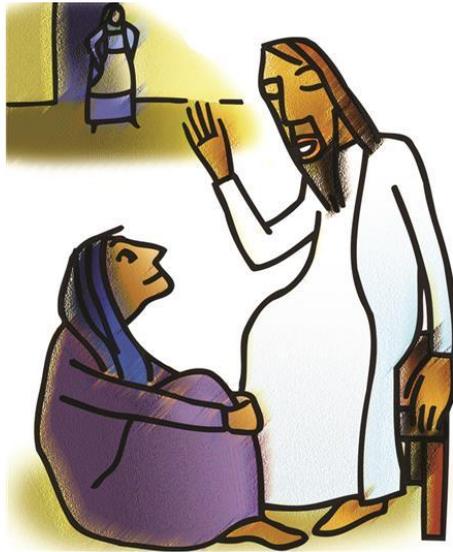


**Welcome!**

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

***Sixth Sunday after Pentecost***

***Sunday July 17, 2022***



**St. James Lutheran Church**

**1213 U. S. Route 22**

**Phillipsburg, NJ 08865**

**Vice Pastor: Chris Halverson**

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**

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

**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*

*The Rev. Stephen Yambor  
Jamie McLain  
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:

## “Oh, Praise the Gracious Power (WOV 750)

### Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
- 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
- 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
- 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
- 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:  
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:  
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:  
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:  
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

#### *Refrain*



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,  
the love, the word, the tide.  
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,  
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ  
with faith's bright songful voice!  
Announce the gospel to the world  
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936

Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

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## **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.

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, 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 18:1-10A**

*The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” <sup>10a</sup>Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## **SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28**

*This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.*

<sup>15</sup>[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup>And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—<sup>23</sup>provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup>I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup>I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup>the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

***Alleluia. Rejoice, and leap for joy,\* for surely your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia. (Luke 6:23)***

The Holy Gospel according to **Luke 10:38-42**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.*

<sup>38</sup>Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow*

**APOSTLE'S 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.**

**THE PRAYERS**

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things. As your church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach us to welcome strangers as we have been welcomed by you. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible. Teach humankind to honor and protect all creation, including living things that remain hidden from our eyes such as air, atmosphere, molecules, and microscopic creatures. God of grace,

**hear our prayer**

Through Christ you reconcile all things. Motivate those in power to end enslavement, dehumanization, or brutality of any kind (*in the spirit of Bartolomé de Las Casas, whom we commemorate today*) and to protect and improve the lives of Indigenous peoples. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you bring peace. Assure all who are worried and distracted by many things of your constant presence. Soothe those suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Sustain all who are afflicted and those who serve as caregivers especially our homebound: Beverly, Betty, Naomie, Helen & Elsie. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

In Christ you make your word fully known. Inspire this worshipping community to abide fully in your word as we sit at the feet of Jesus. Bless the ministry of teachers and Bible study leaders. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

In Christ you brought forth the firstborn from the dead. We give thanks for the saints you have gathered at your table. Gather us with them in your eternal glory. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

**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.

Living God,

**you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together**

**in your peaceable reign,**

**and you welcome us all at your table.**

**Reach out to us through this meal,**

**and show us your wounded and risen body,**

**that we may be nourished and believe**

**in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

## **BLESSING**

*Pastor*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

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

**SENDING HYMN- “Here I am Lord” (WOV 752)**

Here I Am, Lord



1 “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2 “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple’s pain.  
3 “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946  
Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte  
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# 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 Ashley Wrede'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 for Veteran's Haven North until August 14<sup>th</sup>.**

## The Wish List:

### 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	

- **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)**

Item	Quantity	Approx. \$Amt
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:** Tuesday, July 26 @ 7:00pm at the church. This will be the meeting for both July and August council.

**Executive Committee:** Monday, August 8 @ 7:00pm by Zoom link under “Pastor’s Schedule”.

**Financial Committee:** Monday, August 8 @ 6:00pm by Zoom link under “Pastor’s Schedule”.

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

**Property:** Monday, August 8 @ 10:00am at the church.

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