

Welcome!

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday May 21, 2022

Sunday May 22, 2022



St. James Lutheran Church

1213 U. S. Route 22

Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Vice Pastor: Stephen Yambor

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

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

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. Joe Molnar

Dave Miller / Patrick Ciszlak

‡ 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.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Bless the Lord, O My Soul'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; bless the Lord, O my soul;

and all that is with - in me bless God's ho - ly name.

Text: Ps. 103:1
Music: PRAISE PSALM 103, traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Let us pray.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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: Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND LESSON: Revelation 21:10, 2--22.5

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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 **John 14:23-29**

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow

HYMN: "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" (WOV 716)

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -

heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove

faith and hope and love un - end - ing, Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, st. h. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SEND HIER, Johans R. Ahle, 1625-1673

Text © James Quinn, St. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent, www.selahpub.com.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace especially Carol Meixsell, Jim and Barb Sikra, Darlene Clymer, Dave Miller, Holly Chemidlin, Ariel, Mark, Mack, Polly, Marsha, Sharon, Shirley, Gary, and our homebound: Betty, Naomi, Helen & Elsie.

Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people. Accomplish your will through their efforts. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died when we meet together at your river of life. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; 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)**

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.

We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.

Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

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- "Lift High the Cross" (LBW 377)

WITNESS

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
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*

© Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; Michael R. Newbold, 1874-1956
© Tune: Sydney R. Nicholson, 1875-1947

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.

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.

Announcements

A task force is at work on a new social statement about civics and faith, and it wants to hear from you. This social statement was requested by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. A key piece of this process is hearing from ELCA members about their priorities and perspectives. Social statements establish the basis for the ELCA's public voice and policy decisions. They also serve as a teaching tool to help people discern and discuss their views on an issue. Join members of the ELCA social statement task force for an ELCA-wide virtual listening event. What themes, ideas or topics do you think the task force needs to talk about or consider for the social statement?

There are two opportunities to participate:
Tuesday, May 24, 7-8:15 p.m. Central time
Wednesday, May 25, 7-8:15 p.m. Central time

Registration closes May 25.

For more information contact Heather Dean - heather.dean@elca.org

EVENTS

Boy Scouts: Every Wednesday from 7pm-8:30pm

Church Council: Tuesday, June 14 by Zoom link under “Pastor’s Schedule”.

Executive Committee: Monday, June 13 @ 7:00pm by Zoom link under “Pastor’s Schedule”.

Financial Committee: Tuesday, June 14 @ 7:00pm at the church.

Worship and Music: Sunday, June 12 @ 10am at the church.

Property: Monday, June 13 @ 10:00am at the church.

Social Ministry: Wednesday, June 8 @ 10:00am at the church.