

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026



Divine Service 9am

St. James Lutheran Church

1213 US Hwy 22

Phillipsburg, NJ

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome to St. James!

Founded in 1750, the year 2025 celebrated our 275th anniversary of being God's church. We're so glad you're here! We pray you feel warmly welcomed as we gather to celebrate God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ. He who is the same, yesterday, today, and forever!

If you are visiting today: Thank you for joining us today! If you have any questions, please ask! Pastor Levi and the members of our church-community would be glad to help you out. Please sign the guest book or complete a hospitality card located in the pew racks.

To the parents of our younger children:

We invite you to sit towards the front so the little ones can see and hear all that is going on. This way you can quietly explain parts of the service and what pastor, ushers, etc. are doing.

Don't sweat the small stuff: God gave your littles the wiggles, noise and energy they have and we don't want to suppress that in God's house! Children are always welcome here! If you feel as if you need to step out of the service with your child, feel free but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

To the members of our church: Please welcome children and their parents, their presence is a sign our congregation is growing and a gift to us all. God can handle the extra energy the children bring! 😊

Following along in the bulletin: An asterisk(*) indicates the congregation stands. In our liturgical worship, **bold words** are spoken by the congregation. LBW refers to content found in the green hymnbook *Lutheran Book of Worship*. WOV refers to content found in the blue hymnbook *With One Voice*.

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Musician

The Rev. Levi Q. Powers
Dan Gulick
Dave Miller

I. GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the †Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful God, **we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance; we have sinned in weakness; we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name.**

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your heart through faith.

Amen.

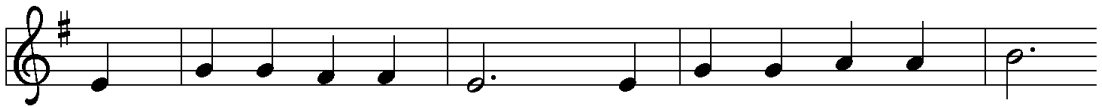
*GATHERING HYMN: LBW 170 - Crown Him with Many Crowns

*GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: COME LET US JOIN OUR CHEERFUL SONGS



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

A reading from Acts.

⁶ When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 68:1-10, 32-35

¹ Let God arise, and let God’s enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence
of God.**

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

⁵ In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶ **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

⁷ O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God,
the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹ You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰ **Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

³³ **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵ **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

A reading from 1 Peter.

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.

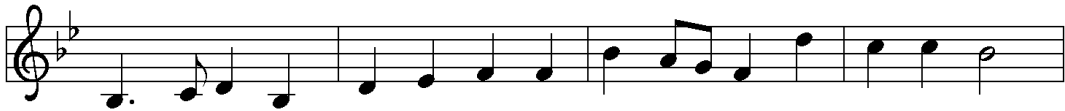
⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL READING: John 17:1-11

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you,

⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: WOV 711 – You Satisfy the Hungry Heart**

NICENE CREED

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition ends: "...Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**"

Prayers conclude: **Amen.**

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

III. THE LORD'S SUPPER

OFFERTORY



Scan the QR Code to give electronically.

An offering plate is in the back of the sanctuary if you wish to give check or cash. You are welcome to give to the ministry of St. James Lutheran Church freely and spontaneously. There is no guilt or shame. If you do give, give with a cheerful heart.

***OFFERING VERSE: ELW 465 – As the Grains of Wheat**

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Together with the bread and the cup we receive the body and the blood of Christ. We invite all baptized Christians to this sacrament. Children and adults who do not yet receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward with arms folded for a blessing. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know. We commune in tables of 10-15 people. The pastor will give you the bread, an assistant will give you a cup.

Then two will come to pour into your cup-the first with grape juice, the second with wine. Whoever partakes receives orally the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise... **Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:** ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THE WORDS OF GIFT**

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 testament in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***THE 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.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

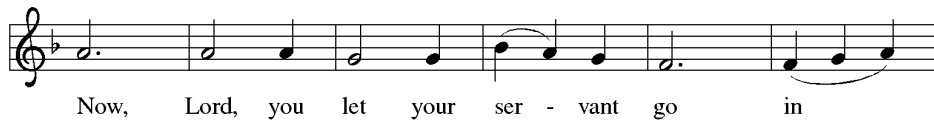
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

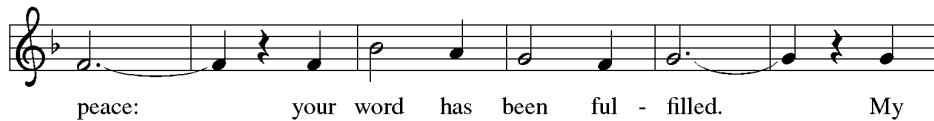
and each person may respond

Amen.

***POST COMMUNION SONG: ELW 200 – Now, Lord**



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in



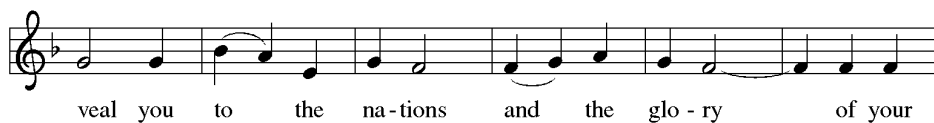
peace: your word has been ful - filled. My



own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of all peo - ple: a light to re -



veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther,



and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and



will be for - ev - er. A - men.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

IV. SENDING

***BLESSING**

The Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, blesses you now and forever.
Amen.

***SENDING SONG: WOV 678 – Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Worship Helpers: Joanne Willauer will be coordinating the monthly schedule. Please contact her at 610-393-6317 or jdwillauer@rcn.com with your available dates!

Social Ministry Donation Collections for May: Meals Made Easy-items include Canned ravioli, Canned stew, Instant mashed potatoes, Stuffing, Cream of chicken soup, etc.

These items are most needed for our local food pantries.

Also collecting white bath towels & hypoallergenic laundry detergent for St. Ann's for single moms now thru May 17.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Coffee Fellowship every Sunday after church service in Frey Hall**
- **Beginning Sunday, June 14** - Pastor Levi will lead education on "Sunday Forum: Worship" exploring together the meaning and pattern of worship in the Lutheran tradition. Sundays after church through Labor Day. Unless otherwise noted.

- **Tuesday, May 19:** Church Council meeting 7pm at church
- **Thursday, May 21:** 1 Timothy Bible Study 10am at church
- **Sunday, May 24:** Confirmation of Emma Russoniello

UPCOMING

- **Sunday, May 31:** Baptism of Mia Raine Regitz
- **Saturday, June 6:** Church Breakfast 7am-10am
- **Sunday, August 26:** Save the Date for Outdoor Prayer Service, Thomas Stewart Park.

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP HELPERS(5/17)

Usher/Greeter: Bob Agans

Lector: Harvey Walters

Altar Guild: Steve Stocker

Tellers: Steve Stocker

NEXT SUNDAY'S WORSHIP HELPERS(5/24)

Usher/Greeter: Harvey Walters

Lector: Joanne Willauer

Altar Guild: Steve Stocker

Tellers: Steve Stocker

Let us remember in prayer: The Family & Friends of Dorothy, The Family & Friends of Barbara Frankenfield, The Family & Friends of Myrna Pursell, Sally, Jim, Juan, Scott, Barbara, Shirley, Kevin, John, Barb, Rose, Callum, Connie, Eddie, Troodle, Debbie, Donald, Doris, Ron, Keith, Sara, Bob, Gary and those unable to attend church service; Mae, Janet, Janice, Alayne and Elsie.