

Welcome!

***Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 6, 2025
9:00 AM***



**St. James Lutheran Church
1213 U. S. Route 22
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
Pastor Levi Powers**

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Welcome to St. James!

Founded in 1750, the year 2025 marks 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! We ask that you sign our guest book or complete a hospitality card located in the pew racks.

Following along in the bulletin: ** 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
Assisting Minister
Musician

The Rev. Levi Powers
Dan Gulick
Dave Miller

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority alone, I forgive you the entirety all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: LBW 482 – “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

***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

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

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, 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 unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
 ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 126

- ¹ When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
 then were we like | those who dream.
² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**
 Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great | things for them.”

³ The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴ **Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R**

⁵ Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. R**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

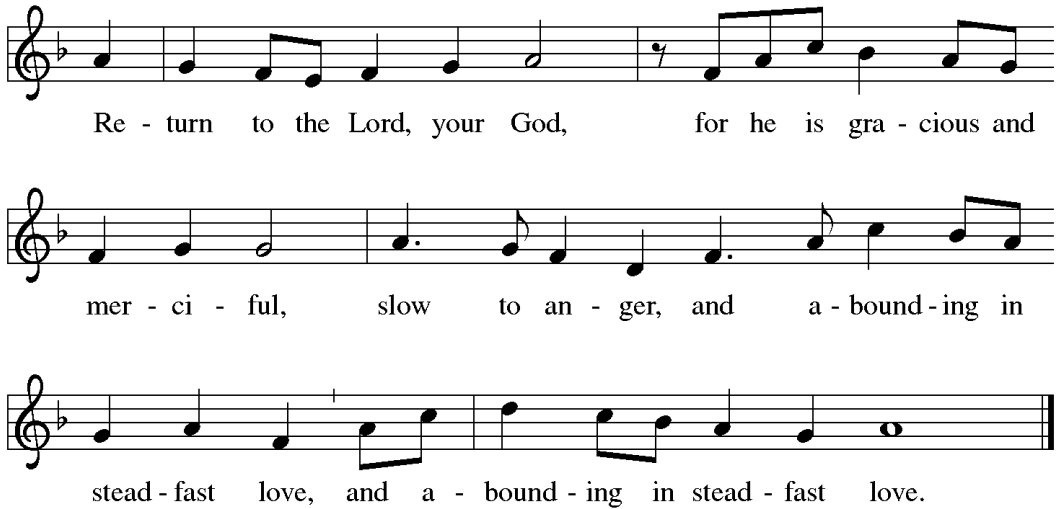
⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* LENTEN ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

* GOSPEL READING: John 12:1-8

The Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 107 – “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition ends: “ ...God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**”

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the people may respond:
Amen.

*** PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

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.

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:**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Create in Me a Clean Heart'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.'

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

* OFFERING PRAYER

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord's Supper: *Together with the bread and the wine we receive the body and the blood of Christ. We invite all baptized Christians to this meal. Children and adults who do not yet receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing with their arms folded. If you need communion brought to you, 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 al - so 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... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

*** 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.

COMMUNION

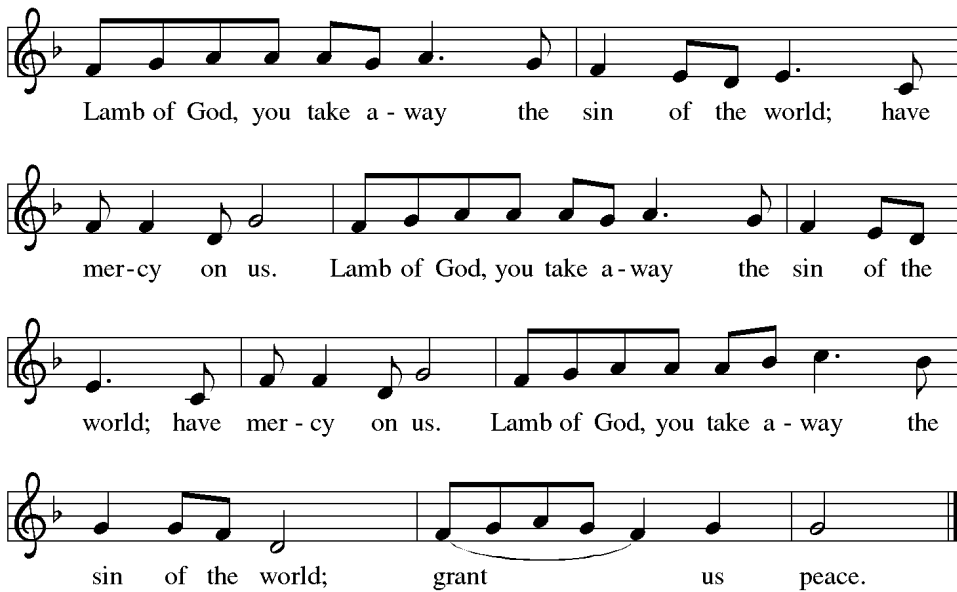
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.



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.

*** POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

*** POST COMMUNION SONG – ELW 591 – “That Priceless Grace”**

That Priceless Grace

1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less
 2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less
 3 That pain-ful death, that pain-ful death, that pain-ful
 4 That pre-cious word, that pre-cious word, that pre-cious

grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.
 blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.
 death took sins a - way: Je - sus' death is price-less grace.
 word, which brought me light: Je - sus' word is price-less grace.

That price - less grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949
 Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

* BLESSING

* SENDING SONG: ELW 335 - "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832-1915

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to all who helped with making the church breakfast a success!

Beginning March 5 (Ash Wednesday) through April 13 (Palm Sunday) the Social Ministry Committee will be selling “Links of Love” to benefit single mothers for St. Ann’s.

- **Monday 4/7:** Bible Study – 4pm at Panera
- **Tuesday 4/8:** Social Ministry and Property Committee - 10am at the church. Church Council 7pm at the church.
- **Wednesday 4/9:** Midweek Lenten Service: 6:15PM meal, 7PM service

UPCOMING

- **Thursday 4/17** – Holy Thursday service 7pm
- **Friday 4/18** – Good Friday service 7pm
- **Sunday 4/20** – Easter Sunday service 9am

Let us remember in prayer : Cindy, Jack, Greg, Carol, Janice, Bob, Sara, Debbie and those unable to come to church service; Helen, Alayne and Elsie.