

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 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
Polly Newbold
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.

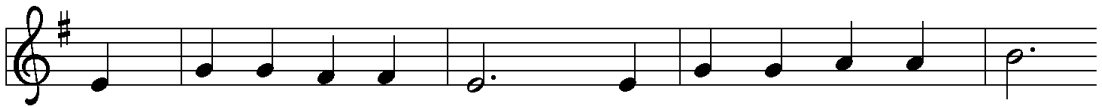
*GATHERING HYMN: LBW 149 - This Joyful Eastertide

*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 2:14a, 36-41

A reading from Acts.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 116:1-4, 12-19

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

¹² How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my
bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

A reading from 1 Peter.

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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: Luke 24:13-35

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 134 - Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands**

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

PRESENTATION

Candidate for baptism, sponsors, and family gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words:

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors for present the candidate (spoken together):

I present Alexis Jillian George for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses candidates who are able to answer for themselves:
Alexis, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

The candidate responds: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:
Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this person in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:
People of God, do you promise to support Alexis and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THIS ASSEMBLY

You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God makes with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

The baptizand responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water is poured into the font during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes the candidate. Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

Alexis Jillian George, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

and of the Son,

The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

When directed the assembly may respond:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllable placement under the notes.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons and all your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Alexis with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the Spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the new baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose is used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:
Alexis, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized as a representative of the congregation says:

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places. Psalm 29 is read.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession, or, if baptism has taken place in the gathering rite, with the greeting.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Prayers conclude: "Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior." **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**

Blessing concludes: **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG: WOV 674 - Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

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

Celebration for Lexi George will be during coffee fellowship hour today!

Social Ministry Donation Collections for April: Spring into Snacks - Trail mix, Crackers, Granola bars, Graham crackers, Goldfish, etc. Also, condiments: salad dressing, catsup, mustard, & mayonnaise.

These items are most needed for our local food pantries. Each month we will coordinate with them their needs.

Barbie Gulick is putting together a wedding shower celebration for Pastors Levi and Kat on June 7th at 11am. If anyone would like to join or help plan please contact Barb, Barbiegulick@icloud.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Coffee Fellowship every Sunday after church service in Frey Hall**
- **Tuesday, April 21:** Church Council meeting 7pm at the church
- **Thursday, April 23:** 1 Timothy Bible Study 10am at church

UPCOMING

- **Saturday, May 3:** Church Breakfast 7am-10am

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP HELPERS(4/19)

Usher/Greeter: Doris Lauer

Lector: Jamie McRoberts

Altar Guild: Steve Stocker

Tellers: Carol & Lois Steible

NEXT SUNDAY'S WORSHIP HELPERS(4/26)

Usher/Greeter: Bob Agans

Lector: Harvey Walters

Altar Guild: Steve Stocker

Tellers: Steve Stocker

Let us remember in prayer: The Family & Friends of Robert "Beep" Behe, The Family & Friends of Lynne Ball Schoedler, Ron, Vinny, Michelle, Olivia, Keith, Sara, Bob, Gary and those unable to attend church service; Mae, Janet, Janice, Alayne and Elsie.