

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 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 please:

Sit towards the front so the little ones can see and hear all that is going on and quietly explain parts of the service and what pastor, ushers, etc. are doing. Don't sweat the small stuff-God gave your littles the wiggle, 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.

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 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: ELW 459 – Wade in the Water

Refrain

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

- 1 (See that host all dressed in white,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the leader looks like the Israelite.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

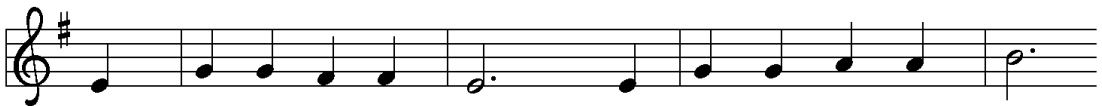
- 2 (See that band all dressed in red,)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (looks like the band that Moses led.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*
- 3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*
- 4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed,)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
 (just follow me down to Jordan's stream.)
 God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

***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, 22-32

A reading from Acts.

^{4a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²²“Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'
²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he
both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a
prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of
his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of
the Messiah, saying,
'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'
³² "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**
³ But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**
⁵ O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
⁷ I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.
⁸ **I have set the Lord always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Peter.

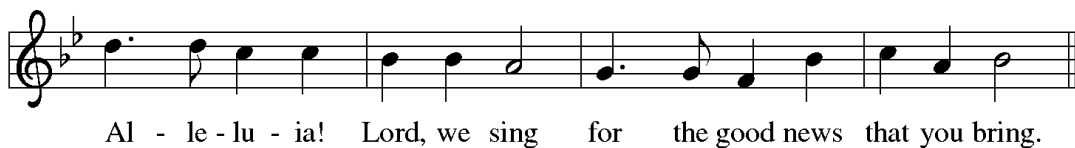
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 381 - Peace, to Soothe Our Bitter Woes



1 Peace, to soothe our bit - ter woes, God in Christ on us be - stows;
2 Peace with - in the church still dwells in our wel - comes and fare - wells;



Je - sus bought our peace with God with his ho - ly, pre - cious blood;
and through God's bap - tis - mal pow'r peace sur - rounds our dy - ing hour.



peace in him for sin - ners found is the gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
Peace be with you, full and free, now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

Presentation of New Members

Following the hymn of the day, those being welcomed, representative of the congregation, and ministers gather before the assembly.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in these or similar words.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *this person*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as a new *member* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

A representative of the congregation introduces the new member.

Annemarie Hardick has come to our congregation from the former St. John's Lutheran Church in Phillipsburg.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses the new member.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God.

We are called 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.

Sister in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?

The one being welcomed responds.

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

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,

do you promise to support and pray for *this new member* in *her* life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

BLESSING OF NEW MEMBER

WELCOME

The one being welcomed faces the assembly.

Let us welcome *this sister* in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

When directed, the congregation may applaud

***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.

***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.

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.

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



***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

IV. SENDING

***BLESSING**

Blessing concludes: **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG: LBW 145 – Thine is the Glory**

***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 new member AnnMarie Hardick 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 14:** Property committee 10am at the church.
- **Tuesday, April 14:** Social Ministry meeting 10am at the church. New members welcome!
- **Thursday, 4/16:** 1 Timothy Bible Study 10am at church

UPCOMING

- **Sunday, 4/19:** Holy Baptism for Alexis “Lex” Jillian George-celebration for Lex will be during coffee fellowship hour.
- **Tuesday, 4/21:** Church Council meeting 7pm at the church

THIS WEEK’S WORSHIP

HELPERS(4/12)

Usher/Greeter: Harvey Walters

Lector: Cassie Zellner

Altar Guild: Steve Stocker

Tellers: Sandy Wismer & Jon Slaton

NEXT SUNDAY’S WORSHIP

HELPERS(4/19)

Usher/Greeter: Doris Lauer

Lector: Cassie Zellner

Altar Guild: Steve Stocker

Tellers: Sandy Wismer & Jon Slaton

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