

# *St. James Lutheran Church*

## **Our Mission**

**Welcoming all people to abide in Christ, to experience God's love, and to do God's work in the world around us.**



**Season of Easter  
Welcome to Our Service**

*The congregation responds with the indented bold printed parts.*

*Where you see † you may make the sign of the cross, the sign of our baptism.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:  
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

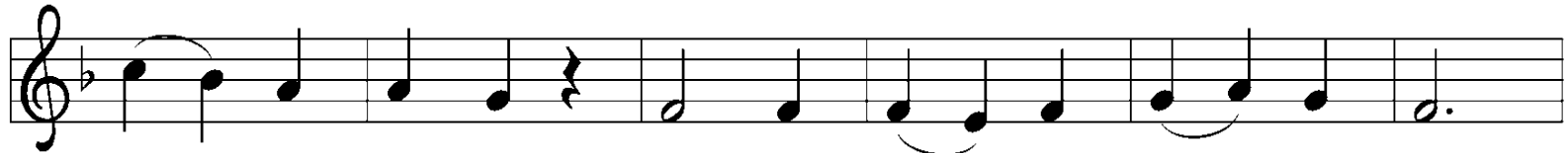
Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

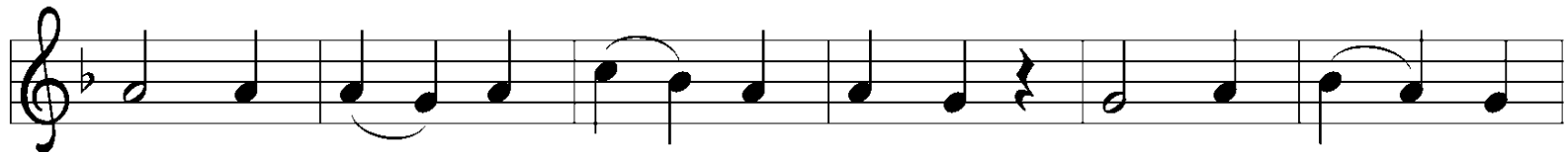
# Holy God, We Praise Your Name



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we  
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -  
3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred  
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,  
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your  
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with  
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to  
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"  
set of sun through the church the song goes on.  
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900  
Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE**

**THE FIRST READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER OF ACTS.**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

**WE WILL READ PSALM 31 RESPONSIVELY**

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

**Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

**My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my**

**enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

**THE SECOND READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 2<sup>ND</sup> CHAPTER OF 1 PETER.**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as able.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE 14<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER OF JOHN.**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the

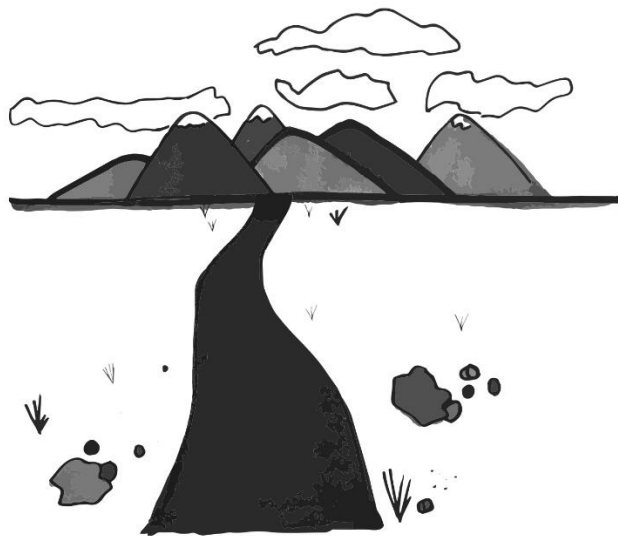
Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God’s People. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**



*Please stand as able*

## How Firm a Foundation



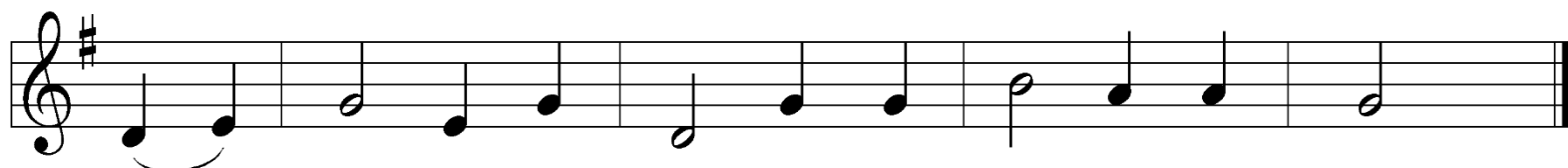
1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.  
Music: FOUNDATION, early American

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*When the reader says: "Merciful God, Please respond: "**Receive our prayer.**"*

## **THE 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. Please reserve conversations for after worship.*

## **OFFERING**

*Please be seated as we gather the offering for the mission of the church. Your gifts of thankfulness enable us to spread the Good News of God's love.*

*Please stand as you are able as we sing.*

## **GIVE THANKS**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart**

**Give thanks to the Holy One**

**Give thanks because He's given**

**Jesus Christ His Son (2x)**

**And now let the weak say I am strong**

**Let the poor say I am rich**

**Because of what The Lord has done for us (2x)**

**Give thanks (3x)**

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## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,

**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**

**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.**

**Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,**

**that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

We come, gathered as Christ gathered with his disciples on a night so long ago.

**We come in the joy and wonder of the knowledge, that as Christ was present with them, so Christ is present with us.**

Wondrous God enfold us in the warmth of your presence as we come to the table and hear the words our Lord spoke, when on the night of his betrayal, Christ took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: *"Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

And in the same manner, Christ took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying: *"Take and drink, this is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in the remembrance of me"*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray in a manner as our Lord taught us

**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**

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

*Please be seated. As a church of the ELCA we welcome all people to the table to receive our Lord's meal and experience Christ's presence. Come forward to receive an empty cup from the tray or if you prefer take a pre-packaged cup (Gluten free is available – labeled as such). Then come forward to receive the wafer and wine (or grape juice, no cup needed). Non-communing persons may come forward to receive a blessing.*

## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.      **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

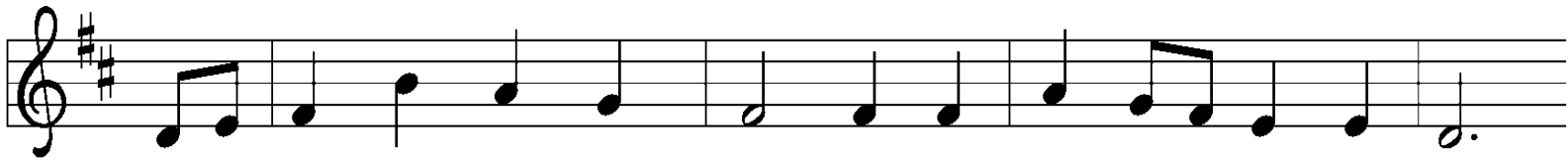
God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

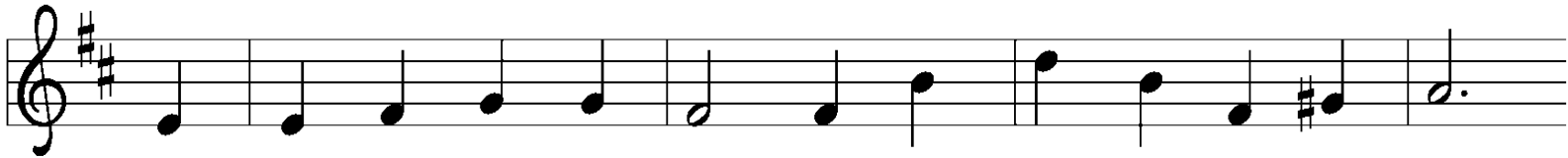
# O Jesus, I Have Promised



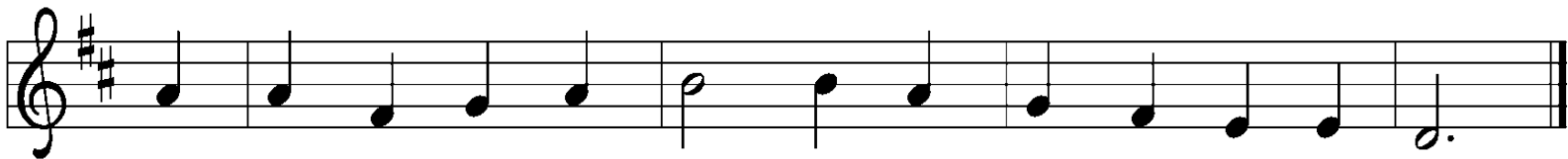
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.  
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS**

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**Please Pray for: Dolores Fiori, Laura Librizzi, Claire Gilmore, Diane Eby, Winnie Ziegler, Hannah Bonchi, Margaret Rea, Jennifer Johnson, Rita Ricca, Mario Triboletti, Gillian Lee Phillips, Betty Haines, Dorcas Schellhas, Bette Jackson, Maggie Rider, Marlene Triggian, Ed Shine, Bob & Ellie Frietag, Christina Spahn, George Cappucio, Dan P., Tom Dixon, Arlene Calletta, Mike Fountas, Nick Pobletti, Bill Link, Sophie Stites, Arlene Deptula, Thomas Rose, Linda Slater, Chip Stewart, Octavia Marie, Lisa 'Ambrosia, Chenza Cerrato, Charlie Patton, Ed Marinelli, RoseAnn Lucca, Mia Arrison, Carol Ann Conner, Will Longtin, Patricia Dudley, Peggy Bucceri, Rita Sarro, Robert DelRoss, John Thame, Gaelen Houck, Rosie Ranier, Paul Morris, Corenne Hickey, Walter Meinke, Tennile Limbaugh, Chick Kisby, Carol Kaplan, Emily Shemansky, Alex McKee, Scott & Lisa, Sharon Rossiter, Justin Stewart, Sean Bennett, Yuri Zaitsev.**

**The Prayer List is available in the Narthex** – You may submit names after receiving the person's permission for their name to be shared publicly. Please share your name so we may follow up on the progress of your loved one. Also, please let us know when a name may be removed from list. Thank you .



THE ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN  
 LOVING MEMORY OF  
 MARY LOU TRIBOLETTI  
 BY MARIO TRIBOLETTI



THANK YOU TO MATT DIDONATO FOR FILLING IN  
 AS OUR KEYBOARDIST THIS MORNING

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

TUE. MAY 5	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
WED. MAY 6	7:00 PM	EVENING DEVOTIONS
SUN. MAY 10	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:00 AM	WORSHIP

**DINE OUT RSVP'S DUE TODAY**



**TAKE US OUT TO THE BALLGAME**

WILMINGTON BLUE ROCKS  
 VS BROOKLYN CYCLONES

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 (FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND) - 6 PM

\$39/PERSON: PAYMENT DUE JUNE 1

GAME & PICNIC SEATING (90 MINUTE BUFFET)

**PLAY  
 BALL**

WE'LL BE JOINING AND CARPOOLING  
 WITH OUR FRIENDS FROM THE  
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 AT HAMMONTON



**St. James is partnering with  
Prevent Child Abuse–NJ to host a  
Diaper Drive for families in Atlantic County**

We're collecting **new, sealed packages of diapers** to support local babies and caregivers in need.

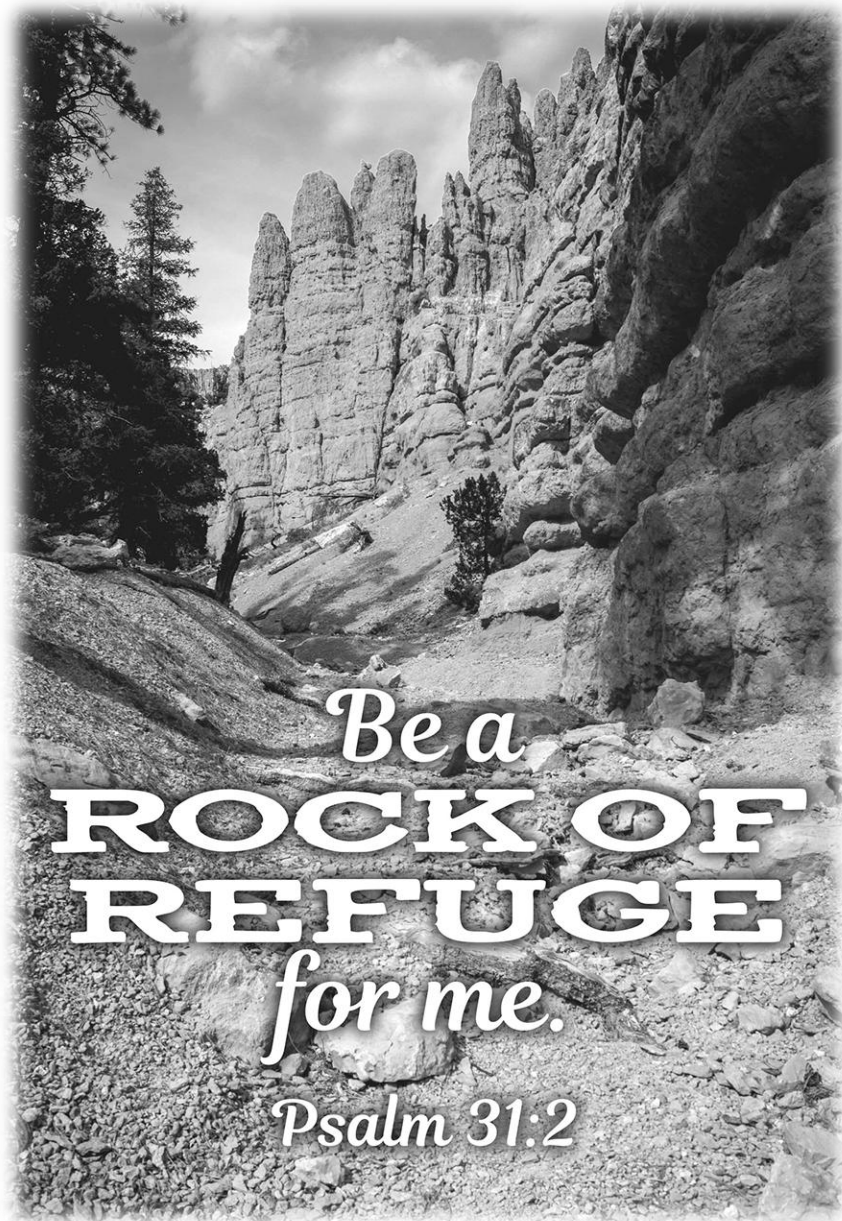


**Our 2026 Pulling for Vets Fundraiser  
was yet again a tremendous success!**

Through the generosity of our congregation, our donors, and all who supported through donations and ticket purchases, we were able to raise a total of **\$3,438.80**.

This full amount will be presented as a check to **D.A.V. Chapter 66** in support of the vital work they do for our veterans.

We cannot begin to thank you enough for your continued help, kindness, and unwavering support. Your commitment makes a real difference, and we are deeply grateful.



<b>Worship Ministers</b>	<b>This Week: 05/03/26</b>	<b>Next Week: 05/10/26</b>
Reader	Sally Costa	Michael Hozik
Communion Assistants	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>
Altar Guild	<b>Rose Jones &amp; Betty Pollock</b>	<b>Rose Jones &amp; Betty Pollock</b>

**Office Hours: Wednesday's & Thursday's 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**Church office 609-561-4488**

<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All the People of God</b>
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Organists.....	Maria Doukhnai & Matt DiDonato
Choir Director.....	Matt DiDonato