

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27th, 2025



Divine Service 9am

St. James Lutheran Church

1213 US Hwy 22

Phillipsburg, NJ

908.454.2864

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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! 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.

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

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

Amen.

The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,

we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins—those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the house of David, God raised up a mighty Savior.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

Remembering the covenant, God delivered us from our enemies.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

Before God we are holy and righteous, free to worship without fear.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves you and forgives you all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon you, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides your feet into the way of peace.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: WOV 775 – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**

***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.

***GLORY TO GOD**



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

A reading from Genesis.

²⁰ Then the Lord said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.”

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶ And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” ²⁷ Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”

²⁹ Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰ Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹ He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³² Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138

The Psalm is read responsively.

¹ I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**² I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your
faithfulness,
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.**

³ On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength of soul.

**⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.

**⁶ For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.

**⁸ The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15

A reading from Colossians.

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



GOSPEL READING: Luke 11:1-13

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,' ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 439 – What a Friend We Have in 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 of grace. **Hear 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 184 – Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

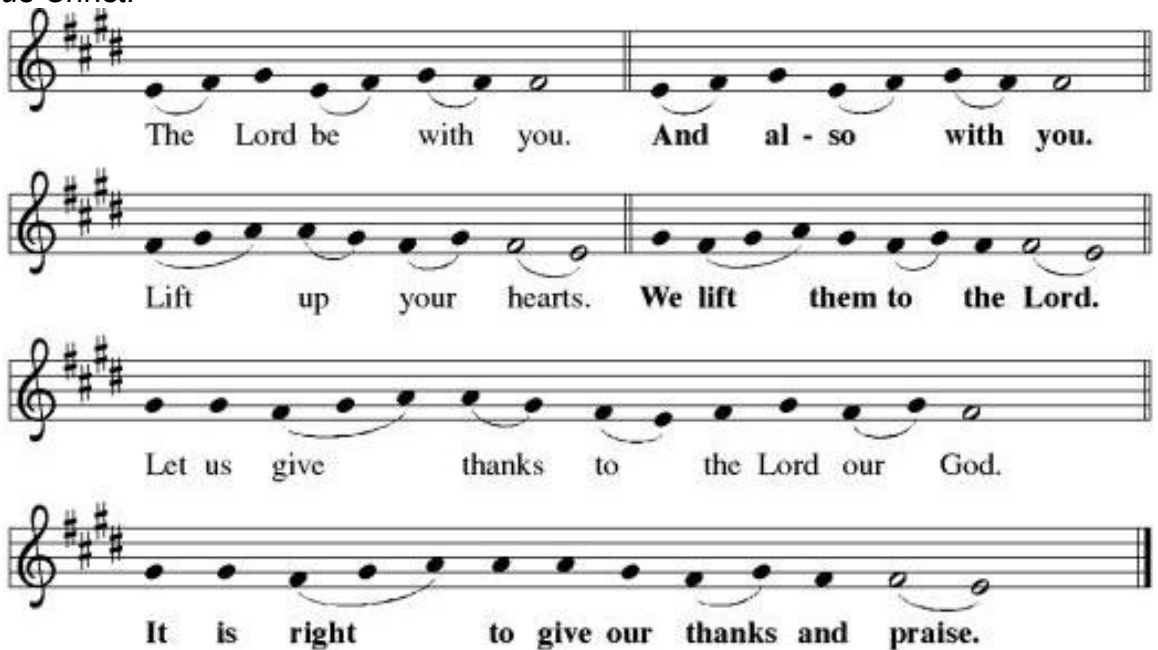
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

*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.



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:



***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 covenant 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



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, grant us peace.

***POST COMMUNION SONG: ELW 205 – Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise**

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re-joyce and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

Send us with your prom-is-es, O God, and lead us forth in

joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

IV. SENDING

***BLESSING**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG: ELW 743 – Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray**

1 Now to the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray
 2 O sweet - est Love, your grace on us be - stow;
 3 Tran - scen - dent com - fort in our ev - 'ry need,
 4 Shine in our hearts, O Spir - it, pre - cious light,

for true faith, most need - ed on our way;
 set our hearts with sa - cred fire a - glow,
 help us nei - ther scorn nor death to heed,
 that we Je - sus Christ may know a - right,

Guide us and de - fend us when life is end - ing
 that with hearts u - nit - ed we love each oth - er,
 that we may not fal - ter, nor cour - age fail us,
 cling - ing to our Sav - ior, whose blood has bought us,

and our jour - ney home - ward is tend - ing. Lord, have mer - cy!
 ev - 'ry strang - er, sis - ter, and broth - er. Lord, have mer - cy!
 when the foe shall taunt and as - sail us. Lord, have mer - cy!
 who to our true home - land has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Ministry is collecting food, lap blankets(30"x36") for the local food pantry, as well as for veteran's needs-please leave donations in lobby.

Social Ministry School supply collection starts June 29 thru July 27.

- **Monday 7/28:** Reading the Bible with Pastor Levi – 4pm at the church
- **Wednesday 7/29:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm
- **Saturday 8/2:** Country Breakfast 7am-10am

UPCOMING

St. James Gen Z and Millennial Group go to the Zoo. Sunday, August 17th. After church. Carpool. Lehigh Valley Zoo.

Social Ministry: Next meeting is Tuesday, September 9 at 10am at church. New Members are always welcome!

Let us remember in prayer: Albert, Esther, Wayne, Jeff, Mae, Pam, Sara, Bob, Patrick, John, Judy, Gary, Sharon and those unable to attend church service; Janet, Janice, Greg, Helen, Alayne and Elsie.



*THE NEW JERSEY SYNOD
of the
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA*

requests your prayers and presence as

The Rev. Dr. Christa M. Compton

*is installed as the fourth Bishop of the Synod
at a Festive Service of Holy Communion*

Saturday, August 23, 2025

2:00 PM

at

*First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
711 Somerset Street, Somerset, NJ 08873*

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Preacher

