

***5th Sunday after Epiphany***  
February 8th, 2026



**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 275<sup>th</sup> 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.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are 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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

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 servant of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority alone, I forgive you the entirety of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the †Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## \*GATHERING HYMN: ELW 677 – This Little Light of Mine

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
  
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**\*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.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE: GLORY TO GOD**

Assisting minister



## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

## **II. WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a**

*A reading from Isaiah.*

<sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

- <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.  
<sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 112**

*The Psalm is read responsively.*

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!  
Happy are those who fear the Lord,  
who greatly delight in his commandments.  
<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**  
<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
and their righteousness endures forever.  
<sup>4</sup> **They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;  
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**  
<sup>5</sup> It is well with those who deal generously and lend,  
who conduct their affairs with justice.  
<sup>6</sup> **For the righteous will never be moved;  
they will be remembered forever.**  
<sup>7</sup> They are not afraid of evil tidings;  
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.  
<sup>8</sup> **Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;  
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**  
<sup>9</sup> They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever;  
their horn is exalted in honor.

**<sup>10</sup> The wicked see it and are angry;  
they gnash their teeth and melt away;  
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:1-16**

*A reading from 1 Corinthians.*

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

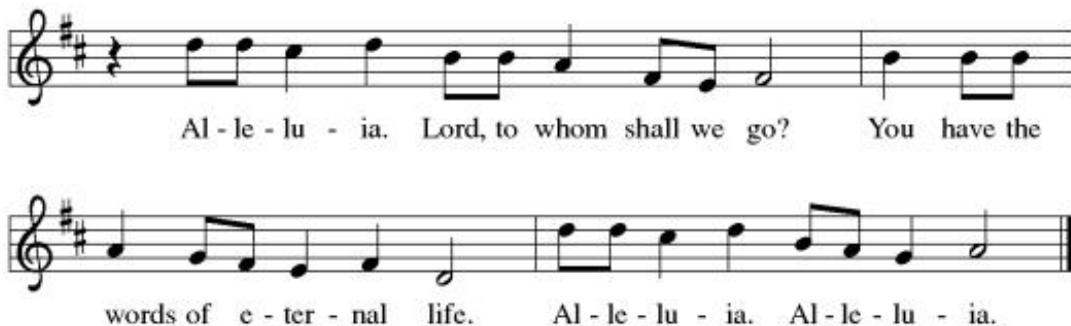
<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



### **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:13-20**

*The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.*

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

*The gospel of the Lord.*

#### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: WOV 718 – Here In This Place**

## **\*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: "...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 188 – Create in Me a Clean Heart**

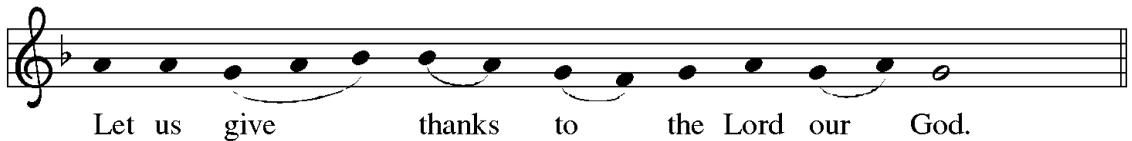
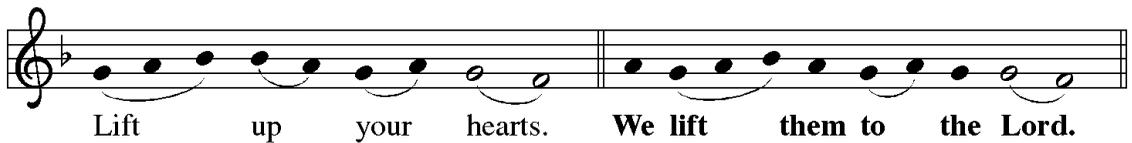
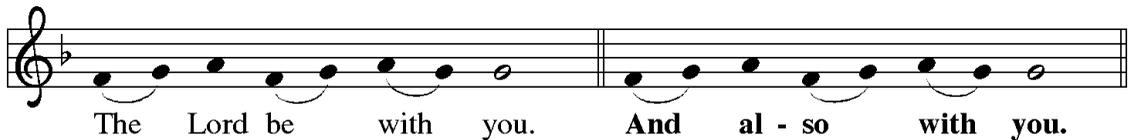
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

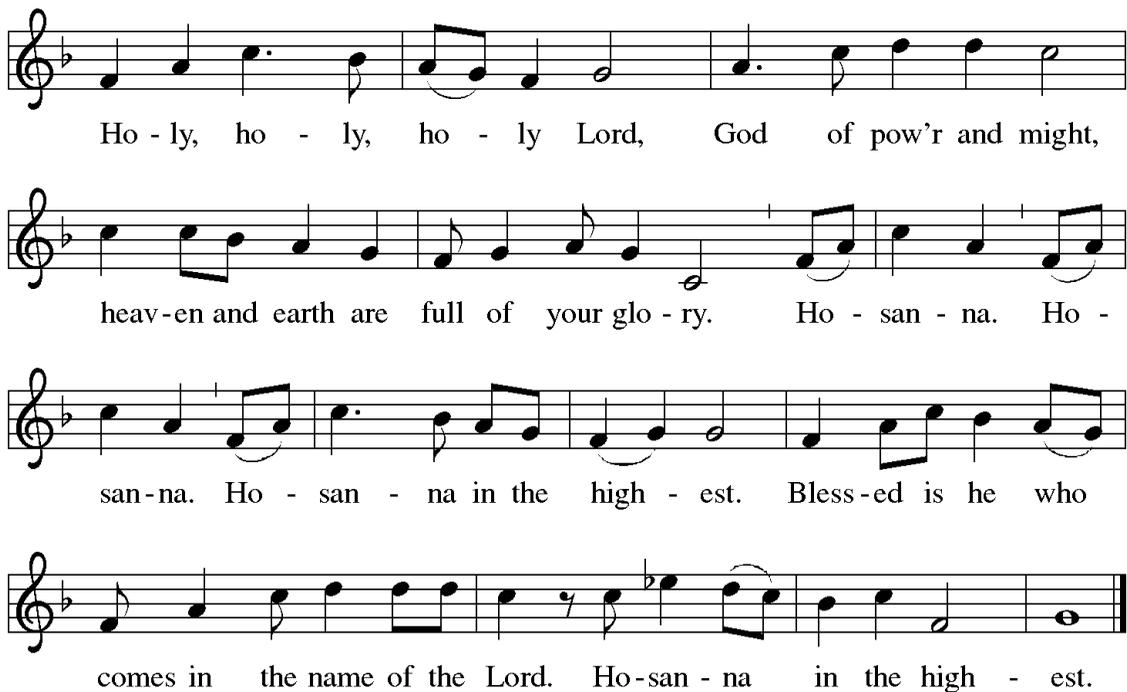
Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

**\*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:



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 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.



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**\*POST COMMUNION SONG: ELW 313 – O Lord, Now Let Your Servant**

1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,  
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,  
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
till earth-ly shad-ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;  
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,  
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin-ing shore,  
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

**IV. SENDING**

**\*BLESSING**

Blessing concludes: **Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG: ELW 866 – We Are Marching in the Light of God**

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib:*

We are dancing . . .  
We are praying . . .  
We are singing . . .

**\*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 [jdwillauer@rcn.com](mailto:jdwillauer@rcn.com) with your available dates!

Thank you to all who helped with the Church Breakfast yesterday!

Social Ministry Donation Collections for February:

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Tuesday 2/10:** Property Committee 10am at church
- **Tuesday 2/10:** Social Ministry Committee 10am at Harry's Place in Alpha. New members welcome!
- **Tuesday 2/10:** Proverbs Bible Study – 10am at church
- **Thursday 2/12:** Staff meeting 3pm at church

## **UPCOMING**

- **Wednesday 2/18:** Ash Wednesday service 7pm
  - Lenten Vespers 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18 and 3/25- 6:15pm soup supper and 7pm service. Soup sign up sheet on bulletin board in hallway.

### **THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP**

#### **HELPERS(2/8)**

**Usher/Greeter: Boy Scout Sunday**

**Lector: Boy Scout Sunday**

**Altar Guild: Steve Stocker**

**Tellers: Steve Stocker**

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S WORSHIP**

#### **HELPERS(2/15)**

**Usher/Greeter: Bob Agans**

**Lector: Sue Hazelton**

**Altar Guild: Steve Stocker**

**Tellers: Carol and Lois Steible**

Let us remember in prayer:

The Family & Friends of Keith Dunagan, The Family & Friends of Marian Steinly, The Family & Friends of Helen Steffel, The Family & Friends of Leo Pursell, The Friends & Family of Larry Vietro, The Family & Friends of Kevin Detrick, Debbie, Ron, Gordon, Anne, Keith, Sara, Bob, Patrick, John, Gary, Sharon and those unable to attend church service; Carol, Janet, Janice, Greg, Alayne and Elsie.