

# ***Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost***

August 31, 2025



## **Divine Service 9am**

**St. James Lutheran Church**

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Phillipsburg, NJ

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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.

**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. Jaye Newbold  
Dan Gulick  
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 750 – Oh, Praise the Gracious Power**

**\*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.

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

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **II. WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7**

*A reading from Proverbs.*

<sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,

<sup>7</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **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: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

*A reading from Hebrews.*

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

<sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



### **GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:1, 7-14**

*The holy gospel according to St. Luke.*

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

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

*The gospel of the Lord.*

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

### **SERMON**

## **\*HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 203 – Now We Join in Celebration**

### **\*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.*

## **DIALOGUE** (spoken, not sung)

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 to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us a way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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 –**

*The presiding minister says:*

Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
You may be seated for the distribution.

### **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.*

*Each table is dismissed by the presiding minister with these words: "The body and blood of our risen Lord Jesus Christ strengthens you and keeps you in his grace."*

## 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 206 – Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise**

Thank-ful hearts and voices raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has  
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice 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**

The Lord blesses you and keeps you.

The Lord's face shines on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord looks upon you with favor and (cross) gives you peace.

**Amen.**

### **\*SENDING SONG: LBW 221– Sent Forth By God's Blessing**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Pastor Levi will be on Vacation 8/25 through 9/1. If any pastoral care needs arise during this time, please contact Jon Slaton at 908-319-3992 and he will put you in touch with the pastor on call.**

Social Ministry collecting food for local food pantry. Lap blankets (30"x36") for local nursing homes. Please leave donations in the lobby.  
Thank You!

- **Wednesday 9/3:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm
- **Thursday 9/4:** Reading the Bible with Pastor Levi – 10am at the church
- **Saturday 9/6:** Church Country Breakfast 7am-10am

## **UPCOMING**

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

**September 14th after church, Worship Helpers' Training:**

Please attend if you are interested in any of these volunteer positions: greeter/usher, assisting minister, lector (reader), communion assistant, altar guild, technology assistant, and teller.

Let us remember in prayer: The Family & Friends of Judy Imhof, The Family & Friends of Pam Sheehan, Beth, Stephanie, Max, Keith, Sara, Bob, Patrick, John, Gary, Sharon and those unable to attend church service; Janet, Janice, Greg, Helen, Alayne and Elsie.