

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025



Divine Service 9am

St. James Lutheran Church

1213 US Hwy 22

Phillipsburg, NJ

908.454.2864

www.strawchurch.org

strawchurch@gmail.com



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
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 748 – Bind Us Together**

***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: Ecclesiastes 11:1-10

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

¹ Send out your bread upon the waters,
for after many days you will get it back.
² Divide your means seven ways, or even eight,
for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth.
³ When clouds are full,
they empty rain on the earth;
whether a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.
⁴ Whoever observes the wind will not sow,
and whoever regards the clouds will not reap.
⁵ Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother's
womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything.
⁶ In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle, for
you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.
⁷ Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.
⁸ Even those who live many years should rejoice in them all, yet let them
remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.
⁹ Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the
days of your youth. Follow the inclination of your heart and the desire of your eyes,
but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.
¹⁰ Banish anxiety from your mind, and put away pain from your body, for youth
and the dawn of life are vanity.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 49:1-12

The Psalm is read responsively.

¹ Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
² **both low and high,
rich and poor together.**
³ My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
⁴ **I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.**
⁵ Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,

**⁶those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their riches?**

⁷ Truly, no ransom avails for one's life;
there is no price one can give to God for it.

**⁸For the ransom of life is costly
and can never suffice,**

⁹ that one should live on forever
and never see the Pit.

**¹⁰When we look at the wise, they die;
fool and dolt perish together
and leave their wealth to others.**

¹¹ Their graves are their homes forever,
their dwelling places to all generations,
though they named lands their own.

**¹²Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;
they are like the animals that perish.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

A reading from Colossians.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:13-21

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: WOV 776 – Be Thou My Vision

*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**

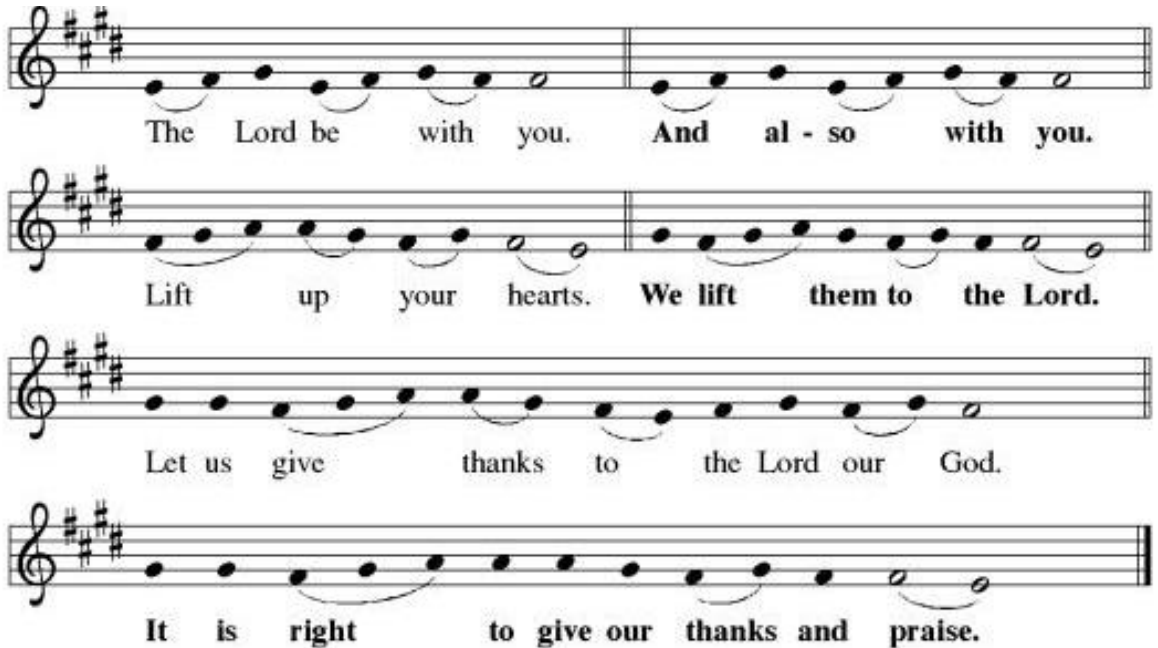
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us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

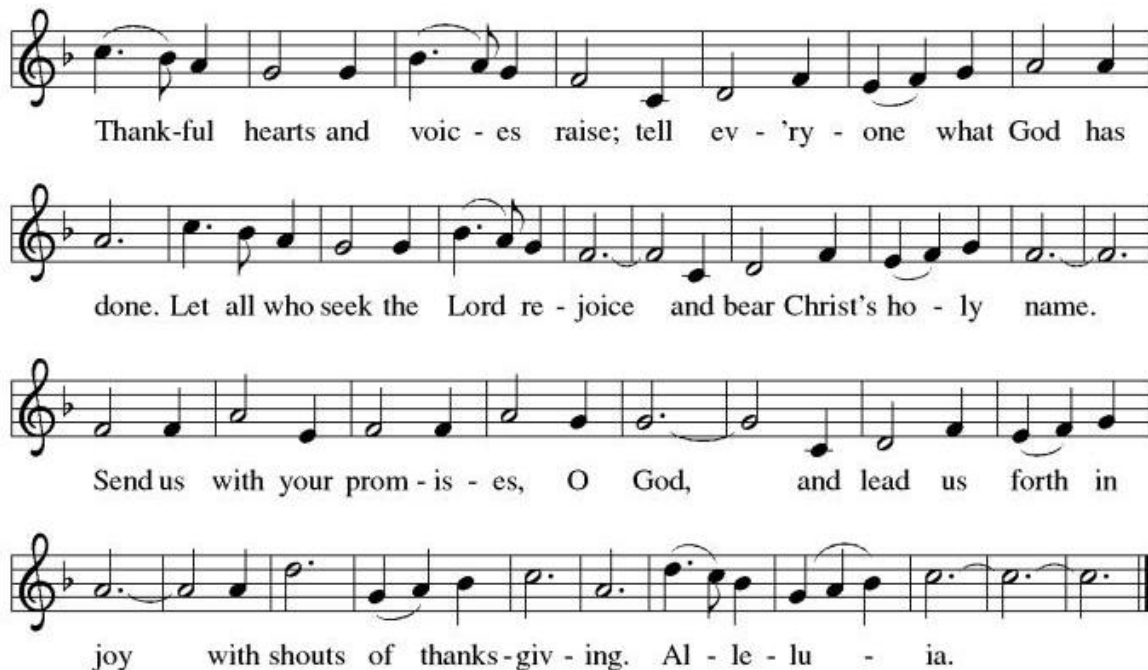


mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

***POST COMMUNION SONG: ELW 206 – 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 - 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**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG: LBW 359 – In Christ There Is No East or West**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to all who volunteered for another successful breakfast!

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.

- **Wednesday 8/6:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm
- **Thursday 8/7:** Reading the Bible with Pastor Levi – 10am at the church

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: Debbie, Stephanie, Stacy, Jack, Justin, Mel, Ed & family, Albert, Esther, Wayne, Mae, Max, Keith, 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