



**Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day**

**10:00 AM**

**December 25, 2025**

**St. James Lutheran Church**

**1213 US Highway 22**

**Phillipsburg, NJ**

## 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  
Musician

Rev. Levi Powers  
Dave Miller

## Welcome

*A very merry Christmas to all who worship the Christ Child on this holy day. Our service this morning is the "Christ Mass," from which we get the word Christmas. It is simply the service of Holy Communion with special emphasis on the Incarnation of Christ: in the manger, in the Word, and in the Bread and Wine.*

## 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.**

## Prelude – "Once in David's City"

## \* GATHERING HYMN : LBW 60 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

### \*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.**

### DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS

A. Today the Christ is born! Alleluia!

**C. Today salvation has appeared. Alleluia!**

A. Angels sang the day Christ came into the world!

**C. Angels and Archangels continue to sing with joy over his birth!**

A. Today the justified exult and say,

**C. Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!**

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE: LBW 71 - “Angels We Have Heard on High”

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

## II. THE WORD

### FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth,

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight rulers.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHRISTMAS PSALM: LBW 39 – Joy to the World

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-12

*A Reading from Hebrews.*

<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son”?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds  
and his servants flames of fire.”

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup> And,

“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;

<sup>12</sup> like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will never end.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**\*GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-14**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 50 – Angels From the Realms of Glory**

## **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.*

## \* OFFERTORY HYMN: LBW 40 – What Child is This

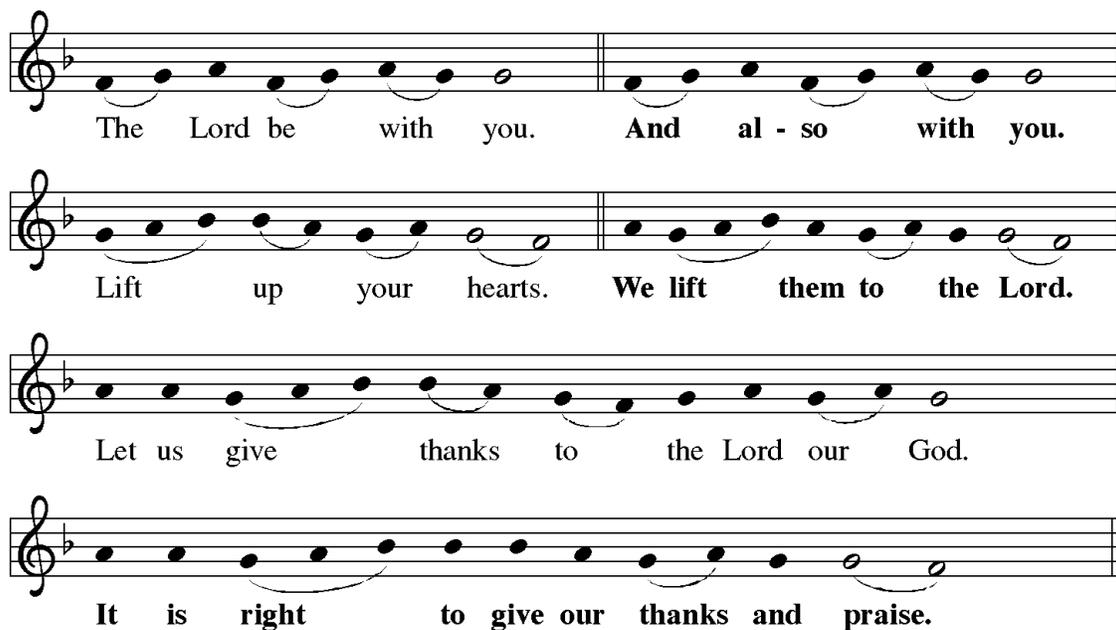
### \*OFFERING PRAYER

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.*



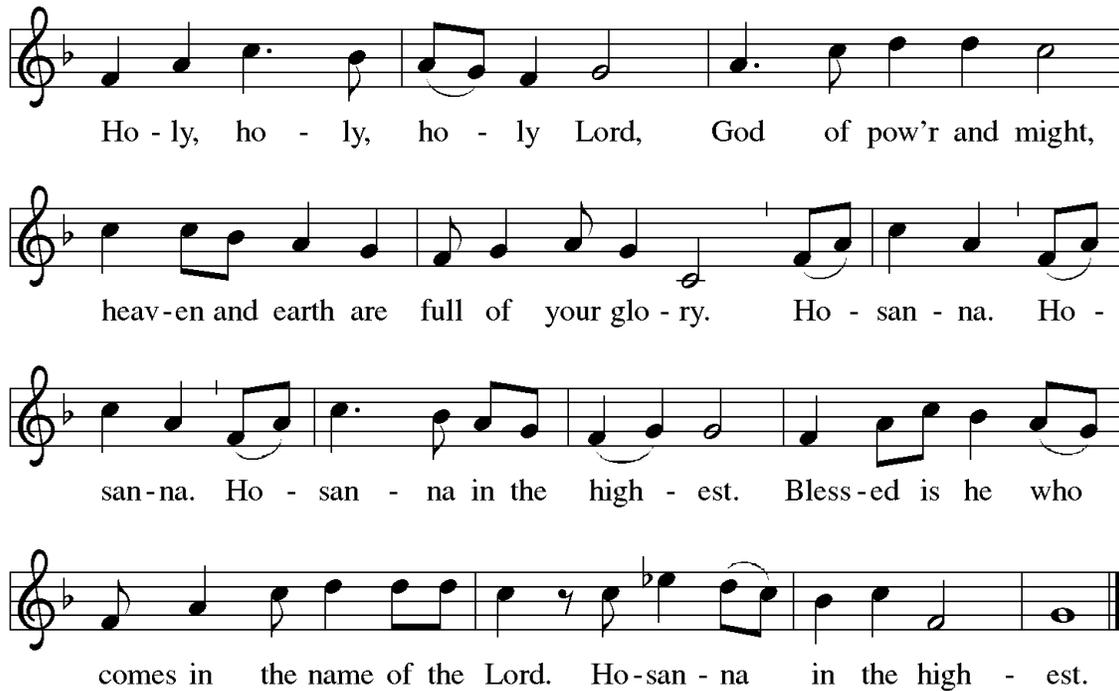
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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...**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 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.

## COMMUNION



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 BLESSING

### HYMN: ELW 273 – “All My Heart Again Rejoices”

Musical notation for the first system of the hymn, including a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a common time signature (C). The melody is accompanied by a bass line.

1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and  
2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to  
3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and  
4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in

Musical notation for the second system of the hymn, continuing the melody and bass line.

near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; “Christ is born,” their choirs are  
us: “You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that  
small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is  
death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -

sing - ing, till the air ev - `ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
 grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."  
 yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.  
 ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

**POST- COMMUNION PRAYER**

**IV. SENDING**

**\* BLESSING**

**\* SENDING HYMN: LBW 70 -“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

**\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is born for you.

Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE – “I Wonder as I Wander”**

**Hope you all have a Merry Christmas! Join us for Epiphany at 7pm on Tuesday, January 6th.**