

Saint Bartholomew, Apostle
August 24, 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 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!

Introduction to the day

The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke include Bartholomew in their lists of the Twelve. Partly due to his connection with Philip, many scholars believe Bartholomew is probably the same person as Nathanael in John's Gospel. Nathanael is one of the first disciples called to "come and see" (John's version of "follow me"), and he is present on the shore of the Sea of Tiberius when the risen Christ invites his friends to "come and have breakfast" (John 21:12).

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.

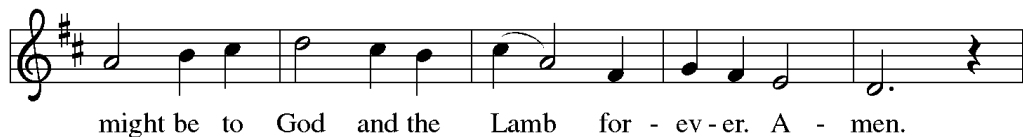
***GATHERING HYMN: WOV 718 – Here in This Place**

***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.

***THIS IS THE FEAST**



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:1-6

A reading from Exodus.

¹ On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² They journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

³ Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶ but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 12

The Psalm is read responsively.

¹ Help, O LORD, for there is no longer anyone who is godly;
the faithful have disappeared from humankind.

² **They utter lies to each other;
with flattering lips and a deceitful heart they speak.**

³ May the LORD cut off all flattering lips,
the tongue that makes great boasts,

⁴ **those who say, “With our tongues we will prevail;
our lips are our own—who is our master?”**

⁵ “Because the poor are despoiled, because the needy groan,
I will now rise up,” says the LORD;
“I will place them in the safety for which they long.”

⁶ **The promises of the LORD are promises that are pure,
silver refined in a furnace on the ground,
purified seven times.**

⁷ You, O LORD, will protect us;
you will guard us from this generation forever.

⁸ **On every side the wicked prowl,
as vileness is exalted among humankind.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:27-31a

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



GOSPEL READING: John 1:43-51

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 421 – By All Your Saints

By All Your Saints *Bartholomew, Apostle*



- 1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
- 2 All praise for him whose can - dor through all his doubt you saw
- 3 Give praise to God Al - might - y, and wor - ship God the Son,



your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed!
when Phil - ip at the fig tree dis - closed you in the law.
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,



For you a - rose vic - to - rious that they might wear the crown
Dis - cern, be - neath our sur - face, O Lord, what we can be,
till all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



and share the light of glo - ry re - flect - ed from your throne.
that by your truth made guile - less, your glo - ry we may see.
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - crite to God a - lone.

***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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition ends: "...Hear us O God. Your mercy is great."

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**

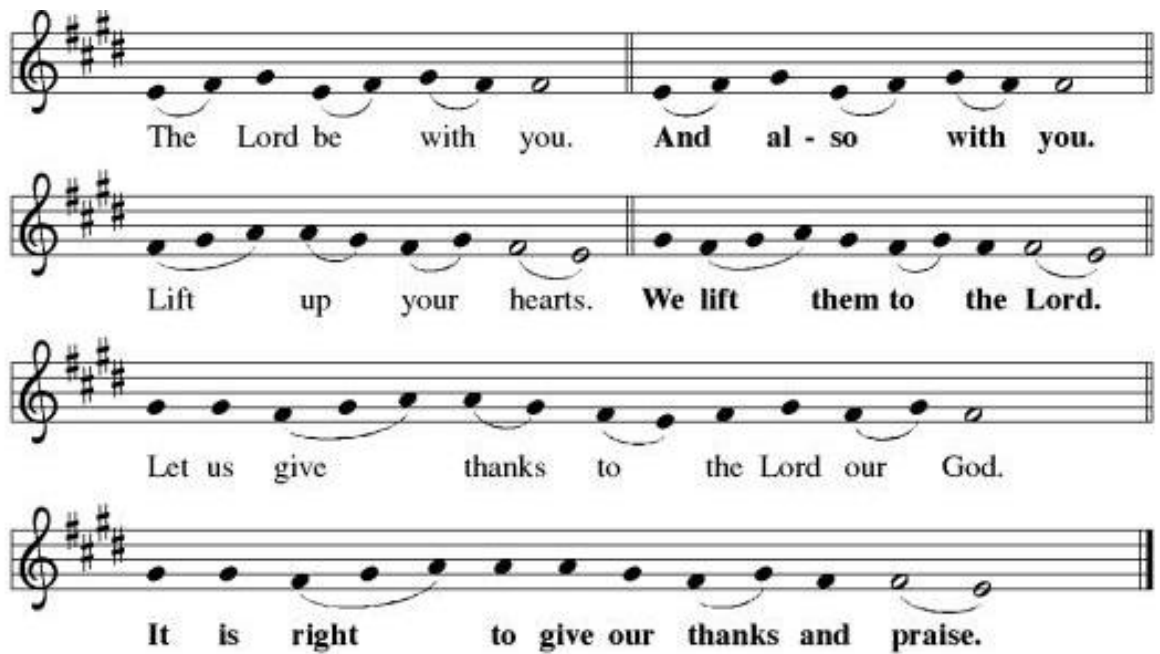
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
 with your pres-ence, and give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

***OFFERING PRAYER**

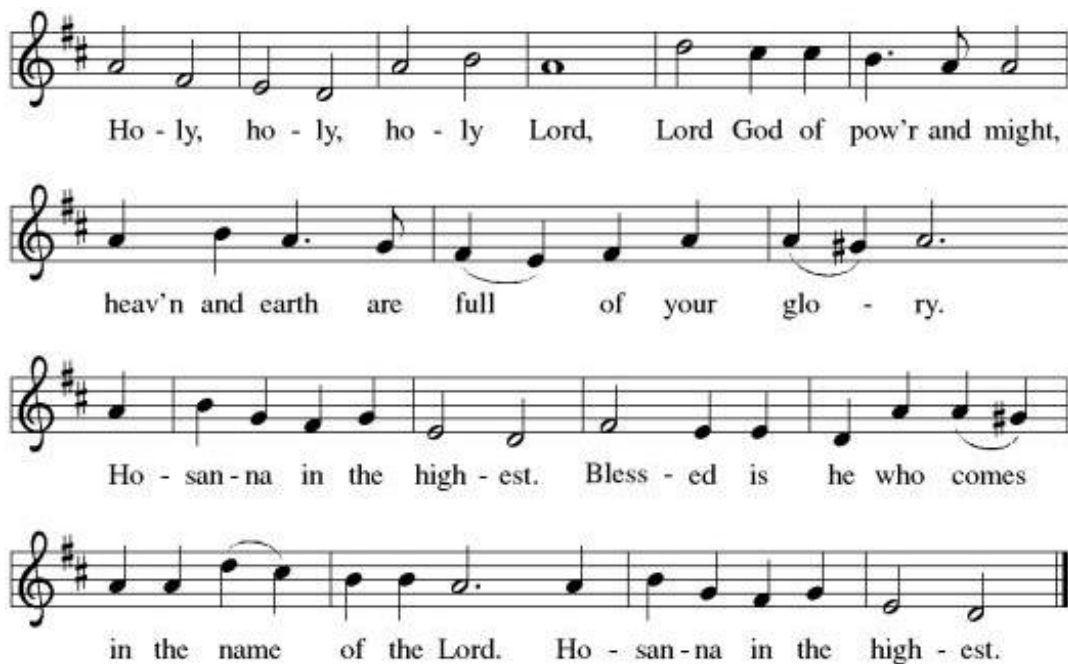
Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

***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**



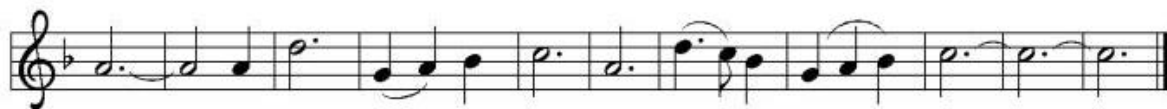
Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



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: WOV 689 – Rejoice in God's Saints**

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

- **Sunday 8/24:** Christian Education Committee today at 11am
- **Wednesday 8/27:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm
- **Thursday 8/28: No** Reading the Bible with Pastor Levi – resumes **Thursday, 9/4**

UPCOMING

Social Ministry: Next meeting is 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, Debbie, Stephanie, Stacy, Jack, Justin, Mel, Ed & family, Max, Keith, Sara, Bob, Patrick, John, Gary, Sharon and those unable to attend church service; Janet, Janice, Greg, Helen, Alayne and Elsie.