

Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles
June 29th, 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!

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: LBW 500 - Faith of Our Fathers**

***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.

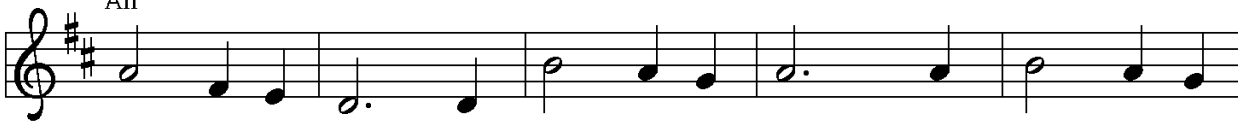
***THIS IS THE FEAST**

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Prayer concludes: **Amen.**

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 12:1-11

A reading from Acts.

12 About this time, King Herod arrested some people who belonged to the church. He planned to make them suffer greatly. ² He had James killed with a sword. James was John's brother. ³ Herod saw that the death of James pleased some Jews. So he arrested Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. ⁴ After Herod arrested Peter, he put him in prison. Peter was placed under guard. He was watched by four groups of four soldiers each. Herod planned to put Peter on public trial. It would take place after the Passover Feast.

⁵ So Peter was kept in prison. But the church prayed hard to God for him.

⁶ It was the night before Herod was going to bring him to trial. Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. Two chains held him there. Lookouts stood guard at the entrance. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared. A light shone in the prison cell.

The angel struck Peter on his side. Peter woke up. "Quick!" the angel said. "Get up!" The chains fell off Peter's wrists.

⁸ Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." Peter did so. "Put on your coat," the angel told him. "Follow me." ⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison. But he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening. He thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guards. Then they came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself. They went through it. They walked the length of one street. Suddenly the angel left Peter.

¹¹ Then Peter realized what had happened. He said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent his angel. He set me free from Herod's power. He saved me from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 87:1-3, 5-7

The Psalm is read responsively.

87 The LORD has built his city
on the holy mountain.

**² He loves the city of Zion
more than all the other places
where the people of Jacob live.**

**³ City of God,
the LORD says glorious things about you.**

**⁵ Certainly it will be said about Zion,
"This nation and that nation were born in it.
The Most High God himself will make it secure."**

**⁶ Here is what the Lord will write in his list of the nations.
"Each of them was born in Zion."**

**⁷ As they make music they will sing,
"Zion, all our blessings come from you."**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

A reading from 2 Timothy.

⁶ I am already being poured out like a drink offering. The time when I will leave is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is a crown waiting for me. It is given to those who are right with God. The Lord, who judges fairly, will give it to me on the day he returns. He will not give it only to me. He will also give it to all those who are longing for him to return. ¹⁷ The Lord stood at my side. He gave me the strength to preach the whole message. Then all the Gentiles heard it. I was saved from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will save me from every evil attack. He will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. Give him glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



GOSPEL READING: John 21:15-19

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ When Jesus and the disciples had finished eating, Jesus spoke to Simon Peter. He asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others do?"

"Yes, Lord," he answered. "You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

¹⁶ Again Jesus asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ Jesus spoke to him a third time. He asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter felt bad because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He answered, "Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ What I'm about to tell you is true. When you were younger, you dressed yourself. You went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands. Someone else will dress you. Someone else will lead you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹ Jesus said this to point out how Peter would die. His death would bring glory to God. Then Jesus said to him, "Follow me!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 174 - For All the Saints**

***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: "...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**

Musical notation for the Offering Verse, consisting of five staves of music in a single system. The music is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes.

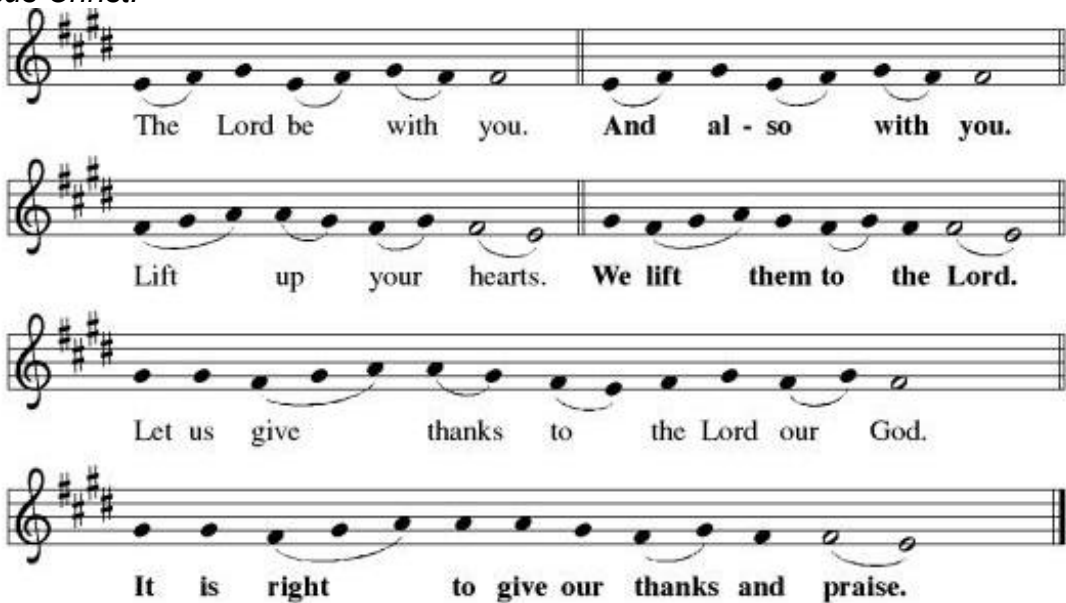
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us 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 205 – 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-joyce 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 737 - There Is a Balm in Gilead**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A very big Thank You to Barbie Gulick and the 275th Anniversary Committee on an INCREDIBLE gala event!

Total Raised for DASACC: \$1420 in ticket sales, \$1420 St. James matching, \$500 Bank of America matching= \$3340.00

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.

Social Ministry School supply collection starts June 29 thru July 27.

- **Monday 6/30:** Bible Study – 4pm at the church
- **Wednesday 7/2:** Fellowship at Sharky's 4pm-6pm
- **Reminder: No July Breakfast this month**

UPCOMING

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

Let us remember in prayer: Eddie, Jeffrey, Debbie, Stacey, Kevin, Brian, Pam, Sara, Bob, Patrick, John, Judy, Gary, Sharon and those unable to attend church service; Janet, Janice, Greg, Helen, Alayne and Elsie.