



**ST. JAMES'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Ash Wednesday**

**February 14, 2024  
Noon and 6:30 pm**

Welcome to St. James's!

*We're glad that you have joined us today to enjoy the blessings of worship  
and to participate with us in God's mission in the world of justice and love.*

*However you come to this place,  
exhausted or energized by life, comfortable with church or not,  
gay or straight, trans, nonbinary, cisfemale or cismale;  
of color or white, neurodivergent or neurotypical,  
persons with or without disabilities, younger or older!*

*Whoever you are,  
know the people of St. James's strive to love and welcome you as God does,  
unconditionally and completely just as you are!*

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**Noon and 6:30 pm**    The Proper Liturgy for Ash Wednesday and Holy Eucharist

*Eucharistic Ministers*    Alvin Lindo, Yvette Verdieu

*Minister of Music*        Patrick Michaels

*Preacher & Presider*    The Rev. Matthew Stewart

*Reader*                     John Hixson

*Videographer*             Alice Killian

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## **The Collect of the Day**

*Presider*    Let us pray.

O gracious God, we acknowledge our sin, our selfish will and ways that lead us to depart from the path of love and justice. By your Spirit of honesty and humility, give us penitent hearts, and in our contrition, grant us your forgiveness that we may walk anew into your light. **Amen.**

## **The First Reading:** Isaiah 58:1-12

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

*Reader*        Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*        Thanks be to God.



Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
 and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
 and forget not all his benefits. *Refrain*

He forgives all your sins  
 and heals all your infirmities;

He redeems your life from the grave  
 and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness; *Refrain*

The Lord executes righteousness  
 and judgment for all who are oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses  
 and his works to the children of Israel. *Refrain*

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
 nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
 so is his mercy great upon those who fear him. *Refrain*

### Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

A reading from the Book of Second Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle

in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation: Open My Eyes



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## **The Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

*Presider*     The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People*        Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

*Presider*     The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*        Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

## The Invitation to a Holy Lent

*Presider*

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need, which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.*

## The Blessing of the Ashes

*Presider*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth:  
Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence,  
that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given  
everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*All are invited to come forward and receive ashes.*

*Presider*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

Words: Psalm 103. Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994).

## Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.



Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**Litany of Penitence**     *(All kneel or sit as able)*

*Presider and People*

Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

*Presider*     We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*People*       We confess to you, O God.

*Presider*     We have not heeded your call to serve, as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind and way of Christ.  
We have forsaken the gifts given us by your Holy Spirit.

*People*       We confess to you, O God.

*Presider*     We confess to you our past unfaithfulness:  
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*People*       We confess to you, O God.

*Presider*     Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people,

*People*       We confess to you, O God.

*Presider*     Our anger at our own frustration,  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

*People*       We confess to you, O God.

*Presider* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
*People* We confess to you, O God.

*Presider* Our forgetfulness in continuing in the apostles' teaching and  
fellowship, the breaking of bread and continued prayer,  
and thus our failure to fulfill the vows of our faith,  
*People* We confess to you, O God.

*Presider* Accept our repentance for our complicity in injustice:  
for our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to the inequities around us,  
*People* Accept our repentance, O God.

*Presider* For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts  
toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt  
toward those who differ from us,  
*People* Accept our repentance, O God.

*Presider* For our despoiling, polluting, and destroying your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
*People* Accept our repentance, O God.

*Presider* Restore us, renew our minds in your will,  
revive our hearts to walk in your way,  
*People* Grant us anew your grace, O God.

*Presider* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
*People* That we may show forth your glory in the world.

*Presider* By the cross and passion of your Son Jesus Christ,  
*People* Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

*Presider* O God, in your love,  
*People* through your Spirit, you create and sustain us. In that same love,  
you look upon us and our sin, longing that we return to you  
to walk in your will, to follow your way, and to live the life  
that you have set before us in the truth of Jesus.

*Presider* O God, in our penitence,  
*People* our sorrow for departing from you, grant us, through your Spirit,  
true repentance that we may delight in your call and do what you  
command, presenting ourselves, all that we are and all that we have,  
as a living sacrifice of service to you in this world you have made.  
Amen.

## The Peace

*Presider* The peace of God be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## Announcements

# The Holy Communion

## Offertory Sentence

*The Presider says*

I appeal to you, friends, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

## Offertory Hymn: Eternal Lord of love

H 149

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are arranged in three lines, with the first line containing three numbered verses. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

Words: Thomas H. Cain (b. 1931) Copyright ©1982, Thomas H. Cain. Music: *Old 124th*, melody *Procuramus oratione mox de David*, 1551; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## The Great Thanksgiving

### *Enriching our Worship: Eucharistic Prayer 2*

- Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The Presider says*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

# Sanctus

S 130



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are



full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *Deutsche Mass*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

*The Presider continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, your holy child. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Saint James and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.  
**AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught, we are bold to say:

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread**     *(Silence is kept)*

## The Invitation

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## Administration of Communion

*The people are invited to come forward to receive communion when directed by an usher.*

*Those that wish a contactless blessing or  
a gluten-free, allergen-free wafer are welcome to ask for that.*

*All are welcome and encouraged to receive Communion from God's table.*

## Communion Hymn: All things of dust



1. All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.  
2. Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com - pre - hend  
3. Lord. mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar - ren cross



The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.  
that ev - ery mo - ment here and now links me to that same end  
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,



The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new - born young that play,  
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire  
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view



the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.  
yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.  
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

Text: Thomas Troeger, Oxford University Press. Music: Patrick Michaels.

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## Post Communion Prayer

*Presider* Let us pray

*People* Faithful, generous, abiding God, we give you thanks for the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. May the taste of this meal so linger that we will be strengthened in our Lenten journey. Give us courage to hear and live what may seem hard so that we can find deeper relationship in you and serve your vision of a redeemed world. Amen.

## Blessing

*Presider*

May the cross be the sign in which we begin again  
to untie the cords of violence, the misery of exclusion,  
and to proclaim God's unconditional love;  
and the blessing of the one God:  
who is beyond us, and among us, and within us,  
be with you, now and always. Amen.

## Closing Hymn: The glory of these forty days

H 143



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we  
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the  
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -  
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full  
\*5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en  
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.  
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt. Copyright © by permission Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
Music: *Erhalat uns, Herr*; melody from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## Dismissal

*Presider*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

*Saint James's Episcopal Church*  
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*Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers?*  
Email Rev. Matt at [matt@stjamescambridge.org](mailto:matt@stjamescambridge.org)

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## St. James's Episcopal Church Welcomes You!

I am: \_\_\_\_\_ visiting just for today.      I wish: \_\_\_\_\_ to be on the church mailing list.  
         \_\_\_\_\_ seeking a new church home.      \_\_\_\_\_ to receive a call or email from St. James's.

Please circle items below you'd like information about:

Church School/Choir/Bible Study/Food Pantry

I'd like prayer for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill this form out and place it in the offering plate or the church office.