

ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023 10:30 am

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, differently-abled or able-bodied, 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!

10:30 am The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Acolytes Marian King, Jonte Folkes

Eucharistic Ministers Tamasin Milner-Wohlers, Marian King

Minister of Music Patrick Michaels

Preacher & Presider The Rev. Matthew Stewart

Readers Tamasin Milner-Wohlers, Alfred Ironside

UshersNancy McArdleVideographerMichael AnthonyWelcomerNancy McArdle

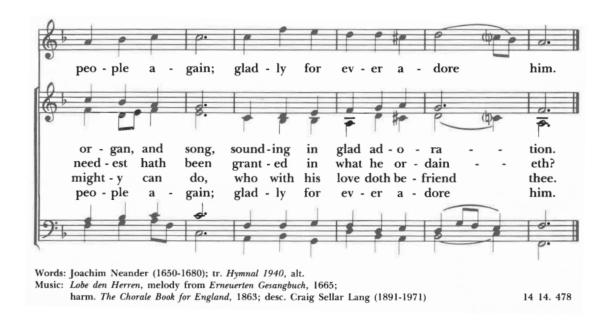
The Word of God

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Tolling of the Bell





Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Collect for Purity

All then pray

Almighty God, you bring to light things hidden in darkness, and know the shadows of our hearts; cleanse and renew us by your Spirit, that we may walk in your light and glorify your name, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**



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The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.
People And also be with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

The First Reading: Exodus 32:1-14 Tamasin Milner-Wohlers

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

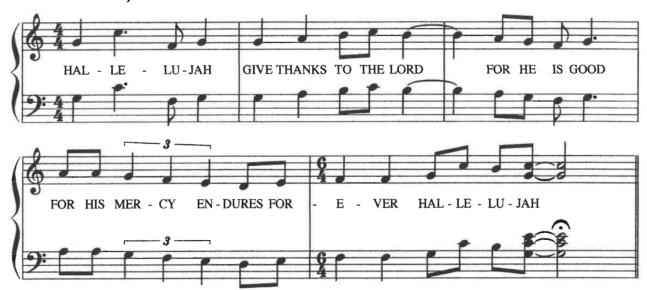
When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel,

your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23



Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, * for his mercy endures for ever.

Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD * or show forth all his praise?

Happy are those who act with justice * and always do what is right! (*Refrain*)

Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, * and visit me with your saving help;

That I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the gladness of your people, * that I may glory with your inheritance.

We have sinned as our forebears did; * we have done wrong and dealt wickedly. (*Refrain*)

Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb * and worshiped a molten image;

And so they exchanged their Glory * for the image of an ox that feeds on grass. (*Refrain*)

They forgot God their Savior, * who had done great things in Egypt,

Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, * and fearful things at the Red Sea.

So he would have destroyed them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, * to turn away his wrath from consuming them. (*Refrain*)

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Tamasin Milner-Wohlers

A reading from the Book of Philippians

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

People Thanks be to God.



Music: Muscogee (Creek) Indian, tr. Charles Webb Copyright @ 1989. United Methodist Publishing. Used by permission.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew. *People* Glory to you, O Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord. People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

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, 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.

Moved with compassion for all who are on life's journey, let us lift up our hearts and prayers.

For the Church: especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Alan and Carol, our bishops, that through our ministries, God will help us be signs of God's presence in loving deeds and our compassion for all who are in need.

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For this church family, that we may allow the pain and suffering of others to move our hearts and spirits to a loving response.

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For peace and justice in the world, that God will heal long standing disputes and guide adversaries to new understanding and trust.

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For all who care for those in need, especially those working in food pantries, soup kitchens, outreach ministries, and refugee centers, that they may continue to bring God's love and compassion to those whom they serve.

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For the scourge of violence especially from all war in the Middle East and across the earth, for those affected by natural disasters, for the victims of the racism and transphobia in this country, and for all the sick and the suffering that they may know the tender embrace of God.

We pray especially this week for John Butler, Katia Udall, Vida Carrington, Douglas Huber, for Curtis Fisher and his upcoming back surgery, for Barbara Pilgrim and her family who are grieving multiple losses, and for Nora, Anne Shumway's grandniece, who is struggling with mental illness.

I invite your prayers at this time, aloud or in silence, for those in danger or in need. (*A time for prayers is kept.*)

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For all the departed that they may share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. (*A time for prayers is kept.*)

Let us pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord our God.

Presider

God of mercy and kindness, who gave us the great commandment of love, hear the prayers we offer this day and grant that we may always bear fruit and lead lives worthy of our calling, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Confession

Presider Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

All

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Presider then says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

The Peace

Presider The peace of God be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements & Celebrations

The people are now invited to come forward to share announcements, birthday and anniversary blessing requests, or prayer requests. The community's prayer is then gathered as they sing together:

May God bless you; May God keep you; May God's love be with you; May God grant you peace and wisdom; May God ever be with you.

Stewardship Campaign Kickoff and Prayer

Presider

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. (*Luke 17:15-16a*)

All then pray

God of abundance, at this time of harvest we are reminded again of your astounding generosity towards us. Give us grace and wisdom to give as we have been given, to support our common life as the parish of Saint James, to help all your children in need, and to build your way of love here upon the earth. In Jesus' name we pray, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Presider You are a

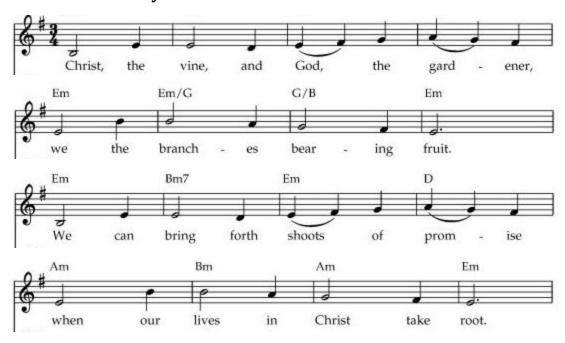
You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may proclaim the excellence of the One who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light.

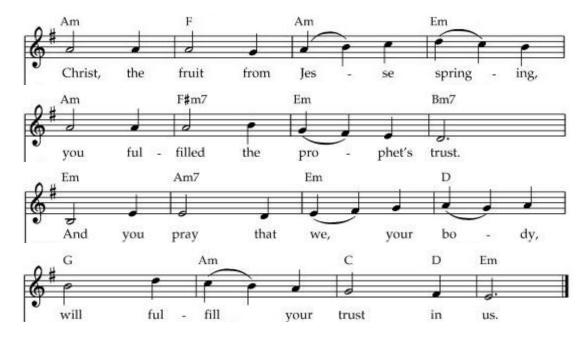
At this time our gifts and offerings will be collected.

Offertory Anthem: Shumayela (Come, Let Us Preach the Gospel) South African *The Adult Choir*

Presentation Hymn: Christ the Vine

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The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you. Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

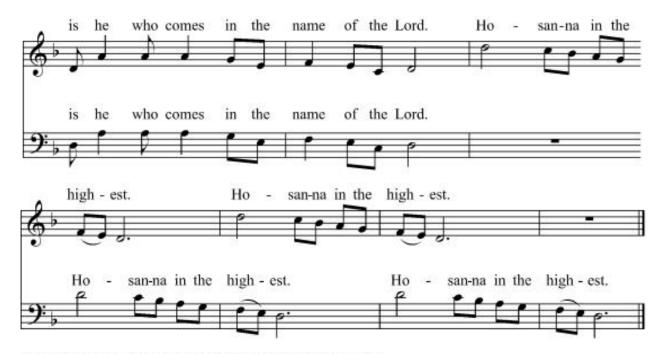
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Presider says

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Sanctus MHSO 37





Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.

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The Presider continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, draw all things into reconciliation through your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with James, Mary, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

The Presider continues

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing:

Lord's Prayer (Zambian)

(Soloists sing the words in italics. The congregation joins in unitalicized language.)

Hear our plea, dear Father we pray; shower upon us your heav'nly grace that we may be your people Glorifying you.

Lord, our Father, in heaven abiding, may your name always be hallowed by us. Your will is righteous and ever consistent, in heaven and also on earth.

Give us this day what we really have need of. Please forgive us the sins we've committed. Help us forgive all the sins of our neighbor as you have forgiven us ours.

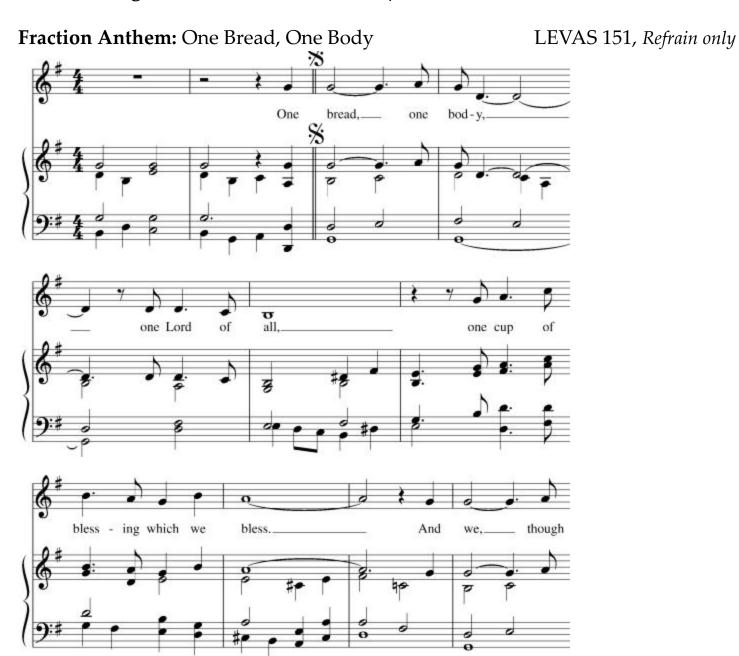
Far from temptation we ask you to lead us. Save us also from all that is evil. Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory at this time and world without end.

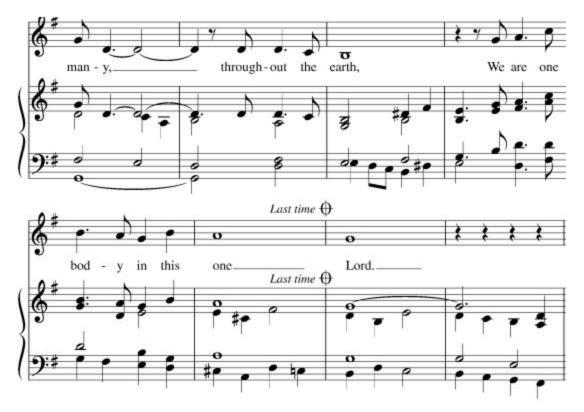
Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Forever and ever. Amen.

Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. Forever and ever. Amen.

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The Breaking of the Bread (Silence is kept)





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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 Anthem: The Wise Are Bound Together

The Greenleaf Choir Music: Patrick Michaels

Text: The wise are bound together in the love of God. (Ecclesiastes 9:1) The light of the wise shines forever. (Proverbs 13:9) You are the light, let it shine. (Matthew 5:14)

Communion Hymn: I'm so glad



2. Satan had me bound (Jesus lifted me).

3. When I was in sin (Jesus lifted me).

Words: Traditional Music: Negro Spiritual Arr: Hezekiah Brinson Copyright @1990 All rights reserved.

Post Communion Prayer (Please stand as you are able)

Presider Let us pray.

People Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,

and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you

with gladness and singleness of heart;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Presider

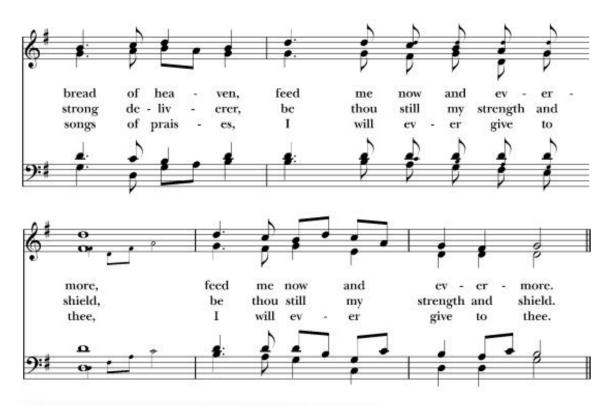
Send us anywhere you would have us go, only go there with us. Place upon us any burden you desire, only stand by us to sustain us. Break any tie that binds us, except the tie that binds us to you.

And the blessing of God; the Creator, who made and knows us; the Savior, who redeems and befriends us; and the Spirit, who enlightens and sustains us, be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Guide me, O thou great Jehovah







Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams

Music: Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes (1873-1932)

Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth into the world,

rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Saint James's Episcopal Church 1991 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02140 Website: www.stjamescambridge.org Office Email: office@stjamescambridge.org Emergency Pastoral Line: 857-600-1329

Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers? Email Rev. Matt at matt@stjamescambridge.org

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