



Ante-Communion

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00 a.m. — February 14, 2021

Rite II

Welcome

We welcome everyone to digital St. James this morning. Whether you are joining us via Zoom, on our website or on Facebook, we are delighted that you are here with us.

The Service is outlined from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP). If you don't have a prayer book at home, you can find one here: <https://www.bcponline.org/>

Prelude

Fantasia on "Wareham"

Herbert Murrill (1909-1952)

Hymn 137

O wondrous type (1-2, 4)

Wareham

O wondrous type! O vision fair
of glory that the Church may share,
which Christ upon the mountain shows,
where brighter than the sun he glows!

With Moses and Elijah nigh
the incarnate Lord holds converse high;
and from the cloud, the Holy One
bears record to the only Son.

And faithful hearts are raised on high
by this great vision's mystery;
for which in joyful strains we raise
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

The Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

Presider
People

Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis S-280

Robert Powell

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 217

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

2 Kings 2:1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him,

“Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

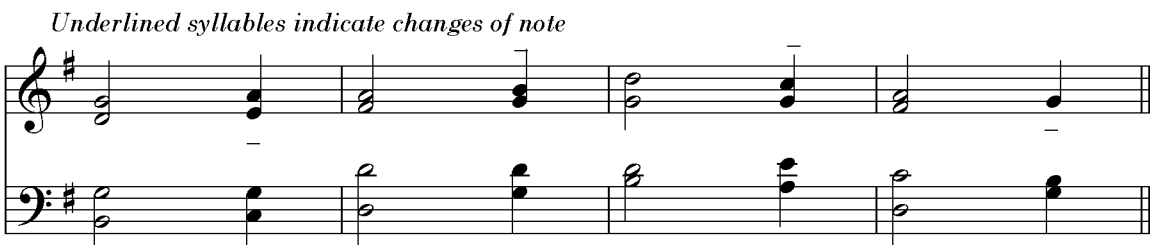
Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50:1-6 after John Stainer



1. The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God reveals himself in glory.
2. Our God will come and will not keep silence;
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.
He calls the heavens and the earth from a-bove
to witness the judgment of his people.
3. “Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”
Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause;
for God himself is judge.

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 490

I want to walk as a child of the light (vs 1)

Houston

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Josh Hoover

The Apostles' Creed

BCP p. 96

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Because we are promised that God listens to our prayers, let us pray with boldness and confidence for the church, the world, and all people in need.

Silence

Gracious Father, we pray for your church. Fill her with all truth and peace. Where she is corrupt, purify her; where in error, direct her; where in anything amiss, reform her. Where she is right, strengthen her; where in want provide for her; where divided, reunite her; radiant God,
let your light shine upon us.

Almighty God, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, help our leadership to be trustworthy messengers, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy church. Radiant God,
let your light shine upon us.

We pray for Joe, our President, Gretchen, our Governor, and all elected leaders of our country. Keep them ever aware of the oppressed and disenfranchised so they might protect the rights and freedoms of all people, and give them wisdom to bring healing to our divided times. Radiant God,
let your light shine upon us.

We pray for the poor, disabled, vulnerable, and sick, especially Penny; Nev; Dave; Richard & Sue; Ronald; Richard; Al, Greg; Matthew; Riley; Pete; Eric and Julie; Owen; Molly; Stan and Kay; Rob; Claire; Kiera; Jeff; David; Melissa; Mary; Grace; Judy; Sally; Elise; Rachel; Taylor; Nancy; and The Coulter Family, that they may live with the assurance and hope that God has formed them and knows them intimately. Radiant God,
let your light shine upon us.

We give thanks for those who have followed Christ in their own lives, and all who are now at one with God, especially remembering Mary Jamieson. May their faith and witness inspire us to reach new heights as we reach out in answer to God's call. Radiant God,
let your light shine upon us.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, the Beloved, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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 the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory

The Offertory is a time when we offer back to God some of what God gives to us. God gives us wheat and grapes and, through our labor, we turn them into bread and wine.

God gives us bodies and minds, and we use these in our life and labor to earn our daily bread. When we give a portion of our income back to God, God blesses it, and returns it to us as services provided by the church, in outreach to those in need, and in lives changed by God's spirit.

Offertory Anthem

Sing ye faithful, sing with gladness

Henry Purcell (1649-1694)

The Lord's Prayer

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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.

Concluding Prayers

Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for Commerce and Industry

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give to us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Siblings in Christ, at this time we are rightly separated one from another and unable to gather around the Eucharistic table to break bread and drink wine. And because it is the desire of God's people to participate more fully in the life and ministry of Our Lord Jesus Christ, let us now invite Our Savior more deeply into our hearts by praying a prayer of Spiritual Communion.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist has been and will be celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I explicitly ask you into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, help me see all the ways in which you are still available, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

General Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.**

We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Blessing

Presider The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the blessing of God Almighty, who comes to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

Hymn 135

Songs of thankfulness and praise (1-2, 4)

Salzburg

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana, wedding-guest,
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest on mountain height,
shining in resplendent light,
where disciples filled with awe
thy transfigured glory saw.

When from there thou leddest them
steadfast to Jerusalem,
cross and Easter Day attest
God in man made manifest.

The Dismissal

People **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude

Fanfare

John Cook (1918-1984)

JOIN US ON ZOOM for VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR
<https://zoom.us/j/94003915550>

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“Fantasia on ‘Wareham’,” by Herbert Murrill, © 1950, Oxford University Press.

“I want to walk as a child of the light,” words and music by Kathleen Thomerson, © 1970, 1975, Celebration.

This Week at St. James

February 14th to February 20th

- Sun. 11:00 a.m. The Bridge and the Beatitudes via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86780915634>
- Mon. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
7:15 p.m. Ringers' Zoom –
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74614087881>
8:00 p.m. Compline – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048>
- Tue. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
8:00 p.m. Compline – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048>
- Wed. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
Noon Ash Wednesday Service - <https://www.stjamesbirmingham.org/>
And on the St. James Facebook page
7:15 p.m. Choir Chat & Rehearsal –
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77926156745>
8:00 p.m. Compline – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048>
- Thur. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
8:00 p.m. Compline – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048>
- Fri. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
8:00 p.m. Compline – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048>

St. James Episcopal Church

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Worship Schedule

Sundays 10:00 a.m. on [Facebook](#) and our [Website](#) and via [Zoom](#)

Weekdays Morning Prayer 8:00 a.m. on [Facebook](#)

Weekdays Compline 8:00 p.m. on [Zoom](#)

The Rev. Joshua A. Hoover, Rector

josh@stjamesbirmingham.org