



## Ante-Communion

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00 a.m. — February 7, 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** Chromhorne sur la taille (*Mass for the Convents*) François Couperin (1668-1733)

**Hymn 7** Christ whose glory fills the skies *Ratisbon*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise!  
Triumph o'er the shades of night:  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return,  
till thy mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine!  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!  
Fill me, radiancy divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

## The Opening Acclamation

*Book of Common Prayer, p. 355*

*Presider* Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.  
**People** 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. 216

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
**People** And also with you.  
*Presider* Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not  
heard?  
Has it not been told you from the  
beginning?  
Have you not understood from the  
foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the  
earth,  
and its inhabitants are like  
grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a  
curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live  
in;  
who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as  
nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in  
the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they  
wither,  
and the tempest carries them off  
like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy  
One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

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

He who brings out their host and  
numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

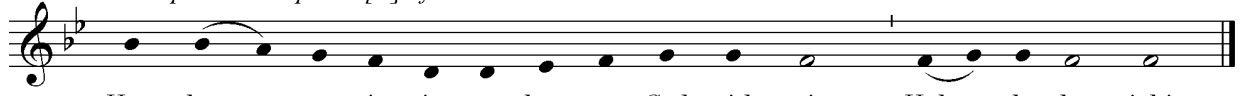
Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
"My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my  
God"?

Have you not known? Have you not  
heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the LORD shall  
renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like  
eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

# Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

Plainsong

*Please repeat the response [R] after the cantor and as indicated:*



How pleas - ant it is to hon - or God with praise, Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

He counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names. [R]

Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to his wisdom.

The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God upon the harp.

He covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth. [R]

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve mankind.

He provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry.

He is not impressed by the might of a horse; he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await his gracious favor.

Hallelujah! [R]

## The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

**People**            **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn He came singing love



1. He came sing-ing love, and he lived sing-ing love; he died, sing - ing love.
2. He came sing-ing hope, and he lived sing-ing hope; he died, sing - ing hope.
3. He came sing-ing peace, and he lived sing-ing peace; he died, sing - ing peace.



He a - rose in si - lence. For the love to go on we must  
He a - rose in si - lence. For the hope to go on we must  
He a - rose in si - lence. For the peace to go on we must



make it our song: you and I be the sing-ers.

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## The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

*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; Mary; Kim; Molly; Stan and Kay; Rob; Patricia; Claire; Kiera; Melissa; David; Mary; and Jeff, 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 Merle Goately and Patricia Jackson. 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 Hymn 567

Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old

*St. Matthew*

1 Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old was strong to  
2 And lo! thy touch brought life and health, gave hear - ing,  
3 Be thou our great de - liv - erer still, thou Lord of

heal and save; it tri - umphed o'er dis - ease and death,  
strength, and sight; and youth re - newed and fren - zy calmed  
life and death; re - store and quick - en, soothe and bless,

o'er dark - ness and the grave. To thee they went, the  
owned thee, the Lord of light: and now, O Lord, be  
with thine al - might - y breath: to hands that work and

blind, the deaf, the pal - sied, and the lame, the lep - er  
near to bless, al - might - y as of yore, in crowd - ed  
eyes that see, give wis - dom's heaven - ly lore, that whole and

set a - part and shunned, the sick with fe - vered frame.  
street, by rest - less couch, as by Gen - nes - aret's shore.  
sick, and weak and strong, may praise thee ev - er - more.



## **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 the Unity of the Church**

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify *thee*; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Jesus, you once called disciples

*In Babilone*

Jesus, you once called disciples, choosing twelve to follow you:  
Simon (also known as Peter), Andrew and Bartholomew,  
Philip, Thomas, James and Matthew, Simon, Thaddaeus, John, and James —  
Then there was the one called Judas. These were your disciples' names.

Lord, so many heard and followed, like the woman at the well.  
Meeting you, the living water, she sought others she could tell.  
Like the boy with loaves and fishes, like Zacchaeus in the tree,  
Many gladly heard your message; many shared your ministry.

Jesus, still you call your people, "Come and follow me today!"  
Some, like Paul, feel sudden wonder; some are brought up in your way.  
Lord, no matter how we meet you, by your Spirit, make us new.  
May we know your living presence; may we daily follow you.

## The Dismissal

**People**        **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Dialogue sur les grands jeux (Mass for the Parishes)

*François Couperin*

JOIN US ON ZOOM for VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

<https://zoom.us/j/94003915550>

## **This Week at St. James** **February 7<sup>th</sup> to February 13<sup>th</sup>**

- |       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| Sun.  | 1:00 p.m.                                   | G.A.P. – All Things Super and Souper via Zoom<br><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85073090077">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85073090077</a><br>Souper Bowl of Caring – Text “StJamesDowntown soup”<br>to 73256  |
| Mon.  | 8:00 a.m.<br>8:00 p.m.                      | Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page<br>Compline – <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048</a>   |
| Tue.  | 8:00 a.m.<br>8:00 p.m.                      | Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page<br>Compline – <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048</a>   |
| Wed.  | 8:00 a.m.<br>Noon<br>7:15 p.m.<br>8:00 p.m. | Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page<br>Bible Study - <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940791816">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940791816</a><br>Choir Chat & Rehearsal –<br><a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77926156745">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77926156745</a><br>Compline – <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048</a> |
| Thur. | 8:00 a.m.<br>8:00 p.m.                      | Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page<br>Compline – <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048</a>   |
| Fri.  | 8:00 a.m.<br>8:00 p.m.                      | Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page<br>Compline – <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061214048</a>   |

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# St. James Episcopal Church

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email: [prayer@stjamesbirmingham.org](mailto:prayer@stjamesbirmingham.org)

## 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](mailto:josh@stjamesbirmingham.org)