



Ante-Communion

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00 a.m. — January 31, 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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (*Lobe den Herrn*)

Jan Bender (1909-1994)

Hymn 390

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (1-2,4)

Lobe den Herrn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
join the great throng,
psaltery, organ, and song,
sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth:
borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen
how all thou needest hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
sound from his people again;
gladly for ever adore him.

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. 215

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

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; 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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

Psalm 111

Simplified Anglican Chant after Sir John Stainer

Underlined syllables indicate changes of note



1. Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congre- gation.
Great are the deeds of the LORD!
they are studied by all who de- light in them.
2. His work is full of majesty and splendor,
and his righteousness endures for ever.
He makes his marvelous works to be re- membered;
the LORD is gracious and full of com- passion.
3. He gives food to those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
He has shown his people the power of his works
in giving them the lands of the nations.
4. The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;
all his commandments are sure.
They stand fast for ever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.
5. He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever;
holy and awesome is his Name.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 661

From miles around

Gonfalon Royal

1. From miles a - round the sick ones came, in hope that
2. And still they come, new preys of plague, while of - ten
3. Re - call us to our mis - sion, Lord, to reach for

One they heard was Lord would make their souls and bod - ies well, with
in their rooms of prayer God's peo - ple wor - ship, safe and sound, un -
those cut off, in pain; to of - fer friend - ship, strength, and peace, and

after verse 3

heal - ing touch or sav - ing word.
heed - ing, e - ven un - a - ware.
be a faith - ful Church a - gain. A - - - - men.

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The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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. 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

Hold out your light (from *Band of Angels*)

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

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 a Church Convention or Meeting

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel with the people of St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham, for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; 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 493

O for a thousand tongues to sing (1, 4-6)

Azmon

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold, your Savior comes;
and leap, ye lame, for joy!

He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

Postlude

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881)

The Annual Meeting of St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham

The Annual Meeting will begin as quickly as possible after the Postlude.

We encourage you to join us here: <https://zoom.us/j/94003915550>

Agenda and Annual Reports were mailed out to all parishioners both by USPS and email. You can also find them at www.stjamesbirmingham.org. All members of the church aged 16 or older are able to vote at the meeting.

After the meeting, the Deacon will dismiss us:

The Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

This Week at St. James **January 31st to February 6th**

| | | |
|-------|------------|---|
| Sun. | 11:00 a.m. | Annual Meeting - https://zoom.us/j/94003915550 |
| 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 | Bible Study - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940791816 |
| | 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 |

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“Hold Out Your Light” from *Band of Angels*, music arranged by K. Lee Scott, © 2015 by Morningstar

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

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