



## Ante-Communion

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Christ the King Sunday

10:00 a.m. — November 22, 2020

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

### Hymn 427

When morning gilds the skies (verses 1,4,5)

*Laudes Domini PD*

When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart, awaking, cries,  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
When evening shadows fall,  
this rings my curfew call,  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Sing, suns and stars of space,  
sing, ye that see his face,  
sing, Jesus Christ be praised!  
God's whole creation o'er,  
both now and evermore  
shall Jesus Christ be praised!

Ye nations of mankind,  
in this your concord find:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
ring joyous with the sound:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

## The Opening Acclamation

*Book of Common Prayer, p. 355*

*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* And blessed be his 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.**

## Song of Praise, Hymn S-236

*Benedictus es, Domine*

1. Glo-ry to you, Lord God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;  
2. Glo-ry to you in the splen - dor of your tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty,  
3. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of hea - ven,  
glo - ry to you. Glo - ry to you for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name  
glo - ry to you. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed be - tween the cher - u - bim;  
glo - ry to you. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit;  
we will praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

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## The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 236

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

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.

I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken

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

## **Psalm 95:1-7a    S35**

*Venite, exultemus*

Jack Noble White

*Please join in singing the Venite*

1 Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our  
salvation.  
2 Let us come before his presence with  
thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
3 For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
5 The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
7 For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the  
sheep of his hand.

## **The Second Lesson**

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

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

## Hymn 490

I want to walk as a child of the light (verse 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

Matthew 25:31-46

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

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

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

*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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of love, you gather us in spirit when we can not meet in person. Be with Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Bonnie, our Bishop; our partner churches who worship around this diocese, our companion diocese in the Dominican Republic, and all those around the world. Teach your people to be a community of grace and witness. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your church is a place of relationship. We pray for all those who worship with us and support the ministry of St. James. We pray for our clergy, staff, and leadership, for volunteers and partners in ministry. Give us understanding, that we might care for each other with our whole hearts. Unite us in bonds of truth, peace, and faith. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation is a precious gift. Turn our hearts to use its resources wisely, rather than hoarding them for our own selfish gain. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your desire for us is peace. Be with all those newly elected, re-elected, or continuing in public service; give them the ability to see the world as it is, the humility to learn from people who differ from them, and the strength to make decisions that help build your kingdom. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your ways are goodness and life. Free all those on our prayer list from illness, hurt, anxiety, or addiction. Help them become whole parts of your creation, and fill them with your love. We especially lift up those we name now:

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your promise to us is resurrection. We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and all those good things that you see we need, in the name of the one who showed us your love, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution of Sins

*Presider* We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence is observed*

**People** Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

*Presider* 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

Because you are God's chosen ones  
Soloist – Christopher Peters

G. Alan Smith

## 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 this Pandemic

Loving God, Your desire is for our wholeness and well being.  
We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.  
We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.  
We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.  
We pray: may love, not fear, go viral.  
Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.  
Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.  
Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,  
You, the God who does not abandon. **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

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. 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 290

Come, ye thankful people, come (verses 1, 3-4)

*Thanksgiving Day*

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home:  
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;  
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;  
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home;  
gather thou thy people in, free from sorry, free from sin;  
there, for ever purified, in thy presence to abide;  
with all thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest home.



## **The Dismissal**

People      Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

JOIN US ON ZOOM for VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

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

## This Week at St. James

November 22<sup>th</sup> to November 29<sup>th</sup>

- Sun. 11:00 a.m. The Bridge & the Beatitudes via zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86780915634>
- Mon. 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page  
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. Thanksgiving Day!  
8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. James Facebook page
- 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](mailto:josh@stjamesbirmingham.org)