



First Sunday after Christmas Day Morning Prayer II

December 28, 2025 10:00 AM



Our Mission as St. James Episcopal Church; 1751 – Today

A trusting community that invites us to find God's light in this beautiful space – through fellowship, music, and liturgy; to find the sacred in ourselves and help others on their journey and to share our gifts with a world in need



Service Participants

OFFICIANT:	Susan Romanski
MUSIC DIRECTOR & HOMILIST:	Michael Mulder
LAY READER:	Philip Anderson
LECTOR:	Karen Midkiff
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:	Pat Hartwell
USHER:	Dawn Irizarry
COFFEE HOUR HOST:	Friedlander Family

St. James Episcopal Church

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Sr. Steward: Janet Keyes (845) 269-0289 **Jr. Steward:** Josh Leicht (914) 669-6743
Vestry: Margaret Eaton Robert Herzberg Michael Mulder Susan Romanski
Tom Stratman Carolyn Young

Music Director: Michael Mulder (914) 485-1128
Pledge Recorders: Kristin Delli Carpini (845) 669-6146 Josh Leicht (914) 669-6743
Treasurer: Kipp Good (646) 641-9286

MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO

Prelude Song of the Shepherd by Gustav Merkel **Michael Mulder**

Processional Of the Father's love begotten **Hymnal # 82**

Sentence of Scripture **BCP 75**

Officiant: Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *[Luke 2:10, 11]*

Invitatory and Psalter **BCP 80**

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!

Antiphon

Officiant: Alleluia. To us a child is born: Come let us adore him. Alleluia. **BCP 80**

Invitatory Psalm

Venite Psalm 95:1-7

BCP 82

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.**

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm Appointed

Psalm 147 Laudate Dominum

BCP 804

1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! *

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *

and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *

and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *

there is no limit to his wisdom.

- 6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

Officiant: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah [61:10-62:3]

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 18: A Song to the Lamb *Dignus es*
Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13

BCP 93

Splendor and honor and kingly power *

are yours by right, O Lord our God,

For you created everything that is, *

and by your will they were created and have their being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *

for with your blood you have redeemed for God,

From every family, language, people, and nation, *

a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *

and to Christ the Lamb,

Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *

for ever and for evermore.

Lay Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

New Testament

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Galatians [3:23-25; 4:4-7]

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Dost thou in a manger lie

Hymnal # 97

Officiant:

A Reading from the Gospel according to John [1:1-18]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth

came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Homily

Mrs. Susan Romanski

Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

Officiant and People

**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

BCP 97

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: 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.**

Hymn

Joy to the world! the lord is come

Hymnal # 100

Suffrage A

BCP 97

Officiant: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People: And grant us your salvation.

Officiant: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People: Let your people sing with joy.

Officiant: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People: For only in you can we live in safety.

Officiant: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant: Let your way be known upon earth;

People: Your saving health among all nations.

Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; 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.**

Collect for Sundays

BCP 98

Officiant: 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.**

Prayer for Mission

BCP 100

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn

Hark, the glad sound? by David Thorne

The St. James Choir

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Form IV

BCP 388

Reader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially **Bennett, Jean H., Sheryl and family, Ginny and Maar family, Dylan and Ann Marie, Jeffrey, Michelle B., Maureen, Rob K., Anne H., Nina T., Judy and Family, Janet, Katie, Annie, Mackenzie, Bill, Jennifer C., Christine, Marissa, Bro, Kathleen, Randy S., those who have lost their jobs; those who have been taken and put into detention centers, especially Ben and Ali;** and watch over those who care for them; that they may be delivered from their distress. We pray for guidance for the **resolution of conflicts around the world, all those who suffer injustice and violence in the US and abroad, mitigation of the effects of climate change, those who suffer from mental illness, and our Community Ministries. May those who govern, especially Donald our President, do so for the good of their people and with the respect and gentleness you show to those who are most weak and vulnerable.**

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled, especially The Holy Innocents; and Frances Joseph Gaudet, *Educator and Social Reformer* (1934).

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us

People: and given us dominion over all the earth:

Reader: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life;

People: and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race,

Reader: and new wisdom and determination in making provision

People: for its future in accordance with your will;

Reader: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

**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,**

BCP 101

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.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you;

People: and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them:

Officiant: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us;

People: granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Recessional

How bright appears the morning star

Hymnal # 497

Dismissal

BCP 102

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *[Ephesians 3:20-21]*

People: Amen.

Postlude

Postlude by J.S. Bach

Michael Mulder



December 28 The Holy Innocents

All male children under age two were ordered killed in Bethlehem and environs by King Herod after the birth of Jesus. Augustine called these children "buds, killed by the frost of persecution the moment they showed themselves."

Continuing Prayer List

Sara, Pam P., Biran S., Kate C., Kristin and Gizzi Family, Robert and family, Morgan, Susan and Dan S., St. Luke's Haiti, Lee, Barry, Ben, Will and family, John R., Rebecca, Teddy and Jeff, Vince, Ann B., Joyce and Douglas K., Betsy, Mike Marshall and family, John W. and Susan, Thomas, Jeanette, Dean W., Rachel D., Matilda, Walter and family, Eileen, Sister CG, Jackie A., Abdul and Mohammed, Joanne and Marie, Mazza family, Robert, Celia, Felix, Sue, Ewa, Jeannie and Margaret, Ross, Abu, Carmine S., Liv C.

Upcoming Events and Services

January 4: The Epiphany; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am

January 11: First Sunday after the Epiphany: Baptism of Our Lord; Holy Eucharist at 10 am

January 18: Second Sunday after the Epiphany; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am

January 25: Third Sunday after the Epiphany; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am

February 1: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am

February 8: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am

February 15: Last Sunday after the Epiphany; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am

February 22: First Sunday in Lent; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am