



Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025, 10:00 AM
Join the Path Forward

Our Mission as St. James Episcopal Church; 1750 – Today

We are a welcoming community that invites all to share God's light and beauty through music, liturgy and action; to seek the sacred and to walk in love with all creation.



Service Participants

CELEBRANT:	Rev. Judy Ferguson
ORGANIST and CHOIR DIRECTOR:	Michael Mulder
LAY READER:	Josh Leicht
LECTOR:	Susan Romanskil
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:	Karen Midkiff
ACOLYTE:	Tank Schneck
USHER:	Dawn Irizarry
COFFEE HOUR:	Stewardship luncheon

St. James Episcopal Church

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Services live streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesnorthsalemny/videos>

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

HOLY EUCHARIST: Rite II

WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Adagio by Francesco Geminiani

Jeremy Rhizor

Opening Hymn

What is the crying at Jordan

Hymnal # 69

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Celebrant: Light and **peace**, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, this First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it [*First Candle is lit*] again as we remember our Savior, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

Second Candle is lit.

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of **Peace**. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of **Peace**." They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being **peacemakers**. He said that those who make **peace** shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us **peace** and he will bring everlasting **peace** when he comes again. We light the Candle of **Peace** to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of **Peace** and that through him **peace** is found.

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the **peace** we find in Jesus Christ.

Reader: Let us pray:

**People: Lord Jesus, Light of the World,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people from trouble.
Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide.
We ask that as we wait for you to come again,
that you would remain present with us.
Help us today, and everyday to worship you,
to hear your word, and to do your will
by sharing our peace with each other.
We ask it in the name of the one
who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: His mercy endures for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,

People: all desires known,

Celebrant: and from you no secrets are hid:

People: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

Celebrant: by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

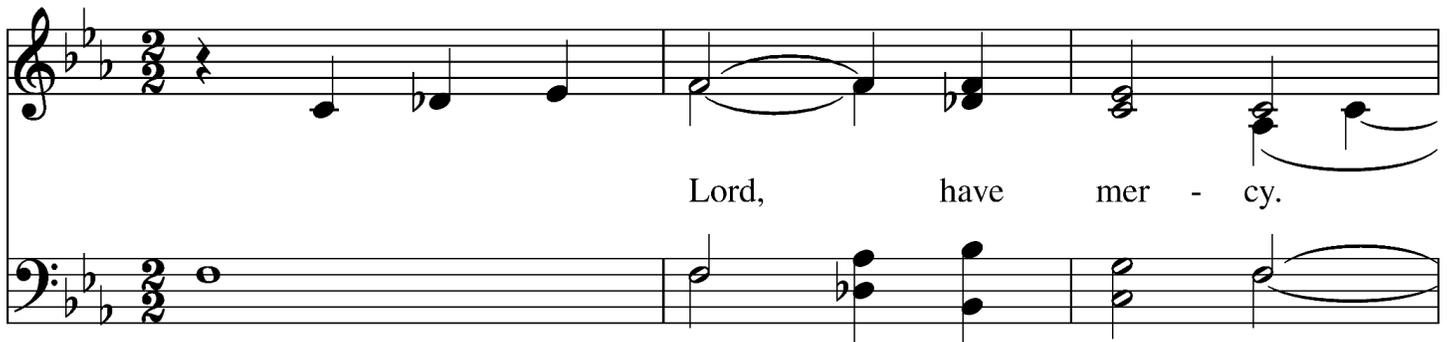
People: that we may perfectly love you,

Celebrant: and worthily magnify your holy Name;

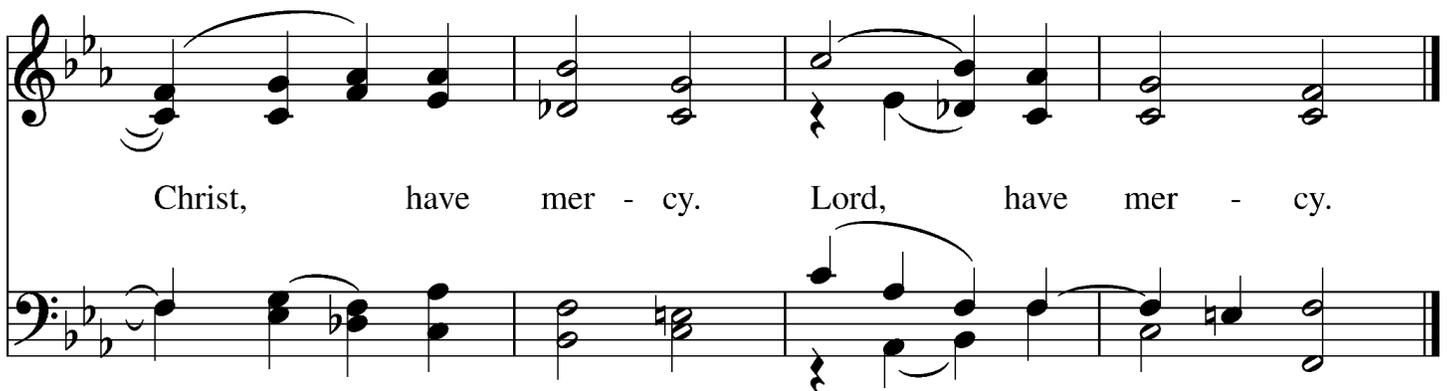
People: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord have mercy Kyrie

WLP #838



Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Music: Kevin R. Hackett (b. 1956), from *Hymn Tunes Mass*; based on *Herzliebster Jesu*, Johan Cruger (1598-1662), alt.
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Salutation and Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collect for Eleanor Roosevelt

Holy and everliving God, we give thanks for Eleanor Roosevelt and all those who have championed human rights for all people. Guide us to follow her example to respect the dignity of every human being that we, too, may be the instruments of hope and healing to those who suffer and are living in despair; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah [11:1-10]

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 *Deus, iudicium*

BCP 685

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

New Testament

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans [15:4-13]

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the

patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Sequence Hymn

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Hymnal # 67

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [3:1-12]

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Judy Ferguson

Profession of Faith (South Indian), *said together, standing*

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world**

and everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.
We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

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, Marian H., Michelle B., Maureen, Rob K., Liv C., Rich W., Anne H., Nina T., Mary H., Judy and Family, Janet, Peg T., Kate, Annie, Mackenzie, Bill, Jennifer C., Christine, Marissa, David W., Family and friends of Joan Morgan, Family and friends of Alan Guthrie, Family and friends of Dottie Intriari, 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 Frederick Howden, Jr., *Priest and Chaplain of the Armed Forces* (1941); Francis de Sales, *Bishop*, and Jane de Chantal, *Vowed Religious* (1622, 1641); Lucy of Syracuse, *Martyr* (304); and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Reader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices:

People: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read;

Reader: that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise,

People: its mind sound, and its will righteous;

Reader: to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Celebrant: 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 *All stand.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

[Romans 12:1]

Offertory

Largo and Allegro by Francesco Geminiani

Jeremy Rhizor

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy

LEVAS II # 255

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is He who comes in the name
 of the Lord, of the Lord.
 Ho-san-na in the high-
 est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "*Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*"

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "*Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.*"

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN!**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Music

Prepare the way O Zion

Hymnal # 65

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

BCP 365

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Advent Blessing

Celebrant: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Hymnal # 75

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Vivace by Francesco Geminiani

Jeremy Rhizor



Lucy of Syracuse, Martyr (304): Lucy, or Lucia, was martyred at Syracuse, in Sicily, during the Diocletian persecution of 303–304. Her tomb can still be found in the catacombs of Syracuse. She is remembered for her purity of life and her gentleness of spirit. Because her name means “light,” she is sometimes thought of as the patron saint of those who suffer from

diseases of the eyes and most revered because her feast day was for many centuries the shortest day of the year. In Scandinavian countries, particularly Sweden, Lucy's day has long been a festival of light. A young girl in the family dresses in pure white, wears a crown of lighted candles upon her head, and serves her family special foods prepared especially for the day. In praise of her service, the young girl is called Lucy for the day.

NOTE: There's a new book about Eleanor Roosevelt's prayer life and faith: *Eleanor Roosevelt's Nightly Prayer: The Religious Life of the First Lady of the World* by Donn Mitchell; \$21.16 on Amazon.

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, Zhane, 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.



- December 14:** Advent 3; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- December 20:** **Annual Christmas Concert** at 4 pm in the Village Hall
- December 21:** Advent 4; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- December 24:** Christmas Eve; Holy Eucharist service at 4 pm
- December 28:** Christmas 1: Morning Prayer II service at 10 am

Christmas *Concert*



WITH THE
ST. JAMES CHOIR

★ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 4 PM ★

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
296 Titicus Road, North Salem ★ stjamesns.com