



Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany:
February 1, 2026, 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:	Jen Upchurch
LECTOR:	Roe Intrieri
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:	Josh Leicht
USHER:	Kipp Good
COFFEE HOUR HOST:	Roe Intrieri & Chris Megerdichian

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

Song without Words by Felix Mendelssohn

Michael Mulder

Opening Hymn

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Hymnal # 653

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant and People: 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

Hymnal S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: 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.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

A Reading from the Book of Micah [6:1-8]

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15 *Domine, quis habitabit?*

BCP 599

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

New Testament Reading A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians [1:18-31]

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn Lord, thou has searched me and dost know Hymnal # 702

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [5:1-12]

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Celebrant and People:

- "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.**

**Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted
the prophets who were before you."**

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 VI

BCP 392

Reader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Reader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Reader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Reader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Reader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Reader: For Sean our Presiding Bishop; and Matthew and Allen our Bishops;
and for all bishops and other ministers;

People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Reader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. 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., Mike and Tanya, Bill F., Matthew, Family and friends of Meryl DiDio, 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.**

[People may add their own petitions]

Reader: Hear us, Lord;

People: For your mercy is great.

Reader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

[People may add their own thanksgivings]

Reader: We will exalt you, O God our King;

People: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Reader: We pray for all who have died, especially Brigid of Kildare, *Monastic* (c. 523); Anskar, *Bishop and Missionary* (865); Cornelius the Centurion, *the First Gentile Convert*; Manche Masemola, *Martyr* (1928); Agatha of Sicily, *Martyr* (c. 251); and the Martyrs of Japan (1597); that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

[People may add their own remembrances]

Reader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People: Who put their trust in you.

Reader and People:

Lord, you have given us your word for a light to shine on our path.

Inspire us to meditate on that word, and follow its teaching,

that we may find in it the light which shines more and more

until it is perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [Jerome]

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.**

Celebrant and People:

**Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word,
giving us gladness in our sorrow, your presence in our isolation.
Fill our lives with your light until they overflow with gladness and praise;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.** [David Silk]

The Peace *All stand.*

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

People: And also with you.

Announcements: The honor of your presence is requested to attend our **St. James Annual Meeting today**, directly after this service. After a fabulous and short coffee hour, the meeting will start promptly at 11:30 AM. All parishioners, including our 8:30 Black Coffee and Prayer participants, are encouraged to attend the meeting where the past year in review will be given, the 2026 budget presented and a new vestry voted in for the new year. To be eligible to vote, a parishioner needs to be 18 years of age, donates money through plate or pledge to the parish and attends St. James on a regular basis. Those running on the 2026 vestry slate are: Tom Stratman (2-year term) for Senior Steward; Philip Anderson, Jeremy Rhizor and Jen Upchurch will serve for a 3-year term; and Mike Mulder will continue on the Vestry for a 2-year term, but as Junior Steward.

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. [Psalm 50:14]

Offertory **Hark, I hear the harps eternal arr. Mark Hayes**

The St. James Choir

Great Thanksgiving **Eucharistic Prayer C**

BCP 369

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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
 as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, and Jacob & Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN!**

As now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

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

Take my life, and let it be

Hymnal # 707

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**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.**

Blessing

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you and upon all your work and worship done in his name. May he give you light to guide you, courage to support you, and love to unite you, now and evermore. **Amen.**

[The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory (1925)]

Closing Hymn

Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

Hymnal # 530

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

Postlude by Flor Peeters

Michael Mulder



Cornelius the Centurion was the first Gentile convert to the Christian faith, Cornelius was commander of one hundred men in the Roman army. With his household he became the nucleus of the church in Caesarea, and, according to tradition, became the city's second bishop.

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, Felix, Sue, Ewa, Jeannie and Margaret, Ross, Abu, Carmine S., Liv C.



Upcoming Services & Events

- February 8:** *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*; **Holy Eucharist service at 10 am**
- February 14:** **Teodosia: An Alt-Valentine Oratorio** at 4 pm in the Village Hall
- February 15:** **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**; **Holy Eucharist service at 10 am**
- February 18:** **Ash Wednesday**; Holy Eucharist service at 12 Noon
- February 22:** **First Sunday in Lent**; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- March 1:** **Second Sunday in Lent**; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- March 8:** **Third Sunday in Lent**; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- March 15:** **Fourth Sunday in Lent**; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- March 22:** **Fifth Sunday in Lent**; Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- March 29:** **Palm Sunday**; **Holy Eucharist service at 10 am**



Teodosia: An Alt-Valentine Oratorio
Presented by Village Hall Concerts, Academy of Sacred Drama

Saturday, February 14, 4 PM
Tickets: \$15–\$60 at villagehall.live

Join us Valentine's weekend for an outrageous alternative to the romance story: a fearless saint who spurns suitors, turns down marriage, and embraces martyrdom instead of a wedding veil.

Whether you're coupled up or flying solo, come enjoy an afternoon where being true to oneself is the first step to the ultimate relationship.