



**First Sunday in Lent:  
February 22, 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:	Josh Leicht
LECTOR:	Jen Upchurch
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:	Pat Hartwell
USHER:	Dawn Irizarry
COFFEE HOUR HOST:	Schneck Family

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# HOLY EUCHARIST: Rite II

## WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Near the cross of Jesus arr. Carl Maultsby

Michael Mulder

Opening Hymn

Lord, who throughout these forty days

Hymnal # 142

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who **forgives** all our sins;

People: His mercy endures for ever.

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.

Kyrie

Hymnal S-88

*Cantor or Choir*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

*All*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

*Cantor or Choir*

Chri - ste e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

*All*

Chri - ste e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

*Cantor or Choir* *All*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_ Ky - ri -

e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People: Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

## A Reading from the Book of Genesis [2:15-17; 3:1-7]

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 32 *Beati quorum*

BCP 624

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are **forgiven**, \*  
**and whose sin is put away!**
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, \*  
**and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
**because of my groaning all day long.**
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
**my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
**and did not conceal my guilt.**
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." \*  
**Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
**when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
- 8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; \*  
**you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
**I will guide you with my eye.**
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \*  
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."**

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
**but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; \*  
**shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

**New Testament Reading**

**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans [5:12-19]**

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

**Now let us all with one accord**

**Hymnal # 147**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [4:1-11]

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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; 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., Nina T., Janet,  
Annie, Mackenzie, Bill, Jennifer C., Christine, Marissa, Bro, Kathleen, Randy S., Bill F., Matthew,  
Bob, John G., Stephanie B., Erin, 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 Margaret of Cortona, *Monastic* (1297); Polycarp of Smyrna, *Bishop and Martyr* (156); Matthias, *Apostle*; Emily Malbone Morgan, *Lay Leader and Contemplative* (1937); Photini, *The Samaritan Woman* (c. 67); George Herbert, *Priest and Poet* (1633); and Anna Julia Haywood Cooper, *Educator* (1964); 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: O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week,

**People: you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life:**

Reader: Redeem all our days by this victory; **forgive** our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will;

**People: and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**     **Let us light a candle in the darkness by Richard Shephard**     **The St. James Choir**

### Litany of Healing

Celebrant: God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

**People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

**People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

**People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

**People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, grant them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

**People: Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Celebrant: You are the Lord who does wonders:

**People: You have declared your power among the peoples.**

Celebrant: With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

**People: And in your light we see light.**

Celebrant: Hear us, O Lord of Life:

**People: Heal us, and make us whole.**

### Healing Blessing

Celebrant: The Almighty Lord, who is a strong tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and obey: Be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only Name under heaven given for

health and salvation is the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**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*

**Hymnal S-129**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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

**Communion Music**

**O love, how deep, how broad, how high**

**Hymnal # 449**

**Postcommunion Prayer**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**Almighty and eternal God,  
so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds,  
so fill our imaginations, so control our wills,  
that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you;  
and then use us, we pray, as you will,  
and always to your glory and the welfare of your people;  
through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Lenten Blessing**

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Lenten Solemn Prayer**

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your **loving** providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn****Now quit your care****Hymnal # 145****Dismissal**

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude O love, how deep, how broad, how high** arr. Howard Helvey **Michael Mulder**



**Our Book for Lent:** We'll be reading through the following book during Lent, ***The Unvarnished Jesus: A Lenten Journey*** by Brian Zahnd. **Diocesan Book for Lent is: *For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional*** by Hanna Reichel. Bishop Heyd will be having Zoom discussions. More about this later.

**Lent** is the fast of 40 days before Easter. In the first three centuries the period of fasting in preparation for Easter did not, as a rule, exceed two or three days, as is evident from a statement of Irenaeus recorded by Eusebius. The first mention of a period of 40 days, occurs in the Canons of Nicaea (AD 325; can. 5). The custom may have originated in the prescribed fast of candidates for baptism, and the number 40 was evidently suggested by the 40 days' fasts of Moses, Elijah, and especially the Lord Himself, though till a much later date the period was reckoned differently in the different Churches...Lent is generally observed as a time of penance by abstaining from festivities, by almsgiving, and by devoting more than the usual time to religious exercises. Of recent years in the Western Church more emphasis has been placed on these aspects than on physical fasting.

[The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church]

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



## Upcoming Services & Events

- 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**
- April 2: **Maundy Thursday; Holy Eucharist service at 7:00 PM**
- April 3: **Good Friday service at 7:00 PM**
- April 4: **Easter Day!!! Holy Eucharist service at 10 am**