



Photo by Alison Hartwell

Fifth Sunday of Easter: May 3, 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
MUSIC and CHOIR DIRECTOR:	Michael Mulder
LAY READER:	Jen Upchurch
LECTOR:	Pat Hartwell
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:	Pat Hartwell
USHER:	Chris Megerdichian
COFFEE HOUR HOST:	Schneck Family

St. James Episcopal Church

296 Titicus Road / P.O. Box 459 North Salem, New York 10560

Phone: 914-669-5563 - Web: www.stjamesns.com

Email: stjamesnsny@gmail.com

Rev. Judy Ferguson, Priest-in-Residence; revjudy@stjamesns.com 914-329-1743

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

Sr. Warden: Tom Stratman (203) 482-3405 **Jr. Warden:** Michael Mulder (212) 243-0615
Vestry: Philip Anderson Margaret Eaton Robert Herzberg Jeremy Rhizor
Jen Upchurch Carolyn Young

Music Director: Michael Mulder (914) 485-1128
Pledge Recorders: Dawn Irizarry (914) 617-8241 Josh Leicht (914) 669-6743
Treasurer: Kipp Good (646) 641-9286

HOLY EUCHARIST: Rite II

WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Voluntary Vesper by Edward Elgar

Michael Mulder

Opening Hymn

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

Hymnal # 492

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter Season Proclamation

Celebrant: O God, you made us in your own image

People: and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:

Celebrant: Look with compassion on the whole human family;

People: take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts;

Celebrant: break down the walls that separate us;

People: unite us in bonds of love;

Celebrant: and work through our struggle and confusion

People: to accomplish your purposes on earth;

Celebrant: that, in your good time, all nations and races

People: may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne;

Celebrant: through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

People: Amen.

Glory to God *Gloria in excelsis*

LEVAS #243

Glo - ry,

Glo-ry, hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name, — Glo-ry,

Glo-ry hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name. —

1. Glo-ry to God — in the high-est, and peace to His peo - ple on earth. —

2. Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - migh-t - y God and Fa-ther, we

wor-ship you, - we give you thanks, - we praise you for - your glo-ry.

Unison

3. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, Glo-ry,
Glo-ry, hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name, - Glo-ry,

Glo-ry hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name. - 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,

Unison

7. You a - lone - are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it, in the

glo - ry of the Fa - ther. Glo - ry, Glo-ry, hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we

praise your Ho - ly name, - Glo-ry, Glo-ry hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we

Women

Praise your Ho - ly name.

Men

Praise your Ho - ly name.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

First Reading

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [7:55-60]

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *In te, Domine, speravi*

BCP 622

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; *

deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; *

make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *

for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *

for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *

for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

15 My times are in your hand; *

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *

and in your loving-kindness save me.

Second Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter [2:2-10]

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame" [Isaiah 28:16]. To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner"

[Psalm 118:22], and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall” [Isaiah 8:14]. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Holy God we praise thy Name

Hymnal # 366

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John [14:1-14]

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Judy Ferguson

Hymn

All Are Welcome

Insert

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 III

BCP 387

Reader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Reader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Reader: We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Bishops: Matthew and Allen; and all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Reader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Reader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;.

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress;

Reader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Reader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy, especially Elisabeth Cruciger, *Poet and Hymnographer* (1535); Monica, *Mother of Augustine of Hippo* (387); Martyrs of the Reformation Era (16/17th Cents.); George of Lydda, *Soldier and Martyr* (c. 304); Julian of Norwich, *Mystic and Theologian* (c. 1417); and Gregory of Nazianzus, *Bishop and Theologian* (389).

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Reader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

[People add their prayers or thanksgivings]

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, Ginny and Maar family, Dylan and Ann Marie, Rob K., Nina T., Mackenzie, Jennifer C., Marissa, Randy S., Fawn, Logan, Michael W., John C., Alan, Linda, Vince P., Mike T., Larry D., Bob F., Mary Pat, Family and friends of Tom Cikoski, those who have lost their jobs; those who have been taken and put into detention centers, especially Ben;** 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.**

Reader: Christ, you are risen with the sun;

People: you are light in our darkness,

Reader: warmth in our cold.

People: You are peace and hope and joy,

Reader: for you went willingly to death.

People: You turned defeat and failure to victory for all.

Reader: You live eternally, and with you live the millions,

People: living and dead, who trust in you. 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: If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. [Matthew 5:23, 24]

Offertory Like the murmur of the dove's song by Alan Smith

The St. James Choir

Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy *Sanctus*

Hymnal S-129



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.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with blessed James and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 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

Lord I have seen thy salvation

LEVAS # 153

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people
in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim
your redeeming love to the world and
continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Easter Season Blessing

Celebrant: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

The Church's one foundation

Hymnal # 525

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude

Sortie by Cesar Franck

Michael Mulder



Martyrs of the Reformation Era: The Roman Catholic Church commemorates the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales on May 4: men and women who were executed for treason between 1535 and 1679 for their allegiance to the Catholic Church. In recent years, the Church of England has shared this commemoration, broadening it to all of the English saints and martyrs of the Reformation era. This commemoration remembers not only Anglican martyrs like Thomas Cranmer, Hugh Latimer, and Nicholas Ridley, who died for their adherence to the Church of England, but those Catholics who were killed by Anglicans—

along with all other Christians who were persecuted by their fellow Christians for their beliefs, most notably the Anabaptists and the Quakers. Ecumenical dialogues around the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation have led many Christians to soul-searching questions about the role that our churches played in the persecution of other Christians for their beliefs. Without minimizing the seriousness of the theological disagreements or the inextricable links between religion and politics in that time, this commemoration asks us to recognize that within the heritage of our own tradition there were both victims and persecutors, and that there was a deeply Christian courage and holiness present in the martyrs from various confessions who were willing to die for their faith. It is a sobering reminder of just how swiftly Christians have often turned from being persecuted and oppressed to being the persecutors and the oppressors of others. By our baptisms we are incorporated into God's one church, and thus we are the heirs of both the martyrs and their executioners. It is this double heritage that must spur our efforts to heal our divisions and to work and pray for a future when Christ's prayer that his followers might be truly one as he and the Father are one (John 17:21) will be fulfilled. [*Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2024*]

Continuing Prayer List

Sara, Pam P., 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, Ann B., Joyce and Douglas K., Betsy, Mike Marshall and family, John W. and Susan, Jeanette, Dean W., Walter and family, Eileen, Sister CG, Jackie A., Abdul and Mohammed, Joanne and Marie, Robert, Sue, Ewa, Jeannie and Margaret, Ross, Abu, Sheryl and family, Jeffrey, Bro, Kathleen, Janet, Biran, Annie, Bill



Upcoming Services and Events

- May 9: **Art for Action** second viewing and silent auction from 12 to 5 in the Village Hall
- May 10: **Sixth Sunday of Easter:** Holy Eucharist service at 10 am; Mother's Day
- May 17: **Seventh Sunday of Easter:** Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- May 24: **Day of Pentecost–Whitsunday:** Holy Eucharist service at 10 am;
- May 31: **First Sunday after Pentecost–Trinity Sunday:** Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- June 7: **Second Sunday after Pentecost; Proper 5:** Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- June 14: **Third Sunday after Pentecost; Proper 6:** Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- June 21: **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost; Proper 7:** Holy Eucharist service at 10 am
- June 28: **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost; Proper 8:** Holy Eucharist service at 10 am



The Episcopal Diocese of
NEW YORK

Dear Friends in Christ,

This spring, the Canon team is pleased to invite you into a series of Online Learning Communities designed to support the shared work of ministry across the Diocese of New York.

We know that this is a time of both challenge and possibility for our congregations. Elevating local communities is the first of our Mission Priorities.

Equipping lay & clergy leaders is also a Mission Priority. Leadership is complex. Contexts are shifting. And yet, again and again, we see that when leaders gather—across congregations, roles, and regions—new clarity, creativity, and courage begin to emerge.

These Learning Communities are offered in that spirit.

Each gathering is designed as a space for practical tools, shared wisdom, and mutual support. Some are ongoing cohorts that will meet over several weeks; others are single-session workshops focused on a particular area of congregational life. Together, they reflect the breadth of ministry we share: governance, stewardship, property, formation, collaboration, and intercultural engagement.

This spring's offerings include:

- Support for wardens and treasurers serving congregations in transition
- Monthly treasurer check-ins
- A property-focused community
- A series on models of collaboration in ministry
- Confirmation preparation cohorts (adult, youth, and Spanish-language)
- College for Congregational Development (CCD) continued learning
- A cultural and multilingual ministry initiative
- Vestry conversations engaging the Moses Report
- A stewardship workshop for congregational leaders

These communities are open to clergy and lay leaders as appropriate to each topic, and we encourage you to share this invitation widely within your congregation.

We offer these not as programs to complete, but as spaces to join—places where we can think together, learn from one another, and strengthen the ministries entrusted to us.

Registration is open - for full descriptions, dates, and registration [click here](#).

As always, if you have questions about which offerings might be most helpful for your context, please reach out to your Canon.

We look forward to gathering with you this spring.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Canon Alissa Newton, Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. Canon Victor Conrado, Canon for New York City

The Rev. Canon Sam Owen, Canon for Westchester & Putnam Counties

The Rev. Canon Lisa Saunders Ahuja, Canon for Dutchess County

The Rev. Canon Tanya Wallace, Canon for Lay & Clergy Formation

The Rev. Canon Aaron Hudson, Canon for Vulnerable Congregations