

*Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am,
there will my servant be also.
Whoever serves me,
the Father will honor.*

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



SAINT JAMES
Episcopal Church

Sunday, March 17, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Eucharist Services at 8am and 10am

347 South Central Avenue, Alexander City, AL 35010. 256.234.4752. stjamesalexcity.com

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 | 8:00 am & 10:00 am

The Holy Eucharist

Processional.....Hymnal 441

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures for ever.

The Decalogue *(please kneel as able)*

Celebrant: Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Honor your father and your mother.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not commit murder.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not commit adultery.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not steal.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not be a false witness.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Trisagion

Celebrant: Holy God,
 Holy and Mighty
 Holy Immortal One

People: Have mercy upon us

(all verses sung at 10:00 am service)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: Also with you

Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated

The Lessons

First Reading.....Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Our Psalm for today is Psalm 119:9-16. Let us read in unison beginning and ending with the refrain.

Refrain Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord.

How shall a young man cleanse his way? *By keeping to your words. With my whole heart I seek you; *let me not stray from your commandments. I treasure your promise in my heart, *that I may not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; *instruct me in your statutes. With my lips will I recite *all the judgments of your mouth. I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees *than in all manner of riches. I

will meditate on your commandments *and give attention to your ways. My delight is in your statutes; *I will not forget your word.

Second Reading.....Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn (please stand as able).....Hymnal 474

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

The Gospel.....John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat

falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon (*please be seated*).....**The Rev. Rob Iler**

The Nicene Creed.....**BCP 358**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose

again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

Prayers of the People Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

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

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; Especially Michael, our presiding bishop, Glenda our bishop, Brian our assisting bishop, Rob our priest, and Judy our deacon.

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

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

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

That our works may find favor in your sight.

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

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, including those on our parish prayer list.

Silence

Celebrant: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept

Celebrant and People: 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

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

People: And also with you.

Announcements

- Galina Durden and Mary Battistella will be leading the effort to make palm frond crosses for Palm Sunday. Please join us at 9 am on Saturday, March 23, in Stough Hall to make crosses. Galina and Mary will teach how to make crosses if you haven't done this before.
- Volunteers are needed during Holy Week to serve on teams and as dish washers for Lenten Lunches. A sign up sheet is in Stough Hall. Please contact Leslie Loftis at (770) 789-4459 with questions or for additional information.
- Share the Spirit of the resurrection of our Lord with St. James' on Easter Sunday with the gift of flowers in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone special, or in thanksgiving of a special blessing. Forms are available in Stough Hall. Completed forms and donations may be placed in the collection plate or submitted to the church office.
- Next Sunday, 03/24, is Palm Sunday. There will be one service at 10:00 am. We will gather in the memorial garden to bless the palms then process into the church.
- On Easter Sunday, 03/31, services will be held at 8:00 am and 10:00 am with brunch at 9:00am. For brunch, we are in need of egg and olive, pimento cheese and chicken salad sandwiches along with bite size desserts such as cookies, sliced cakes, brownies, pastries. Please sign up in Stough Hall. Thank you. Sydney Smith, ssmith4843@aol.com.
- The St James Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell is scheduled for Dec. 6-8. If you are interested in attending, please indicate your interest by signing up on the form in Stough Hall. If you are interested in helping plan the weekend, please let Cathy Gassenheimer know.

- St. James has a wonderful network of Care Teams organized loosely by neighborhood. These teams provide support to fellow parishioners when needed, for example if someone is sick and needs meals or rides to the doctor or just desires a visit from a friendly face. You can check to see whether you are on a Care Team in the online parish directory. If you are new to St. James and would like to be included in the directory, or if you need to know how to access it, please contact Jennifer James in the parish office at 256-234-4752. If you need to be added to a Care Team, please contact Scotti Bozeman at scottibozeman@gmail.com or at 770-664-7683.

Offertory

Offertory Response.....*“All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.”Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer C

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

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: 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.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

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

Celebrant: 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.
People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant: 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.....Hymnal S125/BCP 362

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: 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,

People: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; 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.

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

Celebrant: 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.*

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People: 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.

The Breaking of the Bread.....BCP 364
Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *People:*
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Communion Hymn 1.....Hymnal 475

Communion Hymn 2.....Hymnal 691

Post Communion Prayer.....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.*

Blessing

Recessional.....Hymnal 473

Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

St. James Prayer Requests

The following parishioners, friends and extended family members are remembered in our prayers.

Our Parish Family

Jim Bent	Barry Boddie	Janice Boone
Alyce Carlisle	Florence Copeland	Faye Holliday
Phyllis McAnally	Ann Regnier	Angie Smith
Jimbo Spencer	Sherwood Stewart	Judy Stone

Family and Friends

Ann Phillips Arrington		Leslie Avel
Ruth Barbee	Joe Beard	Nan Beard
Lauren Cessna	Tommy Chance	Johndra Culp
Jerry Dickson	Bob Dixon	Jane Fenwick
Joe Fenwick	Derek Fox	Katy Gaddis
Brenda Gainey	Vicki Galamore	Emiko Garner
Mary Garner	Joe Gassenheimer	Susan Hammock
Carolyn Keesee	Tom Lamberth	Clint Langley
Buddy Looney	Dale Martin	Carolyn Nalls
Mary Frances Nelson	John Nichols	Jayne Ogilvie
Jim Peace	Joe Peel	Dana Poisal
Eric Reutebuch	Chris Sheheane	Richard Smith
Jennifer Spraggins	Mary Taylor	Ann Grey Tate
Honey Trowbridge	Dot Vines	Nina Ware
Ronnie Weathers	Rusty White	Cyndi Wilson
Annette Worthy	Dave Young	

Please keep all of our military personnel in your prayers. Please pray for the following active military personnel.

Drew Belcher	Alex Duldt	Orrin Harbol
Seth Harbol	K.C. Hollon	Paul Krattiger
Ryan Sullivan	Bo Shippen Waldo	Andrew Walker

We give thanks for the following parishioners and family members celebrating birthdays this week.

Vic Peterson	Donna Parker	Roy Granger
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In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd. We pray for all who plan and lead Christian Formation in the parishes. We pray for Episcopal Retreat Houses and places of spiritual refreshment. We also pray for St. Joseph on the Mountain (Mentone).

Throughout the Anglican Communion we pray for The Church in Wales.

Prayer for the Parish Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

St. James Episcopal Church

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THE MOST REV. MICHAEL CURRY
PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE RT REV. GLENDA CURRY
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

THE RT. REV. BRIAN PRIOR
ASSISTING BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAFF

THE REV. ROBERT ST. GERMAIN-ILER, RECTOR

THE REV. JUDY QUICK, DEACON

BARBARA BARNES, ORGANIST

JENNIFER JAMES, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

KRISTY STEELE, DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCER

2024 VESTRY AND OFFICERS

Barbara Barnes, Hospitality
Charles Copeland, Finance
Kathy Graham, Sr. Warden
Randy Adair, Jr. Warden
Mel Loftis, Clerk

Scotti Bozeman, Parish Life
Rick Gassenheimer, Outreach
Jill Hiers, Kitchen
Harry DeNegre, Hospitality
Susan Mange, Treasurer

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	8:00 am	10:00 am
Readers	Charlotte Bent & Diana French	Carol Gowan & Betsy Iler
Intercessor	Sharon VanParys	Rick Gassenheimer
Server	Joanna Roberson	Joe Smith & Scotti Bozeman
Oblations		Rick & Galina Durden
Ushers		Bee Worpell & Dick Chambliss
Coffee Hosts		Charles & Scooter Copeland