

# ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 10:30 am

#### Welcome to St. James's!

We're glad that you have joined us today to enjoy the blessings of worship and to participate with us in God's mission in the world of justice and love.

However you come to this place, exhausted or energized by life, comfortable with church or not, gay or straight, trans, nonbinary, cisfemale or cismale; of color or white, neurodivergent or neurotypical, persons with or without disabilities, younger or older! Whoever you are,

know the people of St. James's strive to love and welcome you as God does, unconditionally and completely just as you are!

## 10:30 am The Fifth Sunday in Lent, Holy Eucharist

Acolytes Marian King, Jonte Folkes

Eucharistic Ministers JT Kittredge, Mabel Moore-Pollard

Minister of Music Patrick Michaels

Preacher and Presider The Rev. Michele Torres

Readers Donna Thompson, Michael Anthony

Ushers Gene Corbin

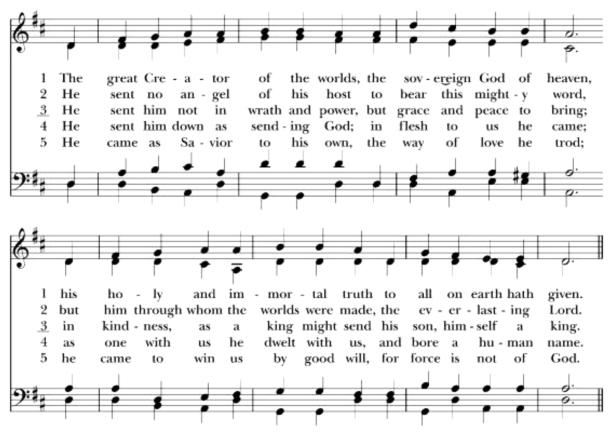
Videographer Michael Anthony

Welcomer JT Kittredge

## A Penitential Order

Words of Welcome

**Tolling of the Bell** 



6 Not to oppress, but summon all their truest life to find, in love God sent his Son to save, not to condemn mankind.

Words: Epistle to Diognetus, ca. 150; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev. Music: Tallis' Ordinal, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585)

## **Opening Words**

Presider Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People God's mercy endures forever.

## **Confession of Sin**

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept for a time and the community kneels as they are able.

## All then say

Merciful God, we confess to you our pain:

The pain we have inflicted on others and ourselves,

The pain that keeps us paralyzed by day and awake at night,

The pain of strangers across the world whose lives we cannot touch,

the pain of systems unyielding and untouchable,

and the pain of the earth you have given unto our care.

We invite you into our pain

We invite you to heal us, and forgive us,

To undo what is crushing and wrong,

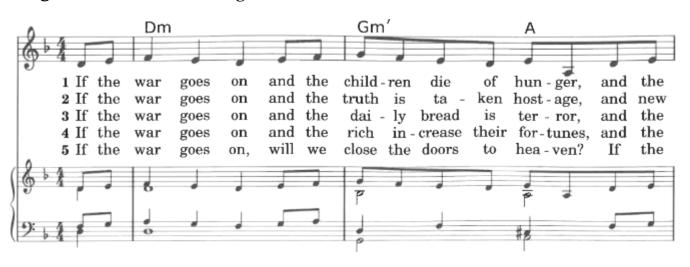
To bring peace and even joy.

Hear now our confession, offered to you in hope. Amen.

## The Presider then says

Fear not, friends: God, who is full of grace and abounding in steadfast love, meets us in our sin and transforms us for God's glory and the healing of God's world. In the name of God: Creator, Christ, Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven, be now at peace. **Amen.** 

## Song of Praise: If the war goes on



SIS 175



Words and Music: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, @1997, 2002, WGRG Iona Community. OneLicense.net License #A-700155

## The Word of God

## The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you. People And also be with you.

Presider Let us pray.

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.** 

The First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-13 Robert Brauneis



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \* in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness \* and cleanse me from my sin. *Refrain* 

For I know my transgressions, \* and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned \* and done what is evil in your sight. *Refrain* 

And so you are justified when you speak \* and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \* a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \* and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \* wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. *Refrain* 

Make me hear of joy and gladness, \* that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins \* and blot out all my iniquities. *Refrain* 

Cast me not away from your presence \* and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again \* and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. *Refrain* 

## The Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

Donna Thompson

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

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,

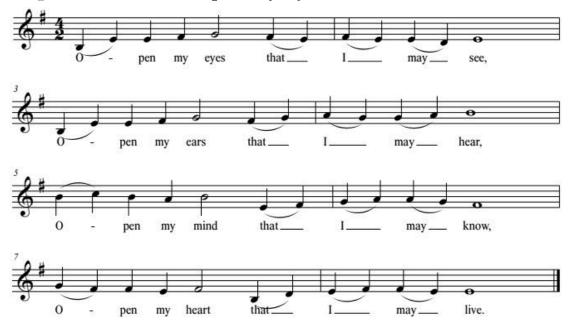
"You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation: Open My Eyes



Music and text @ 2001, 2005 Kristopher Erik Lindquist. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## The Holy Gospel: John 12:20-33

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John. People Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 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.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord. People Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon** The Rev. Michele Torres

#### Nicene Creed

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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. who 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**

Michael Anthony

In peace, we pray to you, O God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

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

For this community, the nation, and the world;

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

For the just and proper use of your creation;

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

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

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

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

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

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Alan and Carol, our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, God, for all the blessings of this life.

The People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Presider then says

Empowering God, those things that your servants have now prayed for, give us all grace and power to work for, and in the purpose of your love answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes. **Amen.** 

#### The Peace

*Presider* The peace of God be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

#### **Announcements & Celebrations**

The people are now invited to come forward to share announcements, birthday and anniversary blessing requests, or prayer requests. The community's prayer is then gathered as they sing together:

May God bless you; May God keep you; May God's love be with you; May God grant you peace and wisdom; May God ever be with you.

# The Holy Communion

## **Offertory Sentence**

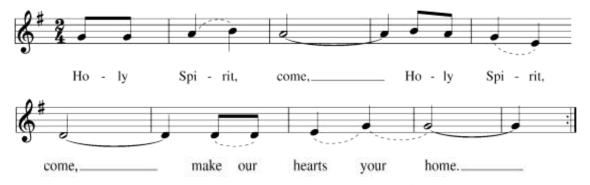
The Presider says

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

Offertory Anthem: If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee Georg Neumark, 1640

The Adult Choir arr. Jody W. Lindh

## Presentation Hymn: Holy Spirit, Come



Words and Music: Traditional Ojibway Iullaby from Chippewa Music by Frances Densmore (1867-1957)
Each alternative text is sung independently and repeated numerous times.

## The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching our Worship: Eucharistic Prayer 2

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you. Presider Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

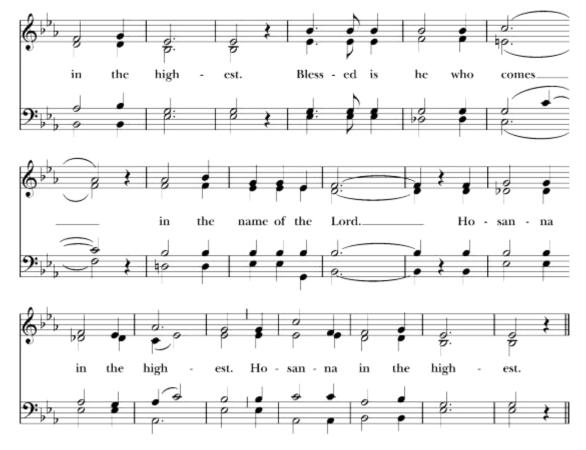
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### The Presider says

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus S 130





The Presider continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, your holy child. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Saint James and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.** 

And 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.

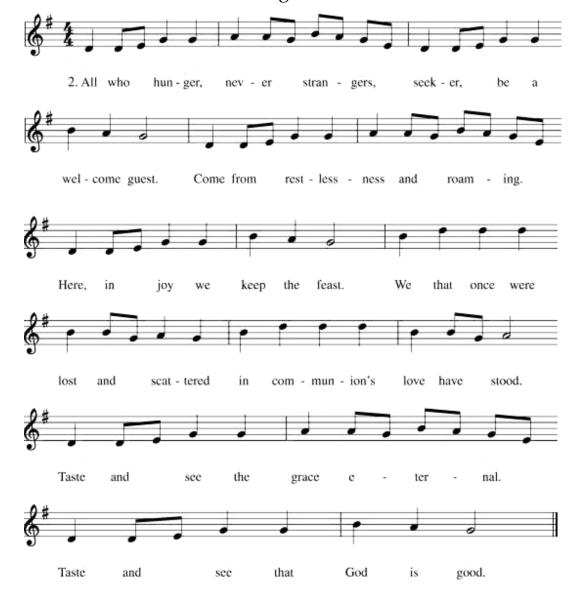
And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread** (Silence is kept)

## Fraction Anthem: All who hunger



Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) @1991 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Holy Manna, from Southern Harmony, 1835

#### The Invitation

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

#### **Administration of Communion**

The people are invited to come forward to receive communion when directed by an usher.

Those that wish a blessing or a gluten-free, allergen-free wafer are welcome to ask for that.

All are welcome and encouraged to receive Communion from God's table.

Text: David Gambrell Music: Patrick Michaels

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Words: Traditional Music: Negro Spiritual, arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from the Haywood Collection Copyright @ 1992

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Presider Let us pray.

People Faithful, generous, abiding God, we give you thanks for the bread of

heaven and the cup of salvation. May the taste of this meal so linger that we will be strengthened in our Lenten journey. Give us courage to hear and live what may seem hard so that we can find deeper

relationship in you and serve your vision of a redeemed world. Amen.

## **Blessing**

Presider

May the cross be the sign in which we begin again to untie the cords of violence, the misery of exclusion, and to proclaim God's unconditional love; and the blessing of the one God: who is beyond us, and among us, and within us, be with you, now and always. Amen.

# Closing Hymn: I bind unto myself







Words: Att. Patrick (372-466); tr. Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Music: St. Patrick's Breastplate, Irish melody; adapt. Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924).

St. 6, Deirdre, Irish melody; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

### **Dismissal**

*Presider* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

Saint James's Episcopal Church 1991 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02140 Website: www.stjamescambridge.org Office Email: office@stjamescambridge.org Emergency Pastoral Line: 857-600-1329

Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers? Email Rev. Matt at matt@stjamescambridge.org

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