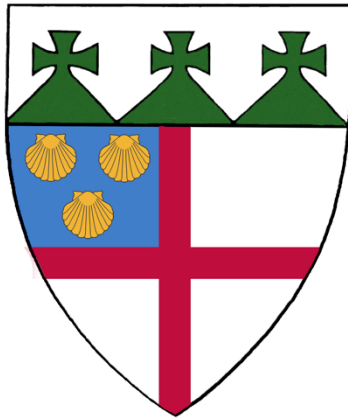


Welcome to

Saint James

Episcopal Church

First Parish of the Episcopal Church in Vermont
est. 1764



The Season of Lent

Service of Holy Eucharist
Rite II, Prayer A

Welcome to St. James

The Episcopal Church, part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, is known for its distinctive style of worship that balances scripture, tradition, and reason. Its liturgy, deeply rooted in the Book of Common Prayer, creates a home for peoples of ALL identities and backgrounds to worship together in commonality.

How do I use the bulletin?

Worship is an occasion of the heart, body, and mind. For this reason, the liturgy contains instructions and visual cues for when to read along, respond to prayer, and sit, kneel, or stand, as is your preference. You are also welcome to sit and take part as you are comfortable. As the Episcopal Church says, “all may, some should, none must.”

Bold lines indicate the people’s response, such as responding “Amen” to prayers.

Italic lines indicate instructions for the people, such as when it is proper to stand, sit, or kneel.

Bathrooms, Elevator, and Coffee Hour

Bathrooms are located downstairs in our parish hall. The stairs and elevator are in the Narthex (the room between a sanctuary and the outside). Our coffee hour is also downstairs in the lounge just beyond the parish hall.

Seasons of the Liturgical Year

| Advent | Christmas | Epiphany | **Lent** |
| Holy Week | Easter | After Pentecost |

The season now known as **Lent** has a long history. The term lent comes from the Old English word *lencten* which means “spring” (the lengthening of days.) Early Christians observed “a season of penitence and fasting” in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp. 264-265).

All Christians are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word” (BCP, p. 265).

Staying Connected

Saint James highly values the unique gifts and qualities that each of us brings to this shared community, our parish.

Ways to stay connected or to learn more are:

- Getting to know people during coffee hour.
- Receiving our Newsletter “The Shell.”
- Volunteering on a team in church, like the worship team, garden club, parish life, and many more!
- Keep coming back. Whether you’re a pragmatic joiner or a jump-in-with-two-feet kind of person, every style of getting to know us is appreciated.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

While in other seasons a prelude may be played, during lent, we hold a prayerful silence. You are invited to center yourself in prayerful contemplation.

The people stand as they are able

THE GREAT LITANY

A litany is a particular type of prayer in which the people make fixed responses to petitions. First printed in 1544, the Great Litany has frequently been used during the Lenten season to refocus our hearts.

Celebrant: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,
People: **Have mercy on us.**

Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,
Have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and
hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and malice; and from
all evil intent,
Savior deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from
hardness of heart and contempt for your word

and your laws,
Savior deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the
world, flesh and the devil,
Savior deliver us.

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder,
and dying unprepared,
Savior deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the
hour of our death and at the day of judgment,
Savior deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your
birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism,
fasting and temptation,
Savior deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty
acts of power; by the preaching of your reign,
Savior deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;
by your precious death and burial,
Savior deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious
ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
Savior deliver us.

*As we pray, you are invited to
come forward and light a candle.*

Intercessor: Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations.

Hear us, O Christ.

Enlighten your bishops, priests, deacons, and lay ministers with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for _____ and in the Vermont Cycle of Prayer, we prayer for _____.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.

Hear us, O Christ.

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.

Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; raise up the fallen; and finally

beat down Satan under our feet.

Hear us, O Christ.

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give your wisdom and strength to Joe Biden, the President of the United States, Phil Scott Governor of this state, and all the Select Boards in Bennington County, that in all things they may do your will, for your glory and the common good.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give to the Congress of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet, those who serve in our state legislature, and all others in authority the grace to walk always in the ways of truth.

Hear us, O Christ.

Bless the justices of the Supreme Court and all those who administer the law, that they may act with integrity and do justice for all your people.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.

Hear us, O Christ.

Bless and keep all your people,
Hear us, O Christ.

Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved
(especially ___) and the oppressed.
Hear us, O Christ.

Keep in safety those who travel (especially ___)
and all who are in peril.
Hear us, O Christ.

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit (especially
___) and provide for the homeless, the hungry
and the destitute.
Hear us, O Christ.

Guard and protect all children who are in danger.
Hear us, O Christ.

Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages
and refugees, and all who are in trouble.
Hear us, O Christ.

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers,
and turn their hearts.
Hear us, O Christ.

Hear us as we remember those who have died
(especially ___) and grant us with them a share in
your eternal glory.
Hear us, O Christ.

Then the Celebrant says

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word.

The Celebrant and the people say together

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.**

THE KYRIE

Hymnal 1982, S-91

Hymn numbers beginning with S are service music and can be found in the first 230 pages of the blue Hymnal.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

see bulletin insert

A Collect is offered to summarize, or <u>collect</u> , the thoughts and hopes of the congregation in prayer.
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The people are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

see bulletin insert

Upon conclusion of the reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

see bulletin insert

Upon conclusion of the reading:

People: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

THE SECOND LESSON

see bulletin insert

Upon conclusion of the reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as they are able

THE GRADUAL HYMN

see hymn board

THE GOSPEL

see bulletin insert

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior
 Jesus Christ according to _____.

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

Upon conclusion of the reading:

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

After the sermon, Silence is kept

PROFESSION OF FAITH (NICENE CREED)

This ancient creed retains its importance to God's church because it is a collective understanding of God's love and redeeming grace. (*Creed from Enriching our Worship*)

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.

THE PEACE

Every person is cherished by God. We extend the greeting of God's peace to one another as an affirmation of our love and God's love for each other.

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

People: **God's Peace: You Are Beloved.**

*The people stand and offer each other God's peace
with the above expression.*

The people remain standing.

STEWARDSHIP & OFFERTORY

Scripture says we give out of generosity and joy, to question what we find important in life, and to deepen our faith. We put our offerings on the altar that God may transform them and us for God's purpose.

We invite you to give to the work of the church electronically by visiting us on our website: www.stjamesarlingtonvt.org

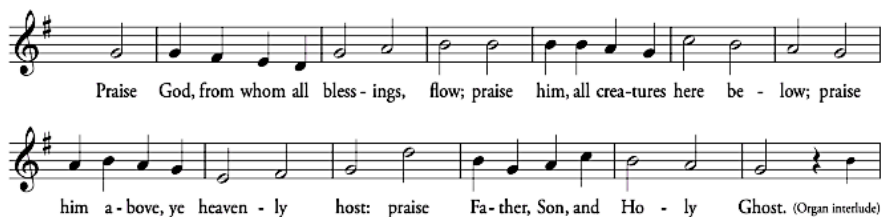
I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

OFFERTORY HYMN

see hymn board

Celebrant: As you arrived you were given a token. In addition to what you might normally give, we invite you to place the token in the plate with a prayerful offer of yourself to God. It could be a promise of time, talent, treasure, or resolution; it could even be a prayer of desperation or thanksgiving—a gift of your vulnerability to God.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings, flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. (Organ interlude)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: PRAYER A

The form and structure of the Eucharist traces back to the origins of Christian prayer. Prayer A recalls our human brokenness and offers gratitude to God for loving us no matter what.

The people remain standing.

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is a right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth.

The Celebrant will say a Proper Preface, then continue:

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.

Celebrant and People:

**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.

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

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

Traditional

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.

Contemporary

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your
Name, your kingdom
come, your will be
done, on earth as in
heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.
Forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin
against us.
Save us from the time of
trial, and deliver us
from evil.
For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory
are yours, now and for
ever.
Amen

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover
is sacrificed for us;

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

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant and People:

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**ALL ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED
TO COME FORWARD.**

To receive a blessing, cross your arms at your chest.

Communion is offered in one or both kinds.

Two chalices are available—one for intinction by the priest, the other for drinking from. Research still shows that the most hygienic options are to drink directly from a silver/gold cup or have the priest dip the wafer into the wine for you. **For sanitary reasons, intinction by the participant is not permitted.**

To receive the sacrament of bread & wine: either extend one hand for the bread alone, or for the bread and then to drink from the cup; or place one hand on top of the other for the bread dipped in the wine by the priest.

Gluten free wafers are available; simply ask the priest. Please let an usher know if communion should be brought to you.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant and People:

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.

THE BLESSING

After the Blessing the people are seated

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To sign up for our weekly parish newsletter please email the parish office.

The people stand as they are able

CLOSING HYMN

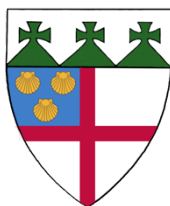
see hymn board

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please join us for coffee hour!
Thank you to all the volunteers who
made today possible.



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