

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES

November 22, 2020

The Last Sunday after Pentecost—Christ the King

Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Word of God

Organ Voluntary Marche Triomphale: Nun Danket alle Gott, Op. 65 *Sigfrid Karg-Elert*
Played on the Saint James Organ by Sean Price (1877-1933)

**This Sunday's flowers are given by Adrienne & James Thomas in thanksgiving for
Irving Arthur Thomas, Mary Rose Shields Thomas,
Joseph Di Norcia, and Livia Caprio Di Norcia**

Opening Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns

[Click Link](#)

The Greeting

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

**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.**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of
the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our
prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Leader: Behold! Listen!
Congregation: **This is important!**

Collect for the Community (*Read together in unison*)

Gracious God, strengthen in us the two values that we hold central as a Christian Community. These values are inspired by Jesus' two great commandments. First, we love God or something greater than ourselves with all our hearts and mind, and second we commit to loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. There is no boundary or condition to our love and commitment to God or to our neighbor, no matter who they may be. All are welcome in this place. Amen.

The First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm (*Call and respond, alternating by verse*)

Psalm 100

1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; * serve the LORD with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

2 **Know this: The LORD himself is God; * he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; * give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

4 **For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; * and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

The Epistle

Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. C. Melissa Hall

The Nicene Creed (*Recited In Unison*)

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.

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

We invite you now to make your own prayers and thanksgivings aloud or in the privacy of your heart.

Please e-mail names for the prayer list to Rev. Audrey: ahasselbrook@optonline.net

Concluding Collect

The Confession and Absolution

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 Sharing of the Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer A

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**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.**

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.**

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,

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Fraction Anthem

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

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

The Invitation

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.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray

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, Benediction, and Dismissal

Closing Hymn

Now Thank We All our God

[Click Link](#)

Please keep in touch with us. You will be hearing from us weekly by phone and email.
Please watch for weekly messages and homilies from Rev. Melissa and Rev. Audrey.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT TAMES

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REV. MELISSA'S AVAILABILITY: BY APPOINTMENT

REV. AUDREY'S AVAILABILITY: SUNDAY—THURSDAY AND BY APPOINTMENT

The Episcopal Church of Saint James

The Rev. C. Melissa Hall, Rector

The Rev. Audrey Hasselbrook, Assistant Rector

The Rev. Dr. Walter Lewis, Assisting Priest

Mr. Sean Price, Director of Music Ministries

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The Episcopal Church of St. James COVID-19 Re-open Criteria

Excerpted from Bishop Hughes' letter to the diocese, November 13, 2020:

Infection rates in New Jersey have been steadily increasing since Labor Day. This month the increase has been rapid and associated with a rise in hospitalizations. Due to the fast-growing infection rate in New Jersey, we must adjust our approach to in-person worship. Further, we will need to take special precautions after the Thanksgiving holiday to ensure that we lower risk in our parishes.

After Thanksgiving, the following adjustment will begin on November 29, for at least 2 weeks:

- *Indoor in-person gatherings will be limited to 10 people, all inclusive (including clergy, musicians, tech folks, congregants, etc.)*
- *Outdoor in-person gatherings are limited to 50 people, all-inclusive (including clergy, musicians, tech folks, congregants, etc.)*

These limits are for all church gatherings, including weddings and funerals.

We will need to be very careful from Thanksgiving into January. Holiday gatherings have the potential to increase infection through mid-January. We will adjust our gathering guidelines as needed, including relaxing them when infection rates lower.

For Saint James these are difficult decisions to make, but they are driven by an absolute need for congregational safety. Please see the three benchmarks below that Saint James is utilizing as an indicator for in-house attendance of worship, from the present time through January 15th.

They are indicators of infection rate and disease spread utilized by HHS, the WHO, Harvard Institute for Global Health, CDC and the White House COVID 19 Task Force. After January 15th Saint James will consider offering **limited** in-person worship if **all three** of the following statistical criteria related to infection activity are achieved.

- Transmission Rate (Rt) is less than 1.0 in Essex County
- Number of Daily New Cases below 5 per 100,000 in Essex County
- Positive Test Rate below 5% in New Jersey
(additional information on the stats can be found at covidactnow.org)

In addition to monitoring these benchmarks daily we will continue to seek guidance from our Parish Nurse Cathlyn Robinson, Emergency Room Nurse Practitioner at Saint Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson, and from Romesh Sukhdeo, the Assistant Prosecutor of Essex County in charge of COVID surveillance.

Once we achieve a 7-day rolling average indicating safe benchmark levels and with the guidance of our parish-based health experts, we will then consider implementing the extensive plan for in-house worship put together by our Saint James Re-Opening Committee.

Until that time we will continue on with our virtual church activities.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

The Reverend Melissa Hall, Rector
Saint James Episcopal Church