

Sunday, September 27, 2020, 9:30 a.m. Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite 2

Hymn

Sing, ye faithful (vv. 1-2)

Hymnal 492

1 Sing, ye faith - ful, sing with glad - ness, wake your no - blest,
2 Sing how he came forth from hea - ven, bowed him-self to
3 So, he tast - ed death for mor - tals, he, of hu - man -
4 Now on high, yet ev - er with us, from his Fa - ther's

sweet - est strain, with the prais - es of your Sa - vior
Beth - lehem's cave, stooped to wear the ser - vant's ves - ture,
kind the head, sin - less one, a - mong the sin - ful,
throne the Son rules and guides the world he ran - somed,

let his house re - sound a - gain; him let all your
bore the pain, the cross, the grave, passed with - in the
Prince of life, a - mong the dead; thus he wrought the
till the ap - point - ed work be done, till he see, re -

mu - sic hon - or, and your songs ex - alt his reign.
gates of dark - ness, thence his ban - ished ones to save.
full re - demp - tion, and the cap - tor cap - tive led.
newed and per - fect, all things gath - ered in - to one.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt.
Music: *Finnian*, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930)

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The Word of God

Opening Sentences

BCP pg. 355

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

BCP pg. 355

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.

Gloria

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reading

Exodus 17:1–7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (*responsively, the people's response in **bold***)

Hear my teaching, O my people; *

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

Reading

Philippians 2:1–13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

1 All praise to thee, for thou, O King di - vine, Didst yield the
 2 Thou cam'st to us in low - li - ness of thought; By thee the
 3 Let this mind be in us which was in thee, Who wast a
 4 Where-fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur - pose, thou Art high ex -
 5 Let ev - 'ry tongue con-fess with one ac - cord In heav'n and

glo - ry that of right was thine, That in our dark-en'd hearts thy
 out - cast and the poor were sought, And by thy death was God's sal -
 ser - vant that we might be free, Hum-bling thy - self to death on
 alt - ed o'er all crea-tures now, And giv'n the Name to which all
 earth that Je - sus Christ is Lord; And God the Fa-ther be by

grace might shine.
 va - tion wrought.
 Cal - va - ry. Al - le - lu - ial Al - le - lu - ial
 knees shall bow.
 all a - dored.

St. 1, 2, 3, 4 *St. 5* *In harmony*
 A - men.

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 Alternative Tune, SINE NOMINE, No. 126

F. BLAND TUCKER, 1938

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The Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard

John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

HYMN

All praise to thee (vv. 4–5)

see previous page

The Sermon

The Rev. George Roberts

The Nicene Creed

BCP pg. 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Giving glory to God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the company of the holy angels, let us pray for all the concerns of the world, responding, Lord, hear our prayer.

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, Presiding Bishop; Ian and Laura, our Bishops, and for every priest, deacon, or lay leader; for this holy gathering – in person and online – and for the people of God in every place. We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all candidates for public office, for humility, hopefulness, courage, integrity and grace; and for mercy, justice, and peace among all peoples. We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For abundant fruits of the earth and for this good and bountiful world. For the people of Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, following a series of storms, and for the people of California, Oregon, and Washington state, as they battle and struggle with fires; for all first responders. We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those in desperate need: the sick and the suffering, prisoners, the homeless, the addicted and the mentally ill. For all who have asked for our prayers: for Jonah and Lisa, for Preston and his family; for Bob Johansen, Dee, Michael, Grayson Mark Langan, John, Laura, Samantha Rogers, Henry, Marlene, and Kim; Ann, Peggy, Dennis, Elaine, Bonnie Mullen, and all others, silently or aloud ... We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who rest in Christ and for all the departed, especially Terry Williams, who died last week after a long illness, and for her family. For all others, silently or aloud ... We pray, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God, who calls on us to do your will in the vineyards of this world, hear the prayers we offer this day and receive all peoples into your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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.**

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

A Clare Benediction

John Rutter

The Doxology

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where 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:

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.

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray

**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.**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

During Holy Communion, those at home, who cannot physically receive Communion, are encouraged to say the following prayer, one of spiritual Communion:

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I present to You my soul and body with the earnest wish that they may always be united to You. And since I cannot now receive You, O God, sacramentally, I beseech You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, Almighty One, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate You from me. May I live and die, ever in Your love. Amen.

[Armed Forces Prayer Book, 1951]

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Announcements

HYMN

Rock of ages, cleft for me (vv. 1, 3)

Hymnal 685

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my-self in thee;
2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,
3 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound-ed side that flowed,
all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;
when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou-ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my-self in thee.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Rock of ages, cleft for me'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the staves. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my-self in thee; 2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know, 3 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death, let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound-ed side that flowed, all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone; when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne, be of sin the dou-ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power. in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling. Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my-self in thee.'

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), alt.
Music: *Toplady*, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872)

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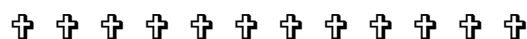
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The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

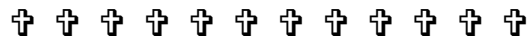


Serving this week

Crucifer	Chloe Roberts
Altar Guild	Mimi Hostetter
Lector	Elizabeth McBride
Ushers	Jamie & Cathie Martin
Care Ministry/Flower Delivery	Andrea Harris

Today's altar flowers are given in memory of Ellie Paye.

~ Donna & Dave Paye



Thank you to Rachel Abrams for sharing her music with us this morning.

Join us online for worship this morning! Watch us on Facebook Live (you do NOT need to have a Facebook account) – <https://bit.ly/StJamesLive>

Sunday Bible Study: Please join us via Zoom as we begin our study of Romans, following worship on Sunday morning. **We will convene at approximately 11:00 a.m. (NEW time)** and share a time of discernment and discussion. The Zoom meeting info is:

<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 872 9689 7556; Passcode: 971582

Join us for worship during the week on Facebook Live on St. James Parish's Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/StJamesLive>

Mondays for Morning Prayer at 9 am

Wednesdays for Evening Prayer at 5 pm

Fridays for Compline at 7:30 pm.

Name that pew! Last month we put out a call to try to connect people to their space by having them "name" pews for places in the Bible. So far I have only two and they are good ones: *Gethsemane* and *Jericho* and both have wonderful points of meaning. I don't want to give away who submitted those two yet, but for the person submitting Gethsemane, she said it was "a very poignant place for me when I visited the Holy Land some years ago." Our Jericho submission chose that ancient city name, touching on meaning from both Old and New Testaments: "where we learn to knock down the walls separating us from God and ask to be healed of our blindness, like Bartimaeus." Join in the fun! Submit a place (doesn't have to be a town or city, *i.e.* Gethsemane) and a reason that has meaning for you (in a sentence). Let us hear your place and claim your pew(s)! Send your names to st.james.church@sbcglobal.net

The lectionary readings for next week, October 4th are:

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 121; Galatians 6: 14-18; Matthew 11: 25-30

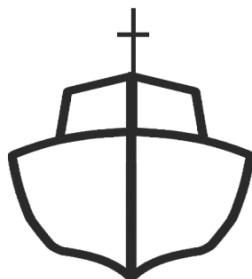


On Sunday, October 4th, at 3 p.m., we invite folks to gather on the front lawn of St. James Parish, where we will hold our annual *Blessing of the Animals* in honor of Francis and as our own blessing of the created world God has given to us. The wearing of masks will be required and we will socially distance, even though we are outdoors.

Bring your furry friend (or scaly, or whatever, as long as it is not poisonous or aggressive) for a blessing! Gathering in what way we can to honor the world, as we may, is a great privilege and blessing. See you then!!

We have a tremendously exciting Christian Formation year for our congregation and beyond, in the 2020-21 program year. We will partner with the Spiritual Life Center (SLC), in West Hartford, to present a year on Christian Spiritual Practices. Part of walking the way of Jesus and truly living the Christian life means drawing forever closer to the Divine presence. In our busy lives, however, finding new, creative, AND practical ways to live the Christian life and engage in our spiritual journey (we are all on one, by the way) can be very challenging indeed. Our first workshop on Christian Spiritual practices is coming early in October. Signup is available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084AADA82FA46-spiritual>

Contemplative prayer, Andree Grafstein, MA, C.A.G.S. Thursday, October 1, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Andree is an experienced spiritual director, retreat director and program presenter with over thirty years of experience. She is a member of the Spiritual Life Center community in West Hartford where she offers spiritual direction and supervision, and is also a member of the Spiritual Direction Internship Training Team.



St. James Parish

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The Rev. George C. Roberts, *Rector*

Amy Steele, *Youth Minister*

Blake Hansen, *Director of Music*

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