

St. James' Episcopal Church  
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*St. James' Episcopal Church welcomes you to our service of worship.  
If you are searching for a spiritual home,  
we invite you to become part of our community of faith and love.*

*The mission of St. James' Church derives from the nature of the church.  
It exists for the good of all people, to spread the word of  
God's Salvation and to bring people to know Jesus Christ.*



**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Eucharist  
27 September 2026 9:30 AM**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*Let us acknowledge with respect and reverence the Unkechaug People, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations, while not forgetting the colonization of this land.*

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.**

Gloria

S280

**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.**

The Collect

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.**

The First Lesson

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

*A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel.*

<sup>1</sup> The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup> What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup> As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup> Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. <sup>25</sup> Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup> When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. <sup>27</sup> Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup> Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they

had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>30</sup> Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live. *The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 25:1-8

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
**let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>2</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

<sup>3</sup>Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
**and teach me your paths.**

<sup>4</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
**for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

<sup>5</sup>Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
**for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>6</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
**remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
**therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

<sup>8</sup>He guides the humble in doing right \*  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**

The Second Lesson

Philippians 2:1-13

*A Reading from the Letter to the Philippians.*

<sup>1</sup> If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became

obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. *The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Hymn

552

The Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew.*

***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

<sup>23</sup> When he 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?” <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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?’ <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup> He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> 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. *The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Homily

The Nicene Creed (*Please Stand*)

**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 *Compiled by Deacon Ormonde Plater*

*Presider:* 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

*Intercessors:*

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Adam and Geralyn our bishops, and Hickman our presbyter, for this holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place. **Lord, have mercy.**

For candidates for public office and for mercy, justice, and peace among all peoples. **Lord, have mercy.**

For abundant fruits of the earth and for this good and bountiful world. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our communities and those who live in them, and for our families, companions, and all those we love. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those in desperate need: the sick and the suffering, prisoners, captives, and their families, the hungry, homeless, and oppressed. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who rest in Christ and for all the dead. **Lord, have mercy.**

For pardon for all our transgressions. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed James, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

*Presider:* 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.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence is kept for a while.* **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.**

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 of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

### **The Liturgy of the Table**

Hymn

343

#### **Eucharistic Prayer 2 from Enriching Our Worship**

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 our thanks and praise.**

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:

**S129 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

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 the holy child of God. 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 Mary the God-bearer, blessed 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fraction Anthem

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Invitation to Communion

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive Communion.*

Postcommunion Prayer *(Please stand)*

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Announcements

Hymn

**686**

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Welcome to our service. We are happy you could join us, either in person or via technological means. To join us as we worship via Zoom. Call in to 646 558.8656 Meeting ID: 317 854 854 Password: 187300. Thank you to Team 1 for hosting. Next week Team 2 will host.

Our efforts are underway for the Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea program. Please see any member of the leadership team if you can knit or sew, collect Christmas cards and items, or support the effort in anyway.

Dates to Remember

|            |                                                  |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 4 October  | Blessing of Pets and Animals Evening Prayer 4 PM |
| 11 October | Super Cereal Second Sunday                       |
| 17 October | Essential Items Drive 9 AM -12 Noon              |
| 18 October | Third Sunday Toiletries Collection               |
| 24 October | Paint Night                                      |

For a Birthday

**O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as *she* begins another year. Grant that *she* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *her* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

For Travelers

**O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel in particular \_\_\_\_\_; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

For an Anniversary

**O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**



The Most Rev'd Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop and Primate  
The Right Rev'd Dr. Adam Shoemaker, Bishop of Long Island  
The Right Rev'd Geralyn Wolf, Assistant Bishop  
The Rev'd Hickman Alexandre, Vicar

Bishop's Committee  
Ted Anderson -27 & Sharon Smith -26; Wardens  
Doreen Vaz, Treasurer  
Kamala Browne -28, Diana Caldwell -27, Karen LeGé – 28,  
Judy McCadden-26, Tracy Rentz McLeod -27, Jim Vaz -26

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