



# ST. JAMES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

February 1, 2026  
5:00P.M.

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**Welcome!** Whether you are a first-time visitor, longtime member, or somewhere in-between, welcome to this place where together we sing, read, pray, listen, and break bread in thanksgiving and praise of the living God whose love brings new life for us and for the world. **About the service:** An Episcopal worship service may seem difficult to follow if it is unfamiliar to you; please participate as you are able and ask someone near you for assistance if you need it. We use this leaflet and the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). **For more information:** Fill out a welcome card, located in the pew rack, and drop it in the offering plate or return it by mail. Call the Parish Office at 225-387-5141 with questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or any other needs.

## THE WORD OF GOD

*The people stand when the ministers of the service enter*

**Opening Acclamation**

BCP 355

**Gloria**

BCP 356

*The appointed Collect of the Day and Lessons are found on the next page.*

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Chris Duncan

**The Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

**The Prayers of the People**

*see insert*

**The Confession & Absolution**

BCP 360

**The Peace**

BCP 360

**Welcome & Announcements**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Eucharistic Prayer C**

BCP 369

**The Lord's Prayer**

BCP 364

**The Breaking of the Bread**

BCP 364

**The Postcommunion Prayer**

BCP 365

**The Blessing & Dismissal**

BCP 366

## Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Micah 6:1-8

A reading from the Prophet Micah.

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord. With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Read responsively by half verse.*

Psalm 15

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
**who may abide upon your holy hill?**
- <sup>2</sup> Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
**who speaks the truth from his heart.**
- <sup>3</sup> There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
**he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.**
- <sup>4</sup> In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
**but he honors those who fear the Lord.**
- <sup>5</sup> He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
**and does not take back his word.**
- <sup>6</sup> He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
**nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**
- <sup>7</sup> Whoever does these things \*  
**shall never be overthrown.**

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

Matthew 5:1-12

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

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

*Gospeler* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Today's flowers are given to the greater glory of God,  
in loving memory of Diane Barnwell Sumner by Ann & Wendell Holmes,  
and in thanksgiving for the life of Dr. Lindley Spaht Dodson by Katherine & Ben Dampf

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## The Prayers of the People – Form VI

*Leader* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*People* For all people in their daily life and work;  
**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

*Leader* For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*People* **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*Leader* For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*People* **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

*Leader* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*People* **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

*Leader* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*People* **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

*Leader* For Sean, the Presiding Bishop; Shannon, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Commission on Liturgy & Music, the Commission on Ministry, the Ecumenical Commission, and the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.  
*People* **For all who serve God in his Church.**

*Leader* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially Amanda, Sandy, Laurie, Lucius, Elizabeth, Stephen, and those on our prayer list.

*Leader* Hear us, Lord;  
*People* **For your mercy is great.**

*Leader* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We also pray for expectant mothers, especially, Victoria, Mazie, Susanna, Faith, Jamie, Amelia, Courtney, Jeanne, and Charlotte, that they may happily come to the time of birth, and serving you in all things may rejoice in your providence.

*Leader* We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*People* **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

*Leader* We pray for all who have died, especially Juanita Johnson, Barbara Hughes, Diane Sumner, Natalie Barrow, Jeffrey Blackwell, Sr., and Brenda West, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*The People may add their own petitions*

*Continues on next page*

*Leader* Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*People* **Who put their trust in you.**

*Leader* We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;**  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Celebrant concludes with the absolution.*