

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 1, 2026



St. James Staff

The Rev. Dr. Jerald W. Hyche
Rector

Jane Bates
Parish Administrator

Greg Nunn
Organist

Lacy Young
St. James School Director

Juanita Siller
Sexton

Welcome!

Wonderful to be worshiping with you today. If you're new to St. James, I invite you to take a moment to fill out one of the CONNECT cards in the pew. You can give it to an usher or simply place in the offering plate on your way out. If you do, I will be in touch to answer any questions you might have about St. James, and I would love to learn more about you, too.

Thank you for being here. Our celebration of God's work in the world today is made that much better by your presence.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerald W. Hyche".



Please silence your mobile phone.



Child care for children up to 3 years old is available in the nursery across the breezeway in the Parish Hall building.



Assisted-hearing devices are available from the ushers.



We give thanks to Carter's Florist for generously providing our altar flowers each week. If you would like to make a donation to defray other worship expenses and commemorate a special day or someone, contact the Church Office or click GIVE on the church website.

(936) 756-8831

stjamesconroe.org

Send mail to:

P.O. Box 559

Conroe, Texas 77305-0559

The Holy Eucharist

*According to the Book of Common Prayer
+ said or sung by the congregation*

Prelude

Rathbun , Alfred V. Fedak

The Word of God

As the bell is rung, please stand for the hymn in procession.

+Hymn In Procession - No. 477

All Praise to Thee

The Opening Acclamation

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

+And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

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.

+The Gloria — No. 236

John Rutter

1. Glo - ry to you, _____ Lord

God of our fa - thers; _____ you are wor - thy of praise;

glo - ry to you. _____ 2. Glo - ry to you _____

for the ra - diance of your ho - ly Name; _____ we will

praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er._____

3. Glo - ry to you _____ in the splen - dor of your

tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to

you._____ 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -

ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er._____

Descant

5. Glo - ry to you, _____ be -

5. Glo - ry to you, _____ be - hold - ing the

hold-ing the depths; in the high vault of

depths; in the high vault of hea-ven, glo - ry to

hea - ven, 6. Glo - ry to you, _____

you._____ 6. Glo - ry to you, _____ Fa - ther,

— Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will
 Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and
 high-ly ex - alt you Glo-ry to you!
 high-ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
+And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

Micah 6:1-8

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.”

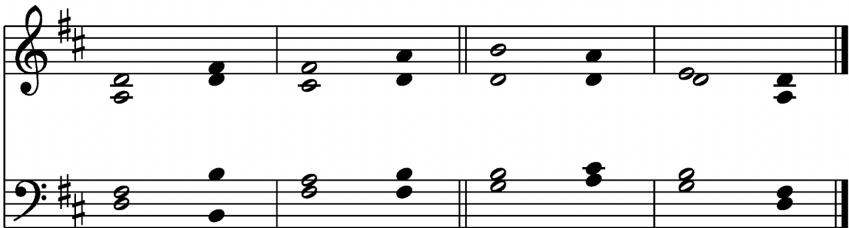
“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body 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?

The Word of the Lord.

+Thanks be to God.

+The Psalm

Psalm 15



- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
who may abide upon your holy hill?**
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right,
who speaks the truth from his heart.**
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend;
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.**
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected,
but he honors those who fear the Lord.**

**5 He has sworn to do no wrong
and does not take back his word.**

**6 He does not give his money in hope of gain,
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

**7 Whoever does these things
shall never be overthrown.**

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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.”

The Word of the Lord.

+Thanks be to God.

During the following hymn children ages 4 and older are invited to Children's Chapel, returning at the peace.

+Sequence Hymn - No. 593 Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

♦Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel ♦Verse 3 after the Gospel

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

+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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

+Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Jerald W. Hyche

Please stand as you are able.

+The Nicene Creed

**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.**

Please remain standing or kneel as you are able.

The Prayers of the People

Form VI

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

+For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

+For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

+For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

+For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

+For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

We pray for Sarah, the Archbishop-designate of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andrew, Jeff, Kai, Hector, and Brian, the Bishops of Texas; Jerald, our Rector; and for all bishops and ministers;

+For all who serve in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;

+For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

+And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

+Who put their trust in you.

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

**+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 an absolution.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

+And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Music at the Offertory

Blest Are They, David Haas

+The Doxology

The Eighth Tune, Thomas Tallis

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 God 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.

Here a proper preface is said.

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:

+The Sanctus — No. S130

Schubert/Proulx

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

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:

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.

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 Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

+Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation

All who seek God are welcome at Christ's table.

To receive the sacrament, either bread and wine or bread alone, come forward as directed by the ushers and stand or kneel at the rail.

To receive the bread: extend your open hands, palm up.

For a gluten-free wafer: hold one arm across your chest.

To receive the wine: when the chalice is offered, guide it to your lips and take a small sip, or you may intinct (i.e., dip the wafer into the chalice).

For a blessing only: cross both arms across your chest.

If you are unable to come forward, notify an usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.

The Hymn at Communion - No. 441

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Please stand or kneel.

The Post Communion Prayer

**+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

+Hymn in Procession - No. 616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

The Dismissal

+Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

today

Scout Sunday!

Today we honor and celebrate St. James' Scout Troop 776 and Cub Scout Pack 776 and give thanks for their participation in worship.

Our scouts welcome youth from the surrounding area. The troop meets on Mondays at 7 p.m. in The Summit. The pack meets on Sundays at 4 p.m. in the parish hall.

All are welcome to join to experience the outdoors and learn life and leadership skills that will last a lifetime.

**For more information, contact parish Scout Liaison
Andy Williams at daw.williams02@gmail.com.**

Birthday blessings

Today we offer a prayer of blessing for those celebrating birthdays during the current month. These special blessings are offered at the announcements during the service and are available to anyone present.



Coffee hour after worship

Hosted by Pack 776

Everyone is invited to stay after worship for coffee hour.

coming up

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Say what?

Things Jesus said that makes us uncomfortable

Sundays, February 8 — March 15, 9:30-10:15 in the parish hall

A six-week exploration of how Jesus dismantles our false supports—and invites us into real life with God. **Led by Travis Wernecke.**

fyi

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Cultivating Peace Amid the Noise

Wednesday evenings, January 14 to February 11, in the Church

This series of contemplative prayer gatherings invites all to practice being with God and with one another through shared stillness. The heart of the practice is unbroken silence, so this gathering is limited to adults and older youth who can remain silent for at least 30 minutes.

6-6:15 p.m. — Orientation for newcomers

6:17-6:47 p.m. — Contemplative prayer

**For more information, contact leader Alison Zabik
at alisonzabik@gmail.com.**

HELPING HANDS—Toilet Paper This month we are collecting toilet paper for the Community Assistance Center.

Grape jelly appreciated year-round.
(please place in the bin in the narthex).

Collections are gathered and delivered by the Daughters of the King.

Ministers of the Service

Ushers

Scout Troop and Pack 776

Greeter

Susan Bacon

Acolyte

Lissy Wernecke

Eucharistic Ministers

Heather Manly

Bill Dougherty

Lector

Victoria Ruby

Videographer

Travis Wernecke

Vestry of the Day

Heather Manly

Chris Tassos