



St. James
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 8, 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,



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

Nettleton, Michael Burkhardt

The Word of God

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

+Hymn In Procession - No. 419

Lord of All Being, Throned Afar

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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **+Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back!
 Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
 Announce to my people their rebellion,
 to the house of Jacob their sins.
 Yet day after day they seek me
 and delight to know my ways,
 as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
 they ask of me righteous judgments,
 they delight to draw near to God.
 “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
 Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
 Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
 and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
The Word of the Lord.
+Thanks be to God.

+Psalm 112:1-9



1 Hallelujah!
Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his commandments!

**2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

**3 Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last for ever.**

**4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

**5 It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.**

**6 For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

**7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.**

**8 Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

**9 They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.**

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what

human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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. 7

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

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

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

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

+Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

+Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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 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

Here I Am, Alan Pote

+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. 505

O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God

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. 381
The Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness

today

Anniversary blessings

Today we offer a prayer of blessing for those celebrating wedding anniversaries 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 Ushers

Everyone is invited to stay after worship for coffee hour. Come, make connections, have a cup of coffee (and/or other refreshment)!

today

**sunday
forum**

The Civil War's impact globally

9:30-10:15 a.m., in the parish hall

Parishioner Adrian Brettle explores how the Civil War affected not just the fate of the United States but also the economic, cultural, political and social landscape of many countries around the world.

A native of London, graduate of Cambridge University, and now a lecturer at Sam Houston State University, Adrian is a specialist on 19th-century U.S. and Atlantic history, especially the American Civil War, Adrian's book, *Colossal Ambitions: Confederate Planning for a Post–Civil War World*, was shortlisted for the *Lincoln prize* in 2021.

next sunday

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Say what?

Things Jesus said that make us uncomfortable

Sundays, February 15 — 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 at 6 p.m., 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.

For more information, contact leader Alison Zabik

at alisonzabik@gmail.com.

HELPING HANDS

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

John Kleinfelder
Martha Low

Greeter

Linda Cunningham

Acolyte

Lissy Wernecke

Eucharistic Ministers

Susan Caffer
Michael Sproat

Lector

Heather Manly

Videographer

Travis Wernecke

Vestry of the Day

Heather Manly
John Rothwell