



The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026



The Rev. Dr. Jerald W. Hyche
Rector

Jane Bates
Parish Administrator

Greg Nunn
Organist

Lacy Young
St. James School Director

Juanita Siller
Sexton

Ministers of the Day

Ushers

Kevin Tucker, Tom Rightmer

Greeter

Diane Cheatham

Eucharistic Ministers

Gary Clark, Cay Eckland

Acolytes

Lissy Wernecke, Kayelynn Powell, Olivia Powell

Lector

Lee Ann Foulger

Videographer

Dennis Hawk

Vestry of the Day

John Rothwell, Paul Foulger

Welcome!

We are glad you are worshipping with us today!

If you're visiting for the first (or second, or third...) time, please sign our guest book near the door of the church, or take a moment to fill out one of the CONNECT cards in the pew and place it in the offering plate. I would love to learn more about you and answer any questions you have about St. James and The Episcopal Church.

Thanks for joining us today. Our celebration of God's work in the world today is made that much better by your being here.

Peace,

The Rev. Dr. Jerald W. Hyche, Rector



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.



Through the penitential season of Lent, we adorn the altar with greenery instead of flowers. In the meantime, you still can make a donation of \$75 to cover the cost of altar flowers for Easter Sunday and beyond by contacting the Church Office or clicking "GIVE" on the church website.

The Holy Eucharist

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

Prelude

How Can I Keep from Singing, Benjamin M. Culli

The Word of God

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

+Hymn In Procession — No. 493 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

The Penitential Order

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

+God's mercy endureth for ever.

Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

The Confession

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

+Almighty and most merciful Father,

we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,

we have followed too much the devices

and desires of our own hearts,

we have offended against thy holy laws,

we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,

and we have done those things

which we ought not to have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,

spare thou those who confess their faults,

restore thou those who are penitent,

according to thy promises declared unto mankind

in Christ Jesus our Lord;

and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,

to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Absolution

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **+Amen.**

Lord have mercy.

+Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

+And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **+Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

+Thanks be to God.

+Psalm 23



- 1 The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who
trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

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. 567 *Thine Arm, O Lord, In Days of Old*

◆Verses 1-2 before the Gospel ◆Verse 3 after the Gospel

The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

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

+Glory be to thee, O Lord.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened

his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

+Praise be to thee, O 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 kneel or remain standing as you are able.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do Confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andrew, Jeff, Kai, Hector, and Brian, the bishops of Texas; Jerald, our Rector; and to all bishops and ministers; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald our President, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of James and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **+Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

+And with thy spirit.

The Holy Communion

Music at the Offertory

I Believe
Mark A. Miller

Please stand as you are able.

+The Presentation Hymn

The Eighth Tune

***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 I

The Lord be with you.

+And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

+We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

+It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God...

Here a proper preface is said.

...Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

+Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption...

— *the Presider continues* —

...through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **+AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

+Therefore let us keep the feast.

Let us pray.

+We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation

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

To receive the sacrament, come forward and stand or kneel at the rail.

***To receive the wine, you may sip directly from the chalice
or intinct, or dip, the wafer into the chalice***

For a gluten-free wafer, put one arm across your chest.

For a blessing only, cross your arms across your chest.

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

Music at the Communion — No. 339

Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

The Post Communion Prayer

+Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Please stand for the hymn in procession.

+Hymn In Procession — No. 663

The Lord My God My Shepherd Is

The Dismissal

+Thanks be to God.

today

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.**



Coffee hour after worship

Hosted by the Women of St. James

Everyone is invited to stay after worship for coffee hour.

Come, make connections, have a cup of coffee (and/or other refreshment)!

next sunday

Bishop Visitation and Confirmation

The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, will officiate at our 10:30 a.m. service and administer the Rite of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation to the following:

For Confirmation: Trey Alfred; Kelly Gonzalez; Larkyn Gonzalez; Sarah Jeschke; Aubrey Merton; Sandy Phillips; Robert Powell; Kristine Rothwell

For Reception: Javier Vinci Gonzalez; Renee Powell; Tone Wilhelmsen

For Reaffirmation: Janet Anderson; Chuck Pool; John Rothwell; Michael Rutherford; Laura Wendlandt



february 25—march 25

WHOLY WEDNESDAYS

WALKING TOGETHER THROUGH LENT
Driving!



6 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Supper

7-8 p.m. Program

Adult Program



On the road again...

Jesus walked to Jerusalem, but we will make the journey in a modern, yet still-quite-meaningful, way – by hitting the open highway, rolling down the windows, and cranking up the tunes. With Jesus and a gang of other road-trippers along for the ride – both biblical and contemporary – who knows?

Our long drive to Easter could be just as good as getting there.

Led by Fr. Jerald.

Youth Program

Faith, Friends, Fun!

We will grow in faith, strengthen our relationships with each other, and learn ways to joyfully serve our Lord, having a blast and earning a meaningful religious award at the end! **Coordinator: Kacie LeGaye.**

Support ministries through Lent with a UTO box

Please pick up a blue United Thank Offering box and collect coins through Lent, an offering that will support ministries within The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. **Boxes will be collected on Sunday, April 12, in a special offering during worship. For more information, contact Susan Caffery at susan.caffery@gmail.com.**

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Contemplating the Beatitudes Through Lent
Monday evenings through March 30 in the Church

The heart of this Lenten series is the practice of unbroken silence.

7-7:15 p.m. — Questions and dialogue

7:17-7:47 p.m. — Reading/song, contemplative prayer

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

February Operating Summary

	Feb	Year to Date	Projected Year End
2026 Pledges Paid*	\$32,949	\$59,566	\$419,996
Other Contributions	\$9,572	\$15,141	\$64,441
Total Operating Income	\$42,521	\$74,707	\$484,437
Total Operating Expenses	\$48,756	\$109,387	\$603,289
Cash Surplus/Shortfall	(\$6,235)	(\$34,680)	(\$118,852)

*For purposes of this analysis, pre-paid pledges (\$148.5K) are amortized ratably over 12-months, and active unpaid pledges are amortized ratably over the balance of the calendar year.

Pledging Recap

Pledge Year	Pledges Submitted	Total Pledged Amount	Actual Receipts	%
2025 Final**	91	\$466,130	\$461,316	99.0%
2026 YTD	80	\$429,760	\$183,337	42.7%

** 61 Pledges Paid in full with \$21.1K over-payments.
 22 Active Pledgers with \$22.2K still owing for 2025.