



The First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025



St. James Staff

The Rev. Dr. Jerald W. Hyche
Rector

Greg Nunn
Organist

Jane Bates
Parish Administrator

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St. James School Director

Juanita Siller
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Ministers of the Day

Ushers: Robert Walsh,
Andy Williams

Greeter: Janet Goad

Eucharistic Ministers:
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Acolyte: Lissy Wernecke

Lector: Lee Ann Foulger

Children's Chapel:
Julie Wernecke

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Vestry of the Day:
Travis Wernecke, Henry Lesesne

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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. 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.



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.

The Holy Eucharist

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

Prelude

Wachet auf, J.S. Bach

The Word of God

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

+Hymn In Procession — No. 61

“Sleepers Wake!”

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.**

The Kyrie

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.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **+Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

+Thanks be to God.

+Psalm 122



1 I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

2 Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the Lord.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

**8 For my brethren and companions' sake,
I pray for your prosperity.**

**9 Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good."**

The Lesson

Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

+Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the singing of the hymn.

+Sequence Hymn— No. 57 *Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending*

◆Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel ◆Verses 3 & 4 after the Gospel

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

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

+Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was

coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

+Praise be to thee, O 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 *Book of Common Prayer, page 328*

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

— the prayer minister continues —

...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 *Book of Common Prayer, page 333*

Anthem at the Offertory *One Small Flame, John Purifoy*

Please stand as you are able.

+The Presentation Hymn *Hymn 65, v. 3*

Fling wide your gates, O Zion, your Savior's rule embrace.

His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name!

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, 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.

Music at the Communion — No. 64 O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light

Please stand or kneel.

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

+Amen.

Please stand for the hymn in procession.

+Hymn In Procession — No. 68

Rejoice! Rejoice! Believers

The Dismissal

+Thanks be to God.



Join us after worship for Advent Event!

Begin this season of expectant waiting and preparation with our annual Advent Event in the parish hall. We will make advent wreaths, decorate cookies, and enjoy fellowship with light refreshments.

Parishioners of all ages are welcome!

next sunday



Newcomer Reception **After worship in the parish hall**

Grief workshop: Surviving the Holidays

1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, December 7, in the parish hall

If you are looking at the coming season with a mourner's heart, this program will provide you with information and insights on facing this time, looking at different ways to celebrate, and tactful ways to say no. **To sign up or for more information, contact Fran Milburn at (936) 419-3090.**

Memory Tree

To help us celebrate those no longer with us, please feel free to take one of the ornaments next to the Memory Tree in the narthex, decorate it in memory of a loved one, and place it on the tree.

fyi

Santa's Sleigh collecting gifts for Patterson students

Please stop by the parish hall and pick up one or more of the 50 ornaments from Santa's Sleigh. Each ornament includes the first name of a student at Patterson Elementary School, their grade and teacher, along with their wish for clothing or a toy costing no more than \$25.

Gifts will be collected through Sunday, December 14. Please wrap your gift and tape the ornament securely to the package before bringing it to the parish hall.

Thank you! Your generosity will bring the joy and hope of Christmas to children in our community who need it most.