



St. James
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

First Sunday After Christmas
December 28, 2025



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 worshipping 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

In the Bleak Midwinter, Alfred V. Fedak

The Word of God

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

+Hymn In Procession - No. 93

Angels from the Realms of Glory

The Opening Acclamation

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

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

Glory to God in the highest.

+And peace to God's people on earth.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

+And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

+Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalms 147:13-21

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion;
**+14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
he has blessed your children within you.**
15 He has established peace on your borders;
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
**+16 He sends out his command to the earth,
and his word runs very swiftly.**
17 He gives snow like wool;
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

**+18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;
who can stand against his cold?**

19 He sends forth his word and melts them;
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

**+20 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

21 He has not done so to any other nation;
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through 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. 82

Of the Father's Love Begotten

◆Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel

◆Verse 3 & 4 after the Gospel

The Holy Gospel

John 1:1-18

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

+Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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 III

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

+That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

+That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

+That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

+That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

+That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

+That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

+Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

+May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

+And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Music at the Offertory

Heavenly Star
Pepper Choplin

Please stand as you are able.

+The Presentation Hymn, No. 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 B

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, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you

have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**+We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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. 324

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

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. 443 *From God Christ's Deity Came Forth*

The Dismissal

+Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Ministers of the Service

Ushers

John Kleinfelder
Martha Low

Greeter

Candy Williams

Acolyte

Lissy Wernecke

Eucharistic Ministers

Gary Clark

Lector

Kristine Rothwell

Videographer

Dennis Hawk

Vestry of the Day

John Rothwell
Martha Low

Thursday, December 25 - Friday, January 2

Church Office closed

Sunday, January 4

Feast of the Epiphany

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

As we commemorate the visit of the Magi to the Christ child,
we celebrate the universal revelation of God in Jesus to the world.

Sunday, January 11

10 a.m. The Baptism of Our Lord Jazz Mass

The Trinity Jazz Ensemble from Trinity Episcopal Church,
Houston, will adorn our gathering with a unique blend of joyous jazz
and inspiring gospel selections.

Sunday, January 18

9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Annual Parish Meeting

We will review God's work at St. James over the past year and look
forward to what God has planned in 2026!

Sunday, January 26

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.