



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025



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.



Childcare 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, TX 77305-0559

The Holy Eucharist

According to the Book of Common Prayer

+ said or sung by the congregation

Prelude

Pastorella BWV 590, J.S. Bach

The Word of God

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

+Hymn In Procession - No. 372

Praise to the Living God!

The Opening Acclamation

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

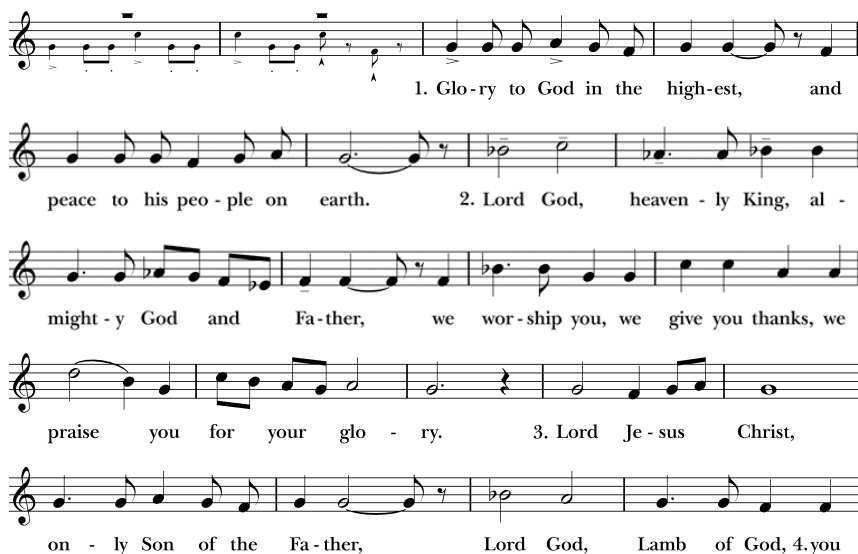
+And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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.**

+Gloria - No. S278

William Mathias



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

+And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **+Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

The Word of the Lord.

+Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**+2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**+4 You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.**

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**+12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

**+14 My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.**

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book;
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.

**+16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
how great is the sum of them!**

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than
the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

The Second Lesson

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to
Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I
hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord
Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when
you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed
received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the
hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to
do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—
and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ
Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I
have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to
you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending
him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with

me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother— especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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. 603 *When Christ Was Lifted From The Earth*

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

The Holy Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

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

+Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes

against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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 and ministers;

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

We pray for Donald, our president, all who govern and hold au-
thority 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.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**+Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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

Anthem at the Offertory

I Come with Joy, Austin C. Lovelace

*I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
Man's true community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.*

*And thus with joy we meet our Lord, His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known: we see, and praise him here,
We see and praise him here.*

*Together met, together bound, We'll go our different ways,
And as his people in the world, We'll live and speak his praise,
We'll live and speak his praise.*

+The Doxology

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 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 him 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.

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. S125

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.***

The people may 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

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.

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.

+Hymn at Communion - No. 335

I am the Bread of Life

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. 675

Take up Your Cross, the Savior Said

The Dismissal

+Thanks be to God.

today

Pancake Breakfast

8:30-10 a.m. in the parish hall

Members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew will be donning aprons and flipping flapjacks once again to help kick off the new program year with hearty food and holy fellowship. Come one, come all — come early!

The Brotherhood is dedicated to nurturing men and youth in their relationship with God through prayer, study and service. **For more information, contact Travis Wernecke at tdwernecke@gmail.com.**

Coffee hour after worship

Come, make connections, have a cup of coffee and/or other refreshment!
Hosted today by the St. James Greeters

next sunday

Women of St. James-ECW meeting

Sunday, September 14, 2 p.m. in the Summit

Since 1871, the National Episcopal Church Women, has empowered the women of the Episcopal Church to carry out Christ's work throughout the world. All women are invited to attend and learn about the exciting plans we have for this year!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Can You Hear Me Now?

Jesus' Parables in the Everyday

Sundays, September 14—October 26

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



This fall we'll spend six weeks listening closely to Jesus' parables and discovering how they speak to our lives today. Each week focuses on a different theme — Grace & Mercy, Wealth & Worldly Values, Judgment & Accountability, the Kingdom of God, Prayer & Persistence, and Discipleship & Faithfulness. Expect scripture, lively discussion, and even a few interactive "game show" moments to challenge and inspire. **Led by Travis Wernecke.**

coming up

So you want to be an Episcopalian? Get confirmed!

Confirmation Preparation

Sundays, September 14, October 12, November 16

1-4 p.m. in the parish hall

Confirmation Sunday — Sunday, January 25



The Rite of Confirmation is the official, liturgical, sacramental celebration for all who want to become a full-fledged, bona fide, card-carrying Episcopalian. All confirmands are required to participate in a short course of preparation. The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, will administer the sacrament of Confirmation, or Reception for those already confirmed in certain other denominations.

Confirmation is available for all who have been baptized, either at St. James or in another denomination. Young people (ages 13 to 21) are invited to consider Confirmation as a meaningful rite of passage in their spiritual journey. As well, adults who were confirmed at a young age are invited to participate in the preparation as a “refresher” course and receive a prayer of Reaffirmation from the Bishop. Teen, newcomer, long-timer...all are welcome!

To RSVP or for more information, contact Fr. Jerald at (936) 525-7799 or jhyche@stjames-conroe.org.

fyi



Make a joyful noise...in the choir!

**Rehearsals at 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays and
9:30 a.m. Sundays in the choir room
(first floor, parish hall building)**

Want to make a joyful noise in church – and wear a robe while doing it? Join the choir! You'll find this growing music ministry is a welcoming group with a broad range of musical expertise, from beginners to trained voices. No audition! Come as you are!

**For more information,
contact Organist Greg Nunn at gnunn@stjames-conroe.org.**

Wanted: Vestry candidates!

Nominations accepted through September 21

The Vestry is the governing body of St. James, made up of 12 parishioners in good standing. On Sunday, October 12, a new class of four parishioners will be elected to serve a three-year term beginning in January.

Anyone interested in running must contact the Vestry Nominating Committee, which will review potential candidates and present four to fill the four open positions. Any additional candidates who wish to run may be nominated by written nomination signed and dated by three or more persons eligible to vote; the nomination must be submitted to the Rector or Senior Warden by Sunday, September 21. If there are no additional candidates beyond the Nominating Committee slate, the slate will be elected by acclamation.

For more information, contact any member of the Nominating Committee, which includes Fr. Jerald, Senior Warden Rick Tate, Junior Warden Jim Cheatham, and outgoing Vestry members Janet Anderson, Henry Lesesne, Becky Page, and Alison Zabik.

HELPING HANDS— Dish soap

This month we are collecting baby wipes 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 Day

Ushers

Rick Tate, Andy Williams

Greeter

Diane Cheatham

Lector

Chris Tassos

Eucharistic Ministers

Heather Manly, Susan Caffery

Acolyte

Lissy Wernecke

Videographer

Dennis Hawk

Vestry of the Day

Paul Foulger, Rick Tate