



ST. JAMES

*Episcopal*  
CHURCH

## WEEKLY INSERT FOR ST. JAMES

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the LORD,  
you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the teaching of our God,  
you people of Gomorrah!

What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?  
says the LORD;

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams  
and the fat of fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,  
or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me,  
who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more;  
bringing offerings is futile;  
incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation--  
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

Your new moons and your appointed festivals  
my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me,  
I am weary of bearing them.

When you stretch out your hands,  
I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers,  
I will not listen;  
your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your doings  
from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil,  
learn to do good;  
seek justice,  
rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan,  
plead for the widow.  
Come now, let us argue it out,  
says the LORD:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be like snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.  
If you are willing and obedient,  
you shall eat the good of the land;  
but if you refuse and rebel,  
you shall be devoured by the sword;  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

*Reader:* Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 33:12-22** *Exultate, justi*

- 12 Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! \*  
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!
- 13 The LORD looks down from heaven, \*  
and beholds all the people in the world.
- 14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze \*  
on all who dwell on the earth.
- 15 He fashions all the hearts of them \*  
and understands all their works.
- 16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; \*  
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.
- 17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; \*  
for all its strength it cannot save.
- 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, \*  
on those who wait upon his love,
- 19 To pluck their lives from death, \*  
and to feed them in time of famine.
- 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; \*  
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, \*  
for in his holy Name we put our trust.
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, \*  
as we have put our trust in you.

## THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

*Reader:* Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40

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

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## SERMON

The Rev. Valerie Webster

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Hear Our Prayer*

O God, your Word comes to us and our hearts are uplifted. Listen now, we beseech you, to the needs and thanksgivings of your people as we say, **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Fill your church with faith, that our hope might embolden us to be your agents of life in all the corners of our community. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Grant wisdom, compassion, and a love of justice to the leaders of our nation, that they might work for the good of all. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes to the possibilities of tomorrow; lead us to focus not just on problems, but to search for solutions, that we might build a sustainable way of life that honors your abundant creation. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We are committed to being your people in this community at this time. Grant us discerning hearts and a burning desire to share your Good News that our community might be a place where all people may thrive. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Let your healing love be present in the lives of all who suffer. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

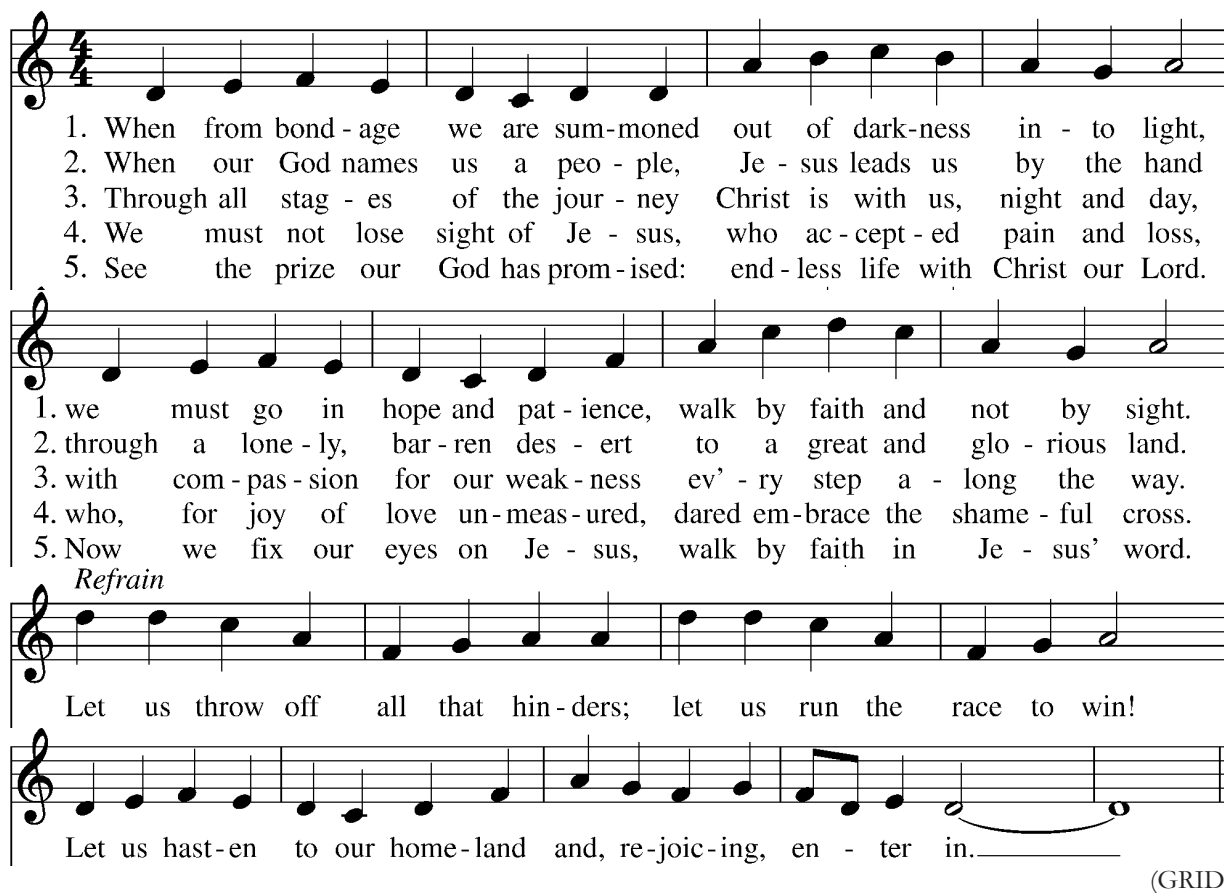
Welcome the dead into your loving embrace, tend to the souls of those who grieve, and let us hold close the love of those whom we want to see in your new age. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* O Generous God, you desire that we should live in love and not fear; hear our prayer, be known in our lives, and respond to the needs and hopes of your people; all this we ask through Jesus, our Lord and Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and always. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

“When from bondage we are summoned”

WLP 753



1. When from bond - age we are sum-moned out of dark-ness in - to light,  
2. When our God names us a peo - ple, Je - sus leads us by the hand  
3. Through all stag - es of the jour - ney Christ is with us, night and day,  
4. We must not lose sight of Je - sus, who ac - cept - ed pain and loss,  
5. See the prize our God has prom - ised: end - less life with Christ our Lord.

1. we must go in hope and pat - ience, walk by faith and not by sight.  
2. through a lone - ly, bar - ren des - ert to a great and glo - rious land.  
3. with com - pas - sion for our weak - ness ev' - ry step a - long the way.  
4. who, for joy of love un-meas - ured, dared em-brace the shame - ful cross.  
5. Now we fix our eyes on Je - sus, walk by faith in Je - sus' word.

*Refrain*  
Let us throw off all that hin - ders; let us run the race to win!

Let us hast-en to our home-land and, re-joic-ing, en - ter in.\_\_\_\_\_ (GRID)

## THOSE IN SERVICE

Acolyte:	Ty Sherwood
Readers:	Alison Counts, Francis Moore
Eucharistic Minister:	Mary Ruebush
Ushers:	Ron Hoseth, Linda Hoseth
Videographer:	Ray Ross
Altar Guild:	Dale Bray, Marty Sanders
Counters:	Frances Moore