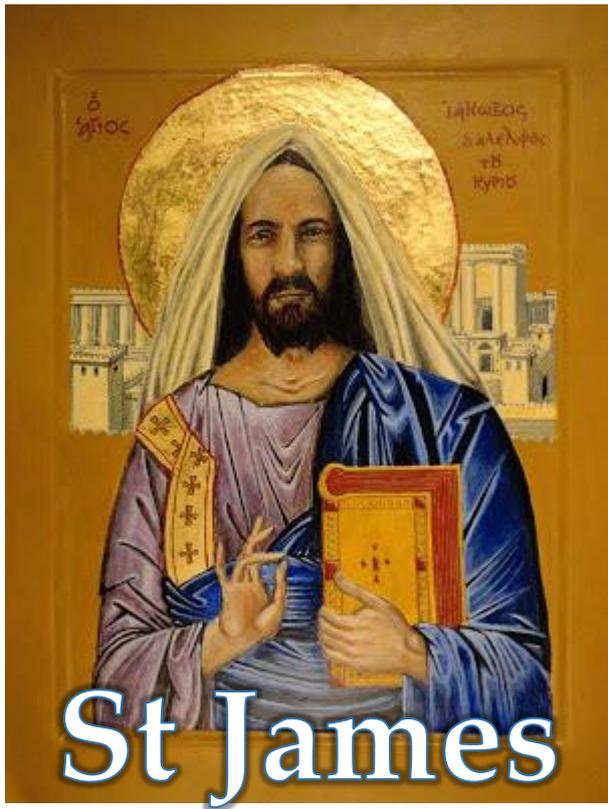


## Thursday 23 October 2020



St James is also called 'James the Just' and 'James of Jerusalem'. The Scriptures usually call him, 'James, the brother of our Lord'.

James was leader of the Church in Jerusalem from a very early date and is usually regarded as its first bishop.

Though not one of the twelve, St Paul includes James among those to whom the risen Lord appeared before the Ascension, and records that James received him warmly when he visited Jerusalem after his conversion.

James is regarded as the leader of the Jewish community when the Church first expanded to embrace the Gentiles; he was successful in bringing many of

his fellow Jews to faith in Christ. He presided over the so-called Council of Jerusalem recorded in Acts 15.

He is understood to have been stoned to death around the year 62 AD. An ancient legend says that after his murder, the men who retrieved his body found the skin on his knees was like 'the leather on a camel's knees' because he knelt in prayer so often.

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

## Introduction and welcome

**HYMN 1 Brother, sister, let me serve you** ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

### The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

### The Preparation

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Therefore, knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**All** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
**Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

## **The Gloria**

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

**All** Glory be to God in Heaven,  
Songs of joy and peace we bring,  
Thankful hearts and voices raising,  
To creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,  
Glory be to God our King:  
Glory be to God our King.  
  
Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,  
Bore the load of this world's sin;  
Only Son of God the Father,  
You have brought us peace within.

**Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Now your glorious reign begin:  
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,  
You we praise with one accord.  
None in heav'n or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord.  
With the Father and the Spirit,  
Ever worshipped and adored:  
Ever worshipped and adored.**

### **The Collect for the St James**

Grant, O God, that,  
following the example of your servant James the Just,  
brother of our Lord,  
your Church may give itself continually to prayer  
and to the reconciliation of all who are at variance and enmity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

### **First reading**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

All the apostles and elders kept silence and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

"After this I will return,  
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;  
from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up,  
so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—  
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago."

Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.'

Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. *Acts 15:12-22a*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 Father in Heaven**

[\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All**    **Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?' And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.' And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief. *Matthew 13:54-58*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All**    **Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

We know next to nothing about Jesus' stepfather Joseph because the Scriptures say so little. They fail to record a single word he spoke. He disappears at an unknown time after Jesus' bar-Mitzvah (in Luke 2:41-45). It's unlikely he was still alive when today's Gospel passage occurred because the crowd don't mention him by name; they only recall his former occupation.

We know more about Jesus' mother but much is later invention. That the crowd mentions Mary tells us she is still active, for example. By the standards of the times, she will therefore have been elderly woman when the Gospel passage occurred.

Jesus' earthly family was large. The Gospels give different lists of names for his brothers but, sadly, none of his sisters is identified. One brother, Jude wrote a short letter in the New Testament and the Letter of James probably comes from another.

Jesus' bloodline ended nearly two millennia ago because He never married and had no children. No one today needs to follow a special family line, as the Jews at the time of Jesus needed the descendants of Moses' brother, Aaron (all priests in the Jerusalem Temple had to have descended from Aaron). Stated differently, in terms of becoming a Christian, in God's eyes all human beings are genetically equal.

This equality is a blessing. Imagine the stress of having to verify the status of each person who claimed to have inherited Jesus' bloodline. Imagine the embarrassment if we followed an imposter. Imagine the additional problems caused when two genuine descendants contradicted one another.

All Christians therefore start from this same, equal position. We all start equally as unbelievers but we can all become members the Christian family.

We join this spiritual family at baptism when we receive the Holy Spirit. In effect, the Spirit changes our spiritual DNA and kickstarts the process of making us into a new person. The Scriptures call this process being 'born again' (John 3:3).

Most families possess distinguishing characteristics such as physical features and traits of behaviour. In just the same way, as members of this spiritual family we inherit traits in common. After being born again we become like Jesus. As it says in the Letter to the Hebrews 2:11, 'Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.' And if he's our brother we can truly call God '*Our Father*'!

The description of Jesus and his family in St Matthew's Gospel alerts us to an astonishing truth: Jesus' biological family may have stopped during the first century but His spiritual family continues to this day. And we can be a member of that family if we accept the Holy Spirit into our lives and allow Him to live through us.

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of intercession

Jesus, the Son of Man, came not to be served but to serve us and to save us from our sins. Let us bring to him now the needs of our world in faith that he will hear our prayers and use them in the service of those for whom we pray.

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, we pray for your church and for her leaders. Through your power and grace let the good news of love and redemption extend to more and more people so that voices of praise and thanksgiving are heard throughout the world to the glory of God.

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, we pray for the leaders of the nations. Let them know that with power and honour come responsibility and accountability. May those who govern do so for the good of all their people and with the respect and gentleness you show to those who are most weak and vulnerable.

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, we pray for the life of our own community especially for all those who hold positions of responsibility as employers, as administrators of the law and as teachers. As you served those who came to you, so may they serve those who depend on them for a livelihood, for justice or for education.

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who suffer pain and illness, those who are anxious or bereaved and for those whose journey in this life is ending. Let them know that just as you shared in the pain and suffering of life so will they share in your healing and, at this life's end, your resurrection into the glory of God.

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, as we offer these prayers to you we also offer ourselves into your service and pray that you will work in and through us to answer prayer in the lives of those around us.

Merciful Father,

**All** accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## **The peace**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

**All** And also with you.

**HYMN 3** [Bind us together, Lord](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

## **The Dismissal**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;  
and the blessing of God the Almighty:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and remain with you always.

**All** Amen.

**HYMN 4** [And can it be](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All** In the name of Christ. Amen.

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And now we give thanks, most gracious God,  
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses  
and glorified in the assembly of your saints.  
The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
We, your holy Church, acclaim you.  
In communion with angels and archangels,  
and with all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven,  
we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**All 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, 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.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with St James and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All** We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us.  
**Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

### **Prayer after Communion**

We give thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper.  
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you  
and increase our love for one another.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**All** **Amen**

**All** **Almighty God,**  
**we thank you for feeding us**  
**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**  
**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies**  
**to be a living sacrifice.**  
**Send us out in the power of your Spirit**  
**to live and work**  
**to your praise and glory.**  
**Amen.**