

St. James Episcopal Church
La Grange, Texas
“Enter as strangers, leave as friends.”



JOHN 15:1-8



Year B

April 28, 2024

10:30a.m.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Thank you for joining us in worship at St James! A special welcome to our visitors. Please sign the guest book and/or fill out the visitor card and put in the collection plate so that we might greet you more personally. You are invited to participate in the service to the extent that you are comfortable. All persons are welcome to join us in communion including children. If you are not baptized, or would prefer not to partake in communion, the priest will give you a blessing instead of the bread and wine. If you prefer a blessing by the priest, cross your chest with your arms. If you would like the bread but not the wine, indicate in the same way. For those with physical challenges, please know that you can stand (instead of kneel) at the Altar Rail. You can also let the usher know that you would like the priest to bring you communion in your pew. Please join us for hospitality in the Parish Hall following the service.

Your presence is a blessing!

The Word of God

Prelude:

Mary Ann Hatfield

Welcome/Announcements

Processional: *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more* ENGELBERG

Hymnal 296

Priest : Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Priest: Let us pray.

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.

Glory to God *Gloria in Excelsis* Robert Powell

Hymnal S-280

All Sing: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus

² Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 8: 26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.
Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22: 24-30

My praise is of him in the great as- / **sembly**;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who / **worship him.**
The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall / **praise him:**
"May your heart live for / **ever!**"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the / **LORD,**
and all the families of the nations shall bow be- / **fore him.**
For kingship belongs to the / **LORD;**
he rules over the / **nations.**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall be- / **fore him.**
My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the LORD'S for / **ever.**
They shall come and make known to a people yet un- / **born**
the saving deeds that he has / **done.**

Second Lesson: 1 John 4: 7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

In Christ there is no East or West MCKEE Hymnal 529

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: John 15: 1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev Merrill Wade

The Nicene Creed *(all stand and say in unison)*

Prayer Book 358

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.

Intercessor: The Prayers of the People (Form III)

Prayer Book 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; especially our sister churches, All Saints', Fort Worth; All Souls, Arlington; Faith, Wichita Falls.

That we all may be one.

We give you thanks for all guests and newcomers worshipping here today, and those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; [PRAYER LIST]. We pray 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, especially our Presiding Bishop Michael, and our Bishops, Andrew, Kai, Jeff, Hector; our Interim Rector Sharon, our supply priests Merrill and Ken.

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; [PRAYER LIST]

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; especially Pinky, Jerry, Justin, Pete & Martha, Tom, Carolyn, Lonita, Brooks, Bryan. [PRAYER LIST].

You are invited to add your own petitions and intercessions either silently or aloud.

The Priest may add a concluding Collect.

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

6 **People And also with you.**

The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Birthday and Anniversary
The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Take me to the water (Text at LEVASII 134) with

Lord, I want to be a Christian (stanza 4 only) (Text at LEVASII 138)

Choir

(Please feel free to sing on these spirituals)

Concerning the second piece: Miles Mark Fisher, in *Negro Slave Songs in the United States*, writes that this African American spiritual could have been written in Virginia in the 1750s based on a story from Hanover, Virginia, 1756: "A black slave asked Presbyterian preacher William Davies, 'I come to you, sir, that you may tell me some good things concerning Jesus Christ and my duty to God, for I am resolved not to live any more as I have done...Lord [Sir], I want to be a Christian.'"

**All Sing: Doxology Old 100th: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving-Prayer A

Prayer Book 361

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: 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:

Priest and People

Sanctus, Holy, Holy, Holy (POWELL)

Hymn S-129

**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.

Then the Priest continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Priest and People

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

The Priest continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 Priest continues... 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.**

Fraction Anthem: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

Antiphon
Cantor: then All Mode 6 melody, adapt. Mason Martens b. 1933)

The dis - ci - ples_ knew the Lord Je - - sus in the break - ing__ of the bread.

Cantor:

1. The bread which we break, alleluia,
is the communion of the body of Christ. **Antiphon**
2. One body are we, alleluia,
For though many we share one bread. **Antiphon**

Invitation to the Lord's table:

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion

Communion Music:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| <i>The day thou gavest, Lord</i> ST. CLEMENT | Hymnal 24 |
| <i>Abide with me</i> EVENTIDE | Hymnal 662 |
| <i>The angel said to Philip</i> NYLAND | LEVASII 50 |

Postcommunion Prayer (*please stand or kneel*) Prayer Book 365

Priest: Let us pray.

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.

Nunc Dimittis by Merrill Wade Choir

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing SICILIAN MARINERS Hymnal 344

Priest: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Rite Two
LEM Tom Tracy Acolyte Luke Herbrich
Lector Max Coppinger
Ushers Doc Ayres/Joe Bailey
Intercessor Susannah Mikulin Vestry Ernest Balla
Altar Guild Team – all teams

St. James' Episcopal Church and Preschool

In the Diocese of Texas

156 N. Monroe St./PO Box 507 La Grange, TX 78945

Church Office: 979.968.3910 Preschool: 979.639.1346

Email: cathy@stjameslagrange.org Website: stjameslagrange.org

Bishop The Right Rev Andrew Doyle
Regional Bishop The Right Rev Kai Ryan
Interim Rector The Rev Dr Sharon Turner
Supply Priests Rev Merrill Wade and Rev Ken Kesselus
Music Director Don Kirby/Organist Mary Ann Hatfield
Vestry: Senior Warden Chuck Gibson, Junior Warden Joe Bailey
Brad Christians, Ernest Balla, Ed Dykes, Elaine Tracy, Jane Malik,
Doc Ayres, Sue McLean
Treasurer Eric Batchelder
Vestry Clerk Mary Dawson Building Management Paul (Trey) Cheatham
Director St. James' Preschool Laurie Krupala
St. James' Accountant Evelyn Grant
Parish Administrator Cathy Serman

+++Announcements+++

St. James Preschool would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously to our 10th annual Preschool Picassos event last weekend. We were able to raise almost \$8,000 for our scholarship programs which will give us a great start to the upcoming school year. THANK YOU!

Holy Smokers & ECW Bake Sale

Saturday, May 11th. Drive thru 10:30am to 1pm. Benefits Parents as Teachers.

Men's Club Meeting

Monday, May 13th at 6pm. Location: George Frondorf's home. Hosts Frondorf, Gilley, Koenig, Boyles.

Backyard Picnic

May Supper Club Friday, May 17, 2024 at 5:30pm. Enjoy a baked potato bar with various toppings and yard games. This event will be held at Julian & Charlotte Godsey's home. Maps will be available in the church office. Co-hosts are Suzanne & Eric Batchelder, Carolyn & Trey Cheatham, Elaine & Tom Tracy, Bill Bishop and Julie Ardery

Second Chance Emporium

May 21-25 St. James' volunteer week for Second Chance. Contact Lil Landry if interested in volunteering.

Vestry News

At April 16th meeting, the Vestry elected Joe Bailey as the new Junior Warden and Sue McLean to fill the spot recently vacated by Dianna Berg.

Need to Re-Center Yourself during the Week?

The church is open during office hours for your personal prayers or a moment to be with God.

Anchor Your Week in Prayer

Wednesday 5:30pm. Midweek prayer service can help you maintain your ongoing life in the Spirit of Christ. Wednesday evening Eucharist with healing prayer. Concludes on May 8th for the summer.

★ The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

BISHOP DOYLE INVITES

YOU

THE VERY FIRST GRANDE TEXAS

May
3-5

FAMILY
REUNION²⁰²⁴

A weekend of fun just for us at Camp Allen!

Archery	Nature Hikes	Outdoor Movie
Ropes Course	Biking	Petting Zoo
Fishing	Labryinth	Craft Room
Swimming	Live Music	Inflatables
Paddleboarding	Eucharist	Skeet Shooting
Canoeing	Reptile Show	Yoga
Giant Swing	Pickleball	Zip Line

**Total Cost for
Hotel Lodging**
\$210 per room

**Total Cost for
Activities/Meals**
\$152 per person

Packages Include
Six buffet meals and
most programming.
Kids age 2 and under
are free.

Family discounts available

Check in at 5 pm Friday
Check out at 1 pm Sunday

Register Now!
campallen.org

The Journey to Now

