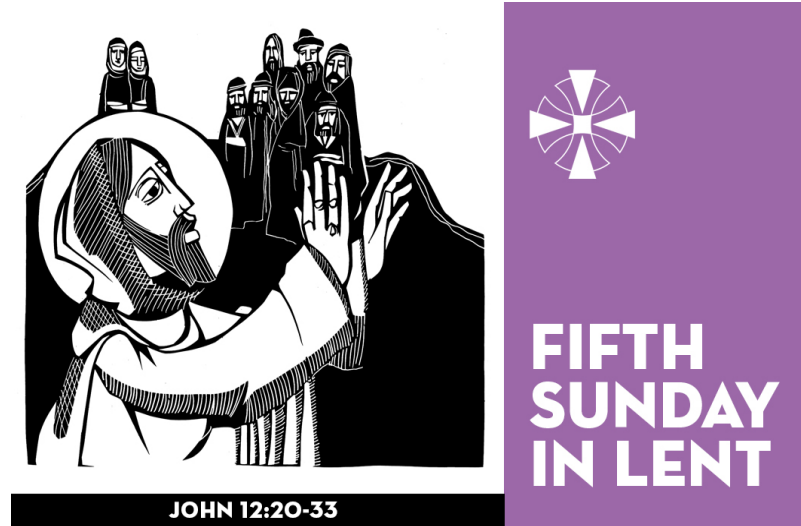


St. James Episcopal Church  
La Grange, Texas  
“Enter as strangers, leave as friends.”



Year B

March 17, 2024

10:30a.m.

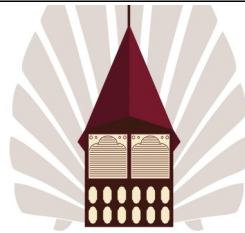
**The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two**

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!

10:30 a.m.

LEM Doc Ayres Lector Ursula Stephens/John Saunders  
Ushers Mary & Larry Kahanek Intercessor Julie Ardery  
Vestry Doc Ayres  
**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](mailto:cathy@stjameslagrange.org) Website: [stjameslagrange.org](http://stjameslagrange.org)

Bishop The Right Rev Andrew Doyle

Regional Bishop The Right Rev Kai Ryan

Priest in Residence The Rev Dr Sharon Turner

Supply Priests Rev Merrill Wade and Rev Ken Kesselus

Music Director Don Kirby/Organist Mary Ann Hatfield

Senior Warden Dianna Berg

Junior Warden Chuck Gibson

Vestry Dianna Berg, Brad Christians, Joe Bailey, Doc Ayres,

Ernest Balla, Ed Dykes, Chuck Gibson, Elaine Tracy,

Jane Malik 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 Sterman

Welcome-Announcement-Invitation to Worship

Introit: (please remain seated) *Like the murmur of a Dove's Song* BRIDEGROOM choir  
(Text at Hymnal 513)

The Word of God

*Hail, thou once despised Jesus!* IN BABILONE (*Standing*) Hymnal 495

A Penitential Order for Lent Prayer Book 351  
Priest: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;  
**People: His mercy endures for ever.**

Priest: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

Confession and Absolution Prayer Book 352  
Priest: 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 Priest gives an absolution  
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*Please Stand*

*Trisagion* Hymn S-102  
**All: Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.**

Priest: The Lord be with you. Prayer Book 357  
**People: And also with you.**

Getting the church ready for Easter

All ministries that use the church are being asked to tidy up their area in preparation for Easter. Let's look our best for visitors and in thanksgiving to God.

Vestry

The next meeting is March 19th, Tuesday at 5pm.

Join Us

In making Palm Crosses on Saturday, March 23rd in the Parish Hall at 10am. New comers always welcome! There will be someone to help you get started.

ECW Spring Time Lunch-n-Learn

La Petite Gourmet Shop  
April 10, 2024 - 12 noon  
Your gourmet lunch will be prepared by Chef Mike Morphey  
\$35.00  
Limited seating  
Sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

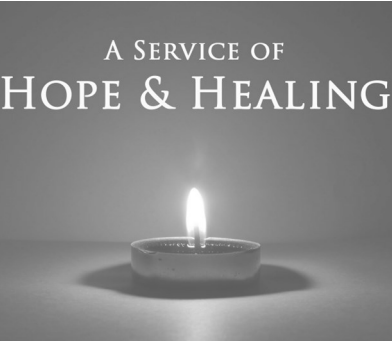
St. James' Preschool Picassos

Will be held Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Fritsch Auf Country Club, 5pm-9pm. More information will be forthcoming. MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

April Supper Club

Will be Friday, April 26th. The hosts are Brad Christians and Amy Reistle. We *need co-hosts!* Let Cathy know or sign up in the parish hall.

**GOSPEL SING. This Wednesday**, 5:30 March 20th. No communion. Just the healing power of singing familiar old hymns together.



Wednesday services will resume the following Wednesday during Holy Week and continue throughout the Easter Season.

**A BUSY COUPLE OF WEEKS AHEAD AS WE MOVE TOWARD EASTER!**

Think about who you will be inviting to church for one of our beautiful services. You’ll be doing them a favor!  
See schedule below. EASTER IS MARCH 31

- Palm Sunday March 24th 8am & 10:30am services with Passion Reading  
(no Bible class between services)  
Wednesday Eucharist with Healing Litany 5:30pm  
Maundy Thursday service 5:30pm service  
Good Friday service @ noon followed by stations of the cross (optional)  
No service on Holy Saturday  
Easter Sunday 8am & 10:30am services (no Bible class between services)

Priest: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**First Lesson: Jeremiah 31: 31-34**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 51: 1-13**

- 1

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-/ **kindness**;  
in your great compassion blot out my off- **enses**.
- 2

Wash me through and through from my / **wickedness**  
and cleanse me from my / **sin**.
- 3

For I know my trans- **gressions**,  
and my sin is ever be-/ **fore me**.
- 4

Against you only have I / **sinned**  
and done what is evil in your / **sight**.
- 5

And so you are justified when you / **speak**  
and upright in your / **judgment**.
- 6

Indeed, I have been wicked from my / **birth**,  
a sinner from my mother's / **womb**.

For behold, you look for truth deep with- / **in me**,  
and will make me understand wisdom / **secretly**.  
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be / **pure**;  
wash me, and I shall be clean in- / **deed**.

Make me hear of joy and / **gladness**,  
that the body you have broken may re- / **joice**.  
Hide your face from my / **sins**  
and blot out all my in- / **iquities**.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit with- / **in me**.  
Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy Spirit / **from me**.  
Give me the joy of your saving help a- / **gain**  
and sustain me with your bountiful / **Spirit**.

**Second Lesson: Hebrews 5: 5-10**

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*When Christ was lifted from the earth* ST. BOTOLPH Hymnal 603

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

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

**The Gospel: John 12: 20-33**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

Priest: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**All: 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 Prayer Book 337  
*Agnus Dei* (Hurd) *call and response* Hymn S-161  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Choral Response: “Eat This Bread” Taize’*

Communion  
Communion Music:

*When I survey the wondrous cross* ROCKINGHAM Hymnal 474  
*I bind unto myself this day* ST.PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE Hymnal 370

Postcommunion Prayer (*please stand or kneel*) Prayer Book 366

Priest: Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*In the cross of Christ I glory* RATHBUN Hymnal 441

Priest gives dismissal.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Mary Ann Hatfield

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Priest continues: And therefore we praise you, joining with heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Hurd)

**Hymn S-124**

**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.**

Priest continues: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Priest: Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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.**

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

(leader) I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops and other ministers; Justin of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, and our Diocesan Bishops, Andy, Kai, Jeff, Hector, our priest Sharon, and our supply priests Merrill and Ken; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people; especially for our sister churches; St. John’s, Columbus; St. John’s, Sealy; St. Mary’s, Bellville; St. Paul’s, Navasota.

Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Pray for those who are ill, especially Pinky, Carolyn, Pete & Martha, Lonrita, Betsy, Brooks, Justin, Tom, Bryan. [PRAYER LIST]

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially.... PRAYER LIST]

Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

I ask your thanksgiving for those celebrating birthdays; Frances Pittman, Bill Rogers, Jason Krupala, Debbie Irwin, David Reyna, [PRAYER LIST] and anniversaries, [PRAYER LIST].

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

Priest may add a prayer.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory:

*Ave Verum Corpus* Mozart Choir

*W: Eucharistic Chant, 13th cent.; M: W.A. Mozart, K. 618*

The gentle and serene *Ave Verum Corpus* was written for Anton Stoll, choirmaster in Baden, where Constanze, Mozart’s wife, often visited the spa. Unlike the dramatic and famously unfinished *Requiem* in D Minor, K 626, on which Mozart was working at the same time, *Ave Verum Corpus* is perfectly suited for the smaller choir for which it was intended. Though written for fewer voices, it conveys Mozart’s noted knack for beautiful melody and his later explorations of harmonies and voice leading.

Ave verum corpus,	<i>Hail, true Body,</i>
Natum de Maria Virgine,	<i>born of the Virgin Mary,</i>
vere passum, immolatum	<i>having truly suffered, sacrificed</i>
in cruce pro homine	<i>on the cross for mankind,</i>
cuius latus perforatum	<i>from whose pierced side</i>
fluxit aqua et sanguine:	<i>water and blood flowed:</i>
esto nobis praegustatum	<i>Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet]</i>
in mortis examine.	<i>in the trial of death!</i>

*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-Eucharist Prayer C

Prayer Book 369

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.**

Priest: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**People: Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**