

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



Year C

February 2, 2025

The Presentation of Our Lord
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, or have the priest bring communion to you in your pew. Restrooms and infant changing station are in the main building. Ask an usher for directions.

Join us for hospitality in the Parish Hall following the service.

Your presence is a blessing!

The Word of God

Prelude

Don Kirby

Processional: *(stand) O Zion, open wide thy gates* EDMONTON Hymnal 257

(Note the special hymn texts for this day: the Presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple. We celebrate Christ's naming day, and the prophecies Anna and Simeon made on that day.)

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

People: And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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* Schubert

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 and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever **Amen.**

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

² Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84 (paraphrased) *How lovely is thy dwelling-place*

Hymnal 517

BROTHER JAMES' AIR

Second Lesson: Hebrews 2:14-18

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hail to the Lord who comes OLD 120TH

Hymnal 259

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout,

looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It

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had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev Ken Kesselus

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.
4 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)

We pray for your holy catholic church; especially our sister churches in this
Diocese: St. David's, Austin; St. George's, Austin; St. James', Austin.

That we all may be one.

We give you thanks for all guests and newcomers worshipping here today,
and those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; Pinky Wilson, Jerri & Dick
Frenzel. [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
Sean, and our Bishops, Andrew, Kai, Jeff, Hector; our supply priest 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.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and
so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we
may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for
our ministries.

That a new Rector may strengthen our parish.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. We pray for victims of the hurricanes and all natural disasters; and for those in countries at war.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others; Pinky, Pete & Martha, Lonnita, JoAnn, Beverly, Marjorie, Jean, Dwight. [PRAYER LIST].

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

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.

Priest : Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All: 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.**

Priest continues with 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.**

All who are able please stand

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem *The Lord is my light* BOUKNIGHT

LEVASII 58

Very little is known about Lillian Bouknight (d. 1990), except that she was an African American from North Carolina, and a soloist and composer in the Pentecostal Holiness movement in the Aliquippam, PA Community, also serving as a prayer warrior and on the Mother's Board.

The Lord is my light, and my salvation (3X)

Whom shall I fear!

Wait on the Lord, and be of good courage (3X)

He shall strengthen thy heart.

Whom shall I fear,

Whom shall I fear:

The Lord is the strength of my life,

Whom shall I fear:

In the time of trouble, He shall hide me (3X)

Whom shall I fear?

Please rise immediately following the anthem to lift our voices in praise:

**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

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:

Sanctus (Schubert)

Hymn S-130

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

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**God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full,
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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 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:

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.**

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

Prayer Book 364

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei (Schubert)

Hymn S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God; have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins; have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world; give us your peace, give us your peace.

Invitation to the Lord's table:

Communion

Communion Music:

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ THE EIGHTH TUNE

Hymnal 25

(after singing this hymn through, repeat the last stanza as a round. Each new entrance begins where indicated by the number "2" above the music in the hymnal)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence PICARDY Hymnal 324

Postcommunion Prayer *(please stand or kneel as you are able)* 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.

Final Blessing

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates TRURO

Hymnal 436

The Dismissal

Priest: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

+++Announcements++

Sunday School 9:15am

We will have the following schedule during the 9:15-10:15 Sunday morning time for the next two months.

Sundays through March 9 A study of the Episcopal Church

This is for those who (1) want to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, (2) those who have already been confirmed but who want to make a special renewal of their faith (3) those who want to learn or re-learn about the life and teaching of the church.

February 9 - Church History and organization

February 16 - The prayer book and Sacraments

February 23 - no class

March 2 - Summary, left overs, and preparation for the visitation by Bishop Ryan. For information Father Ken - 512-940-7897 / ken.kesselus@gmail.com

Holy Smokers & ECW Bake

Saturday, Feb 8th to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Time 10:30am-1pm or until sold out. Drive through only.

Men's Club Meeting at 6pm on Monday, Feb 10th at Sealand. Host: Ed Dykes

Second Chance Emporium

Next work week for St. James' is Feb 11-15th. Contact Lil Landry to volunteer.

THE BISHOP IS COMING Bishop Kai Ryan will be with us Sunday, March 9th at the 10:30 service. *Anyone who is interested in being confirmed or received, or wants a refresher course, or is simply interested in learning more, please let Cathy know.* Father Ken has told Joe that he is willing to lead such a class, so we would appreciate knowing who all might be interested. Again, Let Cathy know. cathy@stjameslagrange.org. church office: 979.968.3910

Mark Your Calendar

It's a Mardi Party! Join us for the 11th Annual Preschool Picassos event on Saturday, Feb. 22, at Frisch Auf! Country Club from 5-9 pm. Tickets go on sale next week for the dinner and art auction, which is a fundraiser to benefit St. James Preschool. Cathy has tickets available in church office; \$40 per person. This big event will take the place of our February and Fat Tuesday Supper Club, and you don't have to cook! Laissez les bons temps rouler (let the good times roll)!

Supper Club News

For this year, Ann Campbell and Carol Helms are co-chairing the Supper Club arrangements. It is our social ministry and helps us to reinforce our motto, 'Enter as strangers and leave as friends.' We need hosts for each event, which can be in a home, a venue of one's choice, or the Parish Hall.

After the hosts have volunteered, then a team of co-hosts may sign up to help each host. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Parish Hall.

Please help this ministry to be successful by offering to host or co-host a party.

Note: May and September need hosts and co-hosts.

Working together as a team to plan an event is a pleasure and a good way to make new friendships. One may volunteer to be a co-host or be asked by the host to assist.

Ann and Carol will be happy to assist with your planning of a party.

Flowers: have been given to the Glory of God.

Rite Two
LEM Laurie Krupala Acolyte Luke Herbrich
Lector Ursula Stephens
Intercessor Karla Klyng
Ushers Lil & Ray Landry
Vestry Joe Jameson
Altar Guild Team – all teams



St. James' Episcopal Church and Preschool
In the Diocese of Texas
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Bishop The Right Rev Andrew Doyle
Regional Bishop The Right Rev Kai Ryan
Regular Supply Priest Rev Ken Kesselus
Vestry: Senior Warden Joe Jameson, Junior Warden Jane Malik
John Saunders, Lil Landry, Susie Glasscock,
Elaine Tracy, Joe Bailey
Treasurer Eric Batchelder Vestry Clerk Carolyn Cheatham
Building Management Paul (Trey) Cheatham
Music Director Don Kirby/Luke Huser, 'Cellist
Director St. James' Preschool Laurie Krupala
St. James' Accountant Evelyn Grant
Parish Administrator Cathy Serman