

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH



April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter
Morning Prayer

Welcome! If you are visiting, we offer you a special welcome. If you are with us on Zoom and would like more information about our parish, please send the Zoom Usber a chat message, or email office@stjamesvt.org with your name, where you're from, and your email address. On Zoom, please keep microphones muted. If you are reading a lesson or adding a prayer aloud during the time of prayers, please unmute yourself, then mute again. In person, sitting distances may be observed and masks may be worn. Please be mindful of the comfort of others.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: Come, ye faithful

Hymnal 199

1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pri - son,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness:
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;
 with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold thee as a mor - tal:

loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day a - midst thine own thou didst stand, be - stow - ing

led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.
 that thy peace which ev - er - more pass - eth hu - man know - ing.

Words: John of Damascus (8th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *St. Kevin*, Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900).

Opening Sentence

Officiant If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! –2 *Corinthians* 5:17

The Confession of Sin is omitted during the Easter Season.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Enriching Our Worship 20

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People And your glory all the day long.

All Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People O come, let us worship. Alleluia.

Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum*

St. Helena Breviary

1 Corinthians 5:7-8; *Romans* 6:8-11; *1 Corinthians* 15:20-22

Said in unison with the Officiant leading.

Alleluia,

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion.

The death that Christ died was death to sin, once for all; *
but the life Christ lives, is life to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a human being came death, *
by a human being has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, *
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People O come, let us worship. Alleluia.

Psalm 16

Read in a manner chosen by the Officiant: direct recitation (unison), antiphonally (side to side) or responsive recitation (leader and people) alternating either by verse or at the asterisk.

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the Holy One, “You are my God, my good above all other.”
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O God, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless you, O God, who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set you always before me; *
because you are at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit, *
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Reading: Acts 2:14a,22-32

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up,

having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People *Thanks be to God.*

A period of silence is kept.

Canticle: A Song of the Heavenly City *Revelation 21:22-26, 22:1-4*

EOW 38

Said responsively by whole verse alternating between Officiant and People.

I saw no temple in the city, *
for its temple is the God of surpassing strength and the Lamb.
And the city has no need of sun or moon to light it, *
for the glory of God shines on it, and its lamp is the Lamb.
By its light the nations shall walk, *
and the rulers of the world lay their honor and glory there.
Its gates shall never be shut by day, nor shall there be any night; *
into it they will bring the honor and glory of nations.
I saw the clean river of the water of life, bright as crystal, *
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.
The tree of life spanned the river, giving fruit every month, *
and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of nations.
All curses cease where the throne of God and the Lamb stands,
and all servants give worship there; *
there they will see God’s face, whose Name shall be on their foreheads.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Lector: A reading from the first Letter of Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem: From All That Dwell Below the Skies

- Cyndy Berry

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Please remain seated for the reading of the Gospel in the service of Morning Prayer.

Deacon or Officiant: A reading from the Gospel according to John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Deacon/Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon: “The Sanctity of Scars”

Melissa Sallée

The Apostles’ Creed

EOW 41

All standing as able, the creed is said in unison

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages

EOW 42

The Suffrages are said responsively

V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
V. Look upon your congregation;
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.
V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collect of the Day

St. Helena Breviary

All are invited to say the Collect of the Day together.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the community of Christ's body, may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for a Time of Transition

Chief Shepherd, we trust in your guidance for our church. We ask for your Holy Spirit to fill us with wisdom and unity as we navigate this time without a priest in charge. Protect us from division and discouragement. Empower our leaders and members to serve faithfully, meet our needs, and continue to spread the Gospel. Guide us to the leader you have chosen for us and help us grow in your kingdom. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for the Creation

A New Zealand Prayer Book (*modified*)

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation, give us fruitful harvests and teach us to use all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgivings and Intercessions

The Intercessor offers prayers for those on our prayer lists. All may sit.

We remember and pray for the ministries of all the ordained and their households and families throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, and Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks and pray for Avery Mitchell who is celebrating a birthday this week.

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving.

The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.

We pray for those who are sick or have asked for our prayers, especially Grace; Kristen; Tyler; Darcy; Foster Borch; Connie; Neil Eklund; Jim Larkin; Carl Runge; John; Matthew; Carol Reichard; Lindsey Huddle; and Sean, friend of Jeff Moskovics. We pray for all suffering injustice, fear and uncertainty.

I invite your prayers of intercession.

The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.

We pray for those who have died, especially for the people who have died in global conflicts, especially in Ukraine, Sudan, and Israel and Gaza; the people who have died from violence; and for all the people who mourn these losses.

I invite your prayers for those who have died.

The Intercessor will invite prayers to be offered aloud by guiding first, the in-person group and after that, the online worshippers.

The Intercessor offers a Prayer for Justice.

Creator of the Universe, source of all goodness and love, we ask wisdom, help, and guidance as we work to counter the many instances of injustice and racism in our world. Help us to value differences in culture, religious beliefs, and physical appearance, and celebrate the God-made wonder of every human being. Help us to be vigilant, working against racial and social injustice in our own hearts and in the world around us, that we may live into our baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. *Amen.*”

The Officiant concludes with the following collect.

A Collect of Dedication

Beloved God: As we offer ourselves to you this day, guide and stir us with your Holy Spirit, that we may become one body, one spirit in Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

The people’s offerings are gathered and brought to the altar by the ushers to be offered to God. All stand as able.

Offertory Hymn: Joyful, joyful we adore thee

Hymnal 376

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach - us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

Please continue to support our parish life and ministries by sending your offering to St. James Episcopal Church, 4 St. James Place, Essex Junction, VT 05452. You may also give online by visiting: stjamesvt.org/giving

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

The Officiant and People say together

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Community Announcements

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Concluding Sentence

The Officiant says

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Sending Hymn: That Easter Day with joy was bright

Hymnal 193

All stand as able.



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright, the
 2 His ris - en flesh with ra - diance glowed; his
 3 O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, do
 4 O Lord of all, with us a - bide in
 5 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

 1 sun shone out with fair - er light, when, to their long - ing
 2 wound - ed hands and feet he showed; those scars their sol - emn
 3 thou thy - self our hearts pos - sess that we may give thee
 4 this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; from ev - ery wea - pon
 5 thee, who, dead, a - gain dost live; to God the Fa - ther

 1 eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
 2 wit - ness gave that Christ was ris - en from the grave.
 3 all our days the will - ing tri - bute of our praise.
 4 death can wield thine own re - deemed for ev - er shield.
 5 e - qual praise, and God the Ho - ly Ghost, we raise.

Words: Latin, 5th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950; alt. acc. John F. Erickson (b. 1938).

Postlude

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Psalm from the Saint Helena Psalter Copyright © 2004 by The Order of St. Helena, Inc. All rights reserved.

*Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the Parish Hall.
 And please join us for a brief Compline service with music online Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.*



Officiant: Kathy Rouleau
Preacher: Melissa Sallée
Lector: Denise Noble
Intercessor: Jenny Ogelby
Musicians: Carol Reichard; St. James Choir
In-Person Ushers: Ron Belair, Jeanette Racine
Minister of Technology: Helen Donahey
Digital Usher: Lindsey Huddle

IN OUR PRAYERS

Diocesan and Anglican Cycles of Prayer: We remember and pray for the ministries of all the ordained and their households and families throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, and Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, who are recovering from injuries or surgery, or who have asked for our prayers: Grace; Kristen; Tyler; Darcy; Foster Borch; Connie; Neil Eklund; Jim Larkin; Carl Runge; John; Matthew; Carol Reichard; Lindsey Huddle; and Sean, friend of Jeff Moskovics. We pray for all suffering injustice, fear and uncertainty.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn: especially for the people who have died in global conflicts, especially in Ukraine, Sudan, and Israel and Gaza; the people who have died from violence; and for all the people who mourn these losses.

Birthday:

Avery Mitchell, April 13



Easter Flower Gifts are Given in Thanksgiving for:

George and Molly Rudgers' children and grandchildren

And in Loving Memory of:

Kim Willey
Greg "Mitch" Mitchell
Sandy & Bob Willey
Ann Wavrek Develin
Paul & Cathrine Wavrek
Harry & Irene Reichard
Grace & Martin Grimes
Lillian & Thomas Tetreault
The Rev. Ralph & Isabel Hutton
Rob & Ruth Robinson
Nancy Robinson McGlashan
Norvin & Joyce Winship
Frank Burnham
Wyatt Hill
The Rev. Alexander & Janet Smith
Samuel & Dorothy Ogelby
Dick and Dot Rochester
Colleen Dolan
David Leahy
The Rev. Janet Brown

The Rev. Reed Brown
Ginny Eklund
Robert & Gertrude Rouleau
Ellie Potter
Michael Grady
Chris Baker
Elizabeth & Robert Laidman Sr.
Florence & Donald Stricker
Ann & William Sargent
Cynthia Stricker
Benjamin Walton
Lois & Bill Soule
Bill Geiger
Anne C. Sangree
John Donahey
Lois Belair
Charlie and Nancy Roff
The Rev. Fred J. Haskin
Louisa Haskin
Ruby Hitchcock
Steve Moss

The Second Sunday of Easter—Year A

Welcome to Saint James Church. We continue today to celebrate the Lord's resurrection, a celebration which will last for fifty days in all (and which is celebrated again every Sunday throughout the year). The Gospel reading begins with the first Easter Day when Jesus appeared in the evening to the disciples and gave them his Spirit. The story continues with his appearance the following Sunday when Thomas met the Lord and confessed his faith. It concludes with words for us: "Blessed are they who have not seen, yet believe."

On the Sundays of Easter, the first reading is always from the Acts of the Apostles. In today's reading from Acts, we hear a portion of Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost proclaiming the resurrection. God has raised Jesus; and Peter and the other Apostles are witnesses of the resurrection.

The second lesson on the Sundays of Easter this year comes from Peter's first epistle. This is a sermon on the meaning of baptism. Today the message is about our rebirth into new life in God as we died and rose with Christ in baptism. Nevertheless, in the world we will still have trials and persecutions, Peter tells us, but in them, our faith is strengthened and purified.

As we gather as Church to celebrate the Lord's resurrection, we find the living presence of Jesus in his Word, in the sacraments, and in our life as the community of the Body of Christ. We find ourselves made by the Holy Spirit into a community that is the visible and living sign of the risen Christ.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop of Vermont: The Right Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon David Ganter

Vestry:

Senior Warden, Brian Garland

Junior Warden, Jeff Moskovics

Linda Chiasson

Frances Huessy

Kathy Laidman

Jenny Ogelby

Neal Robinson

George Rudgers

Parish Treasurer: Susan Ficklin

Assistant Treasurers: Janice Rheaume and Jenny Ogelby

Pledge Treasurer: Jeanne Pizzi

Vestry Clerk: Molly Rudgers

Minister of Music: Carol Reichard

Parish Administrator: SarahJean Bos

Bulletin: Heather Winship

Constellation Partner: Calvary Episcopal Church, Underhill, VT

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