ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

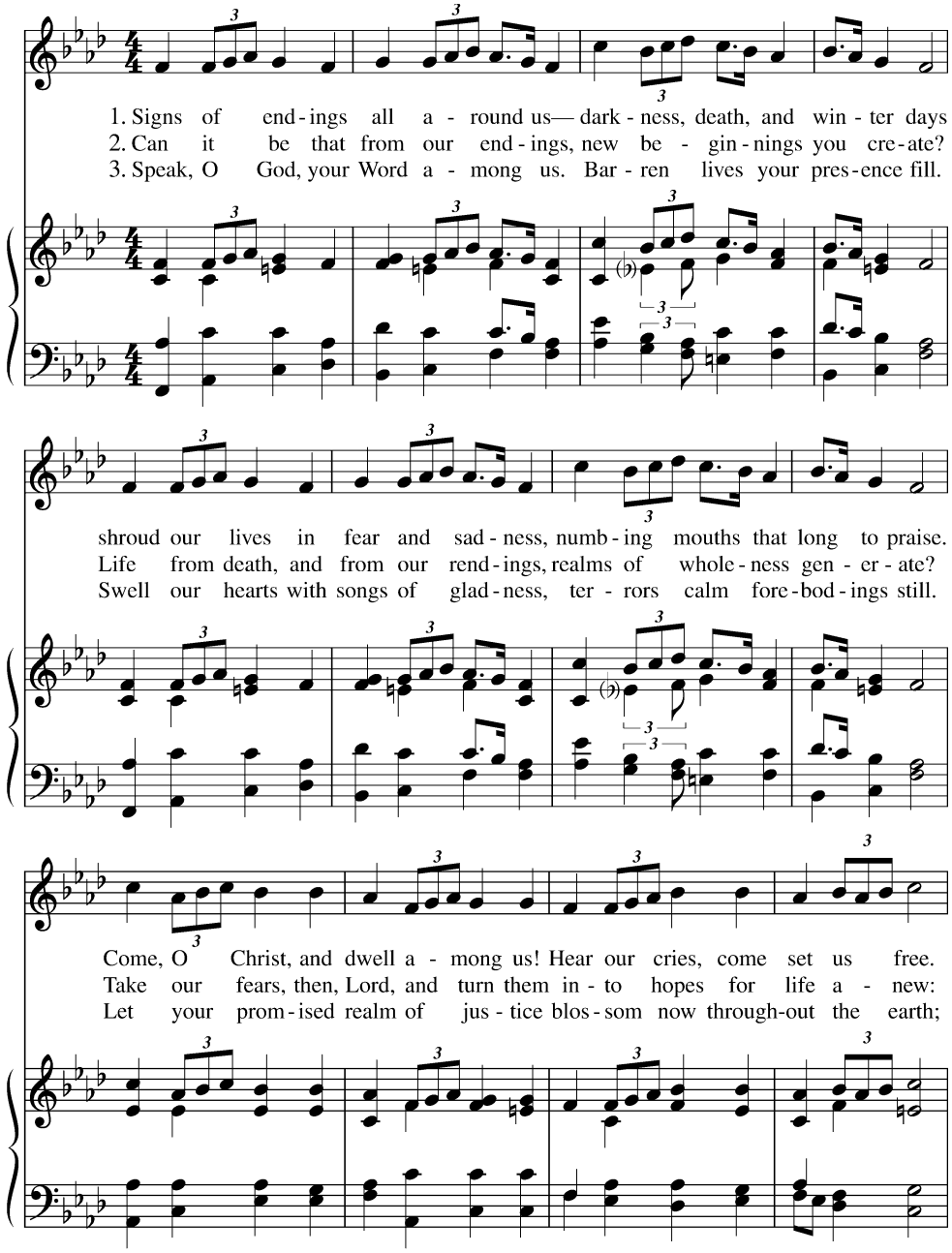


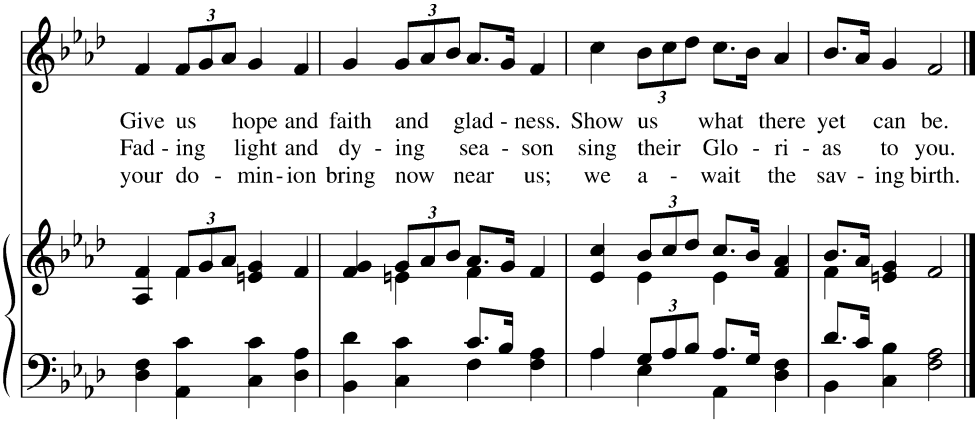
Morning Prayer
Proper 28
November 15, 2026

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 Usher 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.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: Signs of ending all around us — WLP 721





Words: Dean W. Nelson (b. 1944). Music: *Ton-y-Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944).

Opening Sentence

Officiant Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *Psalm 43:3*

Confession of Sin

Deacon Dave Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People

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.

Officiant

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

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 God is the Rock of our salvation:
People O come let us worship.

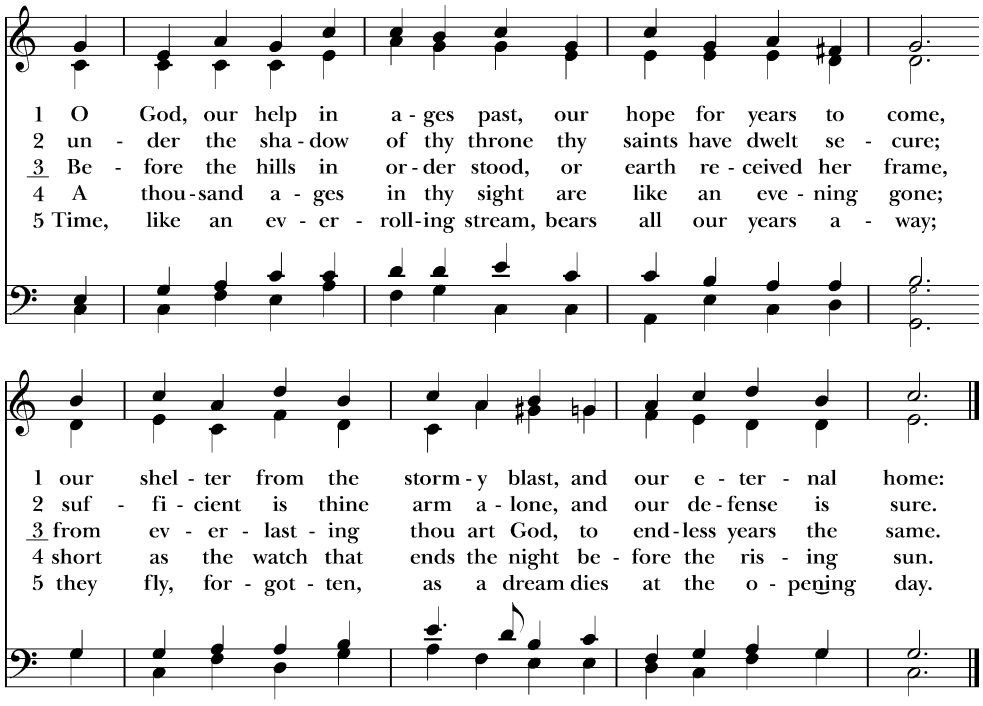
Venite *Psalm 95:1-7* **St. Helena Breviary**

Come, let us sing to the Holy One; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving, *
and raise a loud shout with psalms.
For you, O God, are a great God; *
you are great above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it, *
and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, *
and kneel before God, our Maker,
For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. *
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

Officiant God is the Rock of our salvation:
People O come let us worship.

The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

Sung Psalm 90: O God, our help in ages past **Hymnal 680 v. 1-4**



6 O God, our help in ages past, be thou our guide while life shall last,
our hope for years to come, and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90. Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

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.*

The Lessons

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7,12-18
Lector: A reading from the Book of Zephaniah

Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.
People *Thanks be to God.*

A period of silence is kept.

Canticle 16 The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus* **EOW 27**

Said in Unison with the Lector leading

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, *
you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, *
born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us,
To show mercy to our forebears, *
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship you without fear, *
holy and righteous before you,
all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet
of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
To give God's people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Lector: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem: There is a Season **- Tom Kendzia**
Livy & Tom Hitchcock, vocals and Rich Ugland, guitar

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

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
Deacon Dave: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

Sermon **Frances Huessy**

The Apostles' Creed **EOW 41**

All rise in body or in spirit, 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

The Suffrages are said responsively

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the Day **St. Helena Breviary**

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

Blessed God, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. *Amen.*

Thanksgivings and Intercessions

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

We remember and pray for St. Paul's Church, Windsor; Betty Cyr, Senior Warden in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, and Iglesia Anglicana de Chile (Anglican Church of Chile) in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer. We give thanks and pray for Dick & June Studley who are celebrating their anniversary 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; Darcy; Connie; Foster Borch; Neil Eklund; Jackie Borch; Martha Haskell; Patty Pratt; Sandra Ashley; Jim Larkin; Carl Runge; Linda Chiasson; and Rachel. 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 and those who mourn, especially for John Thomas, husband of Leneice Wu, and for Leneice and their family as they mourn; the people who have died in natural disasters; for the people who have died in global conflicts; for 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 and those who mourn.

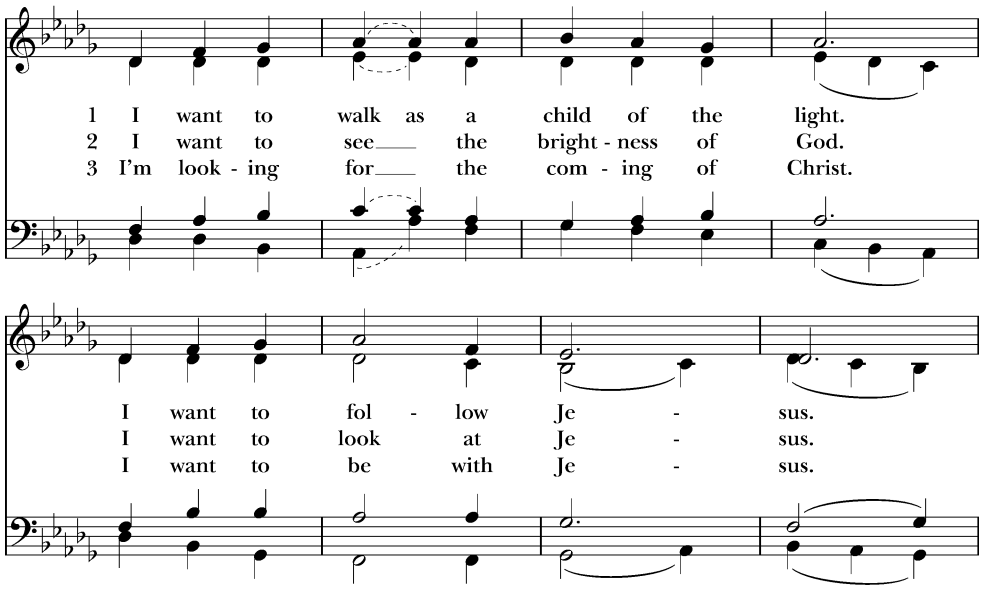
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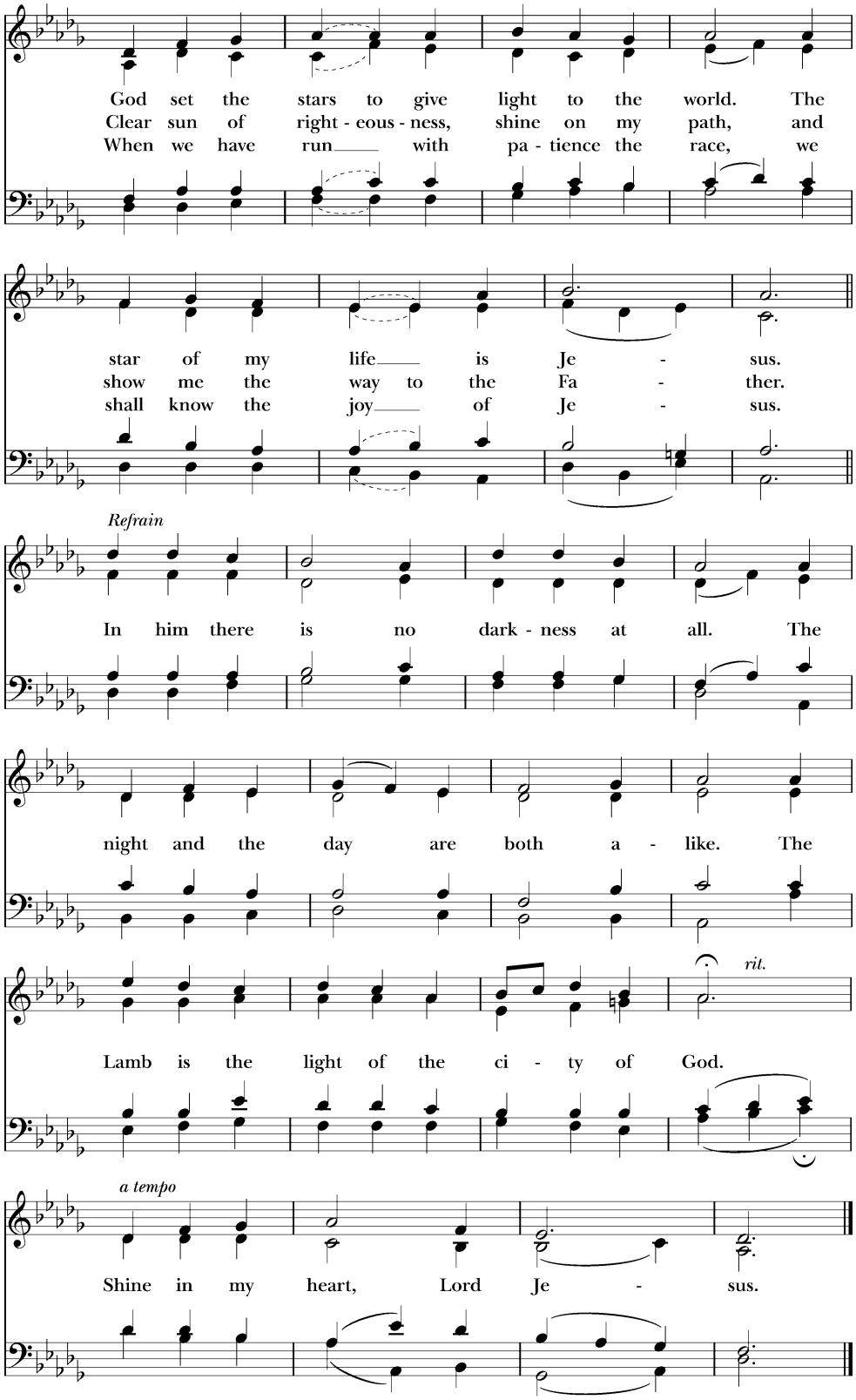
The Officiant concludes with:

Lord, hear all our prayers whether spoken out loud or said only in our hearts. A*men.*

The people's offerings are gathered and brought to the altar by the ushers to be offered to God. All rise in body or in spirit.

Offertory Hymn: I want to walk as a child of the light **Hymnal 490**





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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

The Deacon says

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

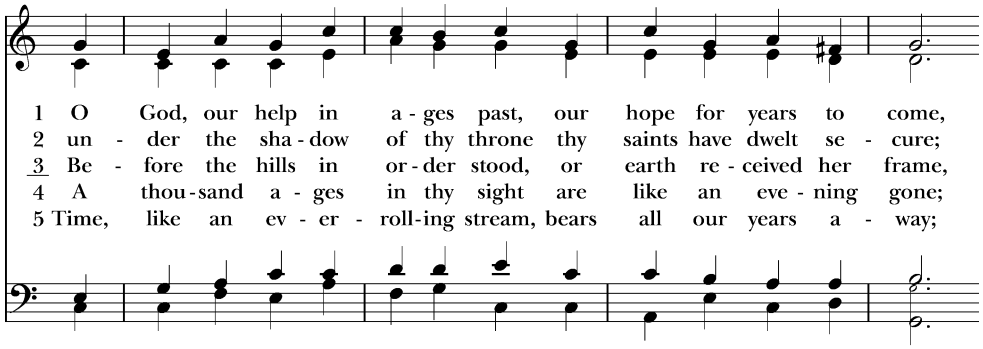
Concluding Sentence

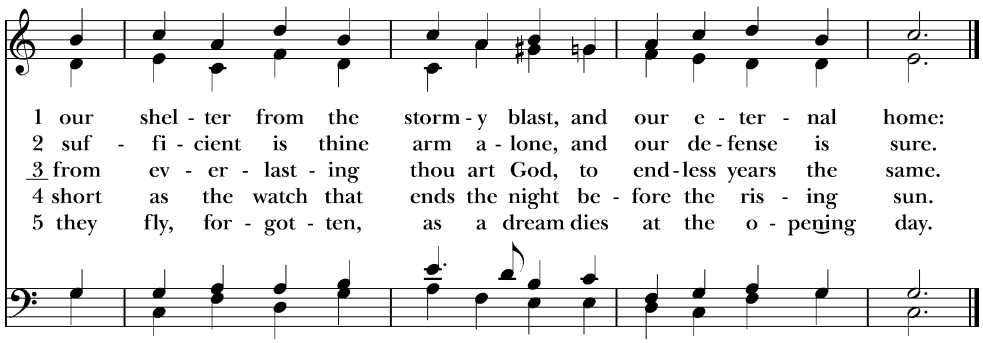
The Officiant says

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* *Romans 15:13*

Sending Hymn: O God our help in ages past **Hymnal 680 v. 5-6**

All rise in body or in spirit





6 O God, our help in ages past, be thou our guide while life shall last,
our hope for years to come, and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90. Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

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: Frances Huessy
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Dave Ganter
Lector: Sue Brown
Intercessor: Heather Winship
Musicians: Carol Reichard; Tom and Livy Hichcock; Rich Ugland
In-Person Ushers: Nancy Collins and Jeanette Racine
Minister of Technology: Elijah Moskovics
Digital Usher: Peggy Bonesteel

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

This is the first in a series explaining why we do what we do in the Liturgy, why the seasons and services change, etc. Have a question you'd like to see answered? Email Kathy Rouleau at lemonfair21@gmail.com

Why do we pass the Peace?

St. Paul tells the church at Rome to "greet one another with a holy kiss." (Romans 16:16) Jesus in the sermon on the mount says, "So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24). After the resurrection Jesus greeted his followers with "Peace be with you." All these elements are reflected in what was practiced from the very beginning, and which we now call the passing of the peace.

But wait, many of us remember when this was "new." Some time in the middle ages as congregations grew very large, the practice was confined to clergy at the altar. So when (in Vatican II and other liturgical renewals) it returned for the congregation, we thought it was new.

The placement has varied, and varies now in other denominations, but in the Episcopal Church we "greet one another in the name of the Lord" after the confession and absolution, because we are now reconciled with one another, and can come together to celebrate our communion with God and one another.

Why don't we pass the peace at Morning Prayer?

The history and practice of passing the peace is tied to reconciliation as preparation for Holy Communion. It has never been a part of the daily cycle of monastic prayers, which includes Morning Prayer.

Proper 28—Year A

Welcome to St. James Church. Our attention today is again turned toward the subject of Christ's return and the Day of Judgment. In the parable of the talents (a monetary unit worth fifteen years' wages in the first century), we are taught that what God has given us is to be used productively and ultimately returned to God enhanced by our use of those gifts.
The rather gloomy prophet, Zephaniah, speaks God's word in the first reading today. This a warning to those who rest satisfied with their state of life. A day is coming of judgment when we must give account. Those people find that day a day of disaster.
Today we conclude reading through 1 Thessalonians. In his final words to this early congregation, confused because the Lord has not yet returned, Paul tells them that Jesus' return cannot be predicted. In addition, he tells them, and us, to live in preparation all the time with the confident certainty of those who live in the light of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ.
In historical periods of social confusion (such as our own time), popular religion often focuses on the most negative and pessimistic aspects of the biblical message of judgment. The central message of Holy Scripture, however, is not God's wrath but God's love and the promise made to us of salvation. As we gather in the Eucharist, we again hear that message of the loving God and are equipped to go forth to proclaim it to the world.

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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Diocesan and Anglican Cycles of Prayer: We remember and pray for St. Paul's Church, Windsor; Betty Cyr, Senior Warden in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, and Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo 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: especially Grace; Kristen; Darcy; Connie; Foster Borch; Neil Eklund; Jim Larkin; Carl Runge; Jackie Borch; Martha Haskell; Patty Pratt; Sandra Ashley; Linda Chiasson; and Rachel.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn: especially for John Thomas, husband of Leneice Wu, and for Leneice and their family as they mourn; the people who have died in recent natural disasters; the people who have died in global conflicts; the people who have died from violence; and for all the people who mourn these losses.

Anniversary:
Dick & June Studley, November 20



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop of Vermont: The Right Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown
Deacon-in-Charge/Transitional Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Heather Caulfield-Mills
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon David Ganter
Vestry:
Senior Warden, Brian Garland
Junior Warden, Linda Chiasson
Frances Huessy
Kathy Laidman
Jeff Moskovics
Jenny Ogelby
Neal Robinson
George Rudgers
Parish Treasurer: Susan Ficklin
Assistant Treasurers: Janice Rheaume and Jenny Ogelby
Vestry Clerk: Molly Rudgers
Minister of Music: Carol Reichard
Parish Administrator: SarahJean Bos
Sexton: Ron Belair
Bulletin: Heather Winship
Constellation Partner: Calvary Episcopal Church, Underhill, VT

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Deacon-in-Charge contact: reverendheather@stjamesvt.org
Senior Warden contact: bjgarland@gmail.com

