

# St. James' Episcopal Church March 23, 2025 5 pm Third Sunday in Lent

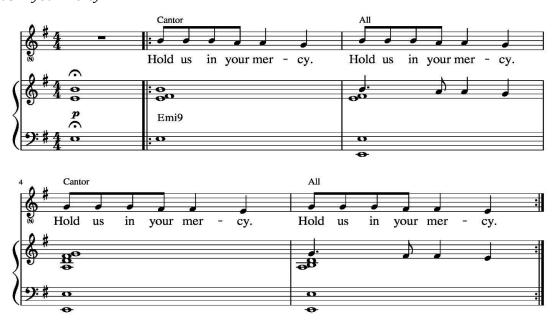
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at this table.

### The Gathering of the Community

Please stand as you are able.

### Penitential Litany

Hold us in your Mercy



Maker's love poured out from heaven, hold us in your mercy. Mercy's word made flesh among us, hold us in your mercy. Born as one of homeless pilgrims, hold us in your mercy. Sent to bring the poor good news, hold us in your mercy. You, who shared the sinner's table, hold us in your mercy. You, who cleansed the leper's flesh, hold us in your mercy.

You, who shared our life and labor, hold us in your mercy. You, who chose to walk our roads, hold us in your mercy. You, who silence raging demons, hold us in your mercy. You, who bid the storm be silent, hold us in your mercy. You, whose cross has gone before us, hold us in your mercy. You, who bear our cross with us, hold us in your mercy. Innocent, you faced the guilty, hold us in your mercy. One in death with us forever, hold us in your mercy.

Come and break the chains that bind us; **hold us in your mercy**. Free us from addiction's prison; **hold us in your mercy**. Break the power of the darkness; **hold us in your mercy**. Let us rise to life with you; **hold us in your mercy**.

Presider Blessed be the God of our Salvation.

People Who bears our burdens and forgives our sin.

Presider Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.

People I will confess my sins to the Lord, I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

In the silence, we are invited to examine the brokenness in our own lives and in the world and to pray that, with God's merciful help, we might set our feet upon paths of repentance.

Presider God forgives and heals us.

People We need your healing, merciful God:

give us true repentance. Some sins are plain to us;

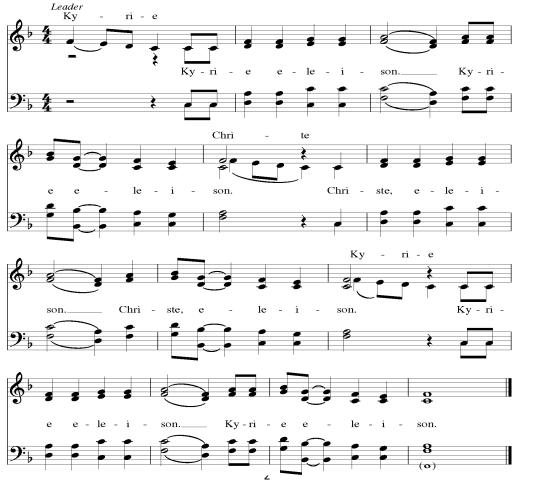
some escape us, some we cannot face.

Forgive us;

set us free to hear your word to us;

set us free to serve you.

Kyrie LEVAS 239



Presider God forgives you.

Forgive others; Forgive yourself.

Silence

Through Christ, God has put away your sin:

approach your God in peace.

### The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you. **People** And also with you.

Presider God of infinite mercy, grant that we who know your pity may rejoice in your

forgiveness and gladly forgive others for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

### The First Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

Lector A reading from Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what

shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you." God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm** Psalm 63:1-18

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your Name.

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

### The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Lector

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Lector

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

## People Thanks be to God.





The Gospel Luke 13:1-9

Deacon **People**  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

ople Praise and glory to God.

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Deacon

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** 

Praise to Christ, the Word.

The Sermon

The Rev. Peter Akecmeir, Senior Seminarian

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Please stand as you are able.

People You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us.

You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,

who lived and died and rose again.

You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God.

We worship you.

### The Prayers of the People

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops; for this

gathering; and for all of the people of God.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among and within nations; and for the

well-being of all creatures on this fragile earth, our island home.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

Intercessor I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in

prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

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

Pray that they may find, and be found, by God.

Silence

Intercessor I invite your petitions. For whom shall we pray?

(Pause to hear the prayers of others and to offer your own.)

For what shall we give thanks?

(Pause to rejoice in thanksgiving with the community.)

Intercessor 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.

Presider O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your

mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now

and for ever. Amen.

The Peace

Presider Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace.

People Who breaks down the walls that divide.

Presider The peace of God be always with you.

People Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.

Please be mindful of each other's varied boundaries while greeting during the peace.

### **Announcements and Blessings**

### Offertory

We offer our gifts to God: our lives, our abilities, our resources.



Instead of passing the plates during the offertory, we invite you to make an offering through the Offering Box in the Narthex/lobby or by using the QR code.

### **Holy Communion**

Please stand as you are able.

Presider The Lord is here.

People God's Spirit is with us.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People** It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Presider In your Son you suffered with us and for us, offering us the healing riches of salvation

and calling us to freedom and holiness.

Therefore with people of every nation, tribe and language, joyfully we give you thanks

and sing:

Sanctus LEVAS 256



Please kneel or remain standing.

Presider

All glory and honor to you, God of grace, for you gave your only Son Jesus Christ once for all on the cross to be the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

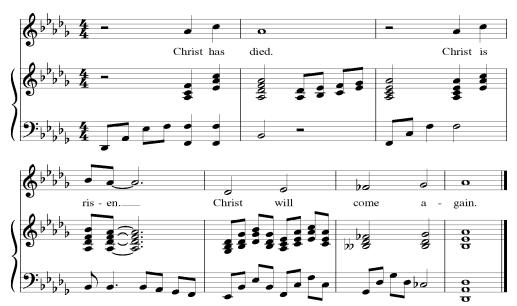
The night before he died he took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Therefore, loving God, in this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

### **Memorial Acclamation**

LEVAS 258

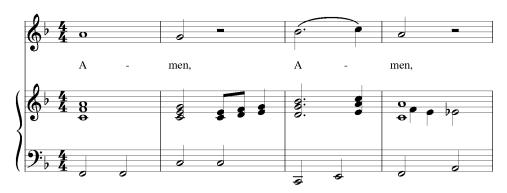


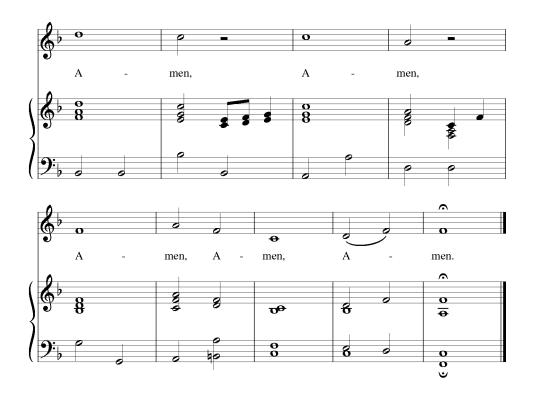
Presider

Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness, we were far off until you brought us near and our hands are empty until you fill them. As we eat this bread and drink this wine, through the power of your Holy Spirit feed us with heavenly food, renew us in your service, unite us with Christ, and bring us to your everlasting kingdom. O the depths and the riches of your wisdom, O God: how unsearchable are your judgments and untraceable your ways.

People From you, and through you, and for you are all things. To you be the glory forever.

The Great Amen LEVAS 261





# The Lord's Prayer

Presider As Christ has taught us to pray, we are bold to pray,

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

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **People** Therefore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei C117







Presider Bread and wine, the gifts of God for the people of God.

People May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

Presider Wherever you are on your journey of faith,

People You are welcome at this table.

Please follow the guidance of the ushers to approach the altar to receive communion. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.



# **Prayer after Communion**

People Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### A Night Prayer for Lent

Presider Lord, it is night.

People The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the Presence of God.

Silence

Presider It is night after a long day.

People What has been done has been done; what has not been done

has not been done; let it be.

Silence

Presider The night is dark.

People Let our fears of the darkness of the world and our lives rest in you.

Silence

Presider The night is quiet.

People Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us,

and all who have no peace.

Silence

Presider The night heralds the dawn.

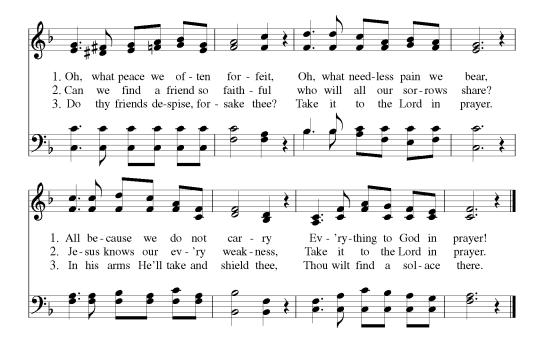
People Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.

In your name we pray. Amen.

### **Solemn Prayer over the People**

Presider Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord.





### The Dismissal of the Community

Deacon Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

People Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

### **Prayer List**

The Prayer List is prayed on a regular basis by our Monday night Intercessory Prayer Group. We invite you to incorporate praying the list into your own prayer practices. To add a name to the prayer list, email <a href="mailto:prayerbox@stjamesaustin.org">prayer requests from the website will be auto-forwarded to the pastoral care ministry and the office.</a>

We pray for (3 weeks list): Sylvia White and the Sandra Clark- Bell Family, and the Wormley Family.

We also pray for those with long-term needs: Andrea Richardson and family, Eden Poon, Cara Ann Cummins, and her partner Kenneth, Fletcher Michael Francis and his family, Joel, Kurt, Sandy and the Armstrong family, Scott Alfano and family, Rene Beteille, Arlene Youngblood, Emma McPherson, Joann Darr, Kevin Reed, Amy Weir, the Rev. Dr. Sondra Coleman, Cliff Keeling, Geneva Elliott, Larry Schanki, Amy, Horace Bledsoe, Jeremy and Shelby, Jimmy Alexander, Mahealani, Robin Clough Powell, Melinda King, John Baxton, Mary Ellen, Curt Jones, James Gibson, Michele Bondy, Jeremy Alexande, Donna Plowman, Johann and Susanna, Judy Jenkins, Nancy Gabin, Wiley Williams, Michael Hughes, Anget, Susan Gunn, BJ Taylor, Russel Taulli, Pedro E., Robin Fuller, Kisa Niewenhuis, Frank Weir and his family, Candice Brown, Jacob Schumacher and his family, Shirley Gordon, Bowen W., Vanessa Williams, Jim Burgess, Cindy, Jason and Jalen Castillo, Niesha Jones, Truitt Ray, Jerry, Marty, Pat, Kamilah Myrie, Tom and Dee Esquivel, Sammie A. Eppright, David Batty, Samuel Carothers, Anna Pecorino, Philip and family, John White, Brigitte Rhedin, Dan Shaw, Kirk Richter, Raymond Coleman, Cecilia Harris, Lily Thomas, Sandra Gilkey, Leslie Rose, Sean Calloway, Miles Calloway, Carrie Eppright-Givens, Clayton Givens, Roland Brown, Joy Roswell, Gaye Evans, Rose Watley, Carolyn Caffrey, Joseph Naranjo, Margaret Ann Bledsoe, Brandy, Andrea, Vanessa, Lorenza, Mrs. Lakeyshia Brown, Pam Beachley, Stephanie Smith, Elizabeth Sherar Gammon and Steven Sherar, Rebecca Kary, Sherry Ward, Carrie Schumacher, William Collier, Adrian Spears, Mark Werner, Myrna, Evelyn Marie Taylor, Nellie White, Gail Jackson,

Richard Ezell, Edith Conde and family, Jacob Blake, John Paul Guajardo, Richard White, Andre Watkins, Jana Murphy, Justin Howell and his family, Bruce Blackwell, Doug Lawrie, Tara Turner, Gertrude Fowler, Claudette Milne, Frankie Scott, Mark McCrary, Kési Anderson, Rev. James Palmore, Cleo B., Jason A., Reed B., Angelina, Mike C., Diane Hoffman, Brian M, Joyce, Ganelle, Noah, Thor, Troy, Allissa, Charlene Moore, Eugenia Hayes, Tim and Shalmah, Carol Daughtry, Rachel and Daniel, Rebekah, Diane Neill, Cecile, Mildred Grimble, Margie Lawson, Melvin Alfred, Natrice Harding, Anne Osbourne, Richelle Easley, Patricia Harding, Brandon Williams, Joey Ramirez, Marvin Sykes, Max and his mother, Paul Gill, Samuel Kraemer-Dahlin, Jacquelyn Ferrell Mccadden, Ursula Ferrell Jackson, Ronnie Yarmuck, Bertha Malone, Samah Al Adawi, Hazel Livingston, Arthur Shelton; and for all who are incarcerated and for their families, and all the refugees throughout the world. God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

We pray for all who have died including Sandra Clark- Bell, sister of Gail Wormley.

#### **Announcements**

### March 25, 7-8 pm, Mueller Tuesdays

Join us for Bible Study in the Cork Room on the first floor of the Mueller Overture, (4818 Berkman Dr, Austin, TX 78723).

# March 26 Stations: The Way Through 6:30-7 pm: Dinner; 7-8:30 pm Program

The Rev. Peter Akecmeir will explore the themes of Good Friday through the St. James' Stations of the Cross, created by Arleen Polite (d. July 2020). Arleen Polite was a member of St. James' and a talented woodcut artist with an enduring legacy. We will gather in Founders Hall starting with a light supper (6-7:30 pm).

### March 30, 3-5 pm, St. James' Lenten Tea



We're excited to invite you to our upcoming Lenten Tea. Please sign up to bring an item or volunteer using the QR code or on the bulletin board in the narthex. Drop food items off, in a disposable container, on Saturday, March 29 from 10-12 or Sunday, March 30 from 9:30-10:30 so we can prep them for the Tea. Thank you!

### Thursday, April 5, 6:30 pm, Restaurant Group

We will meet at the Brewtorium, 6015 Dillard Cir A, Austin, TX 78752 . It's helpful if you can email Teresa Chang at <a href="mailto:turner.teresa@gmail.com">turner.teresa@gmail.com</a> so we know how many seats to save. We meet on the first Thursday of the month.

### Join the Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) packing team!



N2N has many regular volunteers from around Austin, but our shifts are often not full, especially during the first months of the year. With the packing team, small groups pack pantry staples, fresh produce, and diapers and then set up for afternoon service to our neighbors. It's meaningful and it's fun! Shifts are from 9-11am or from 11am 1pm on the 1st and  $3^{\rm rd}$  Tuesday of the month. Use the QR code to sign up.

### Serve the Immigrant Community

We are in great need of volunteers to help with our Power of Attorney workshops for parents facing possible deportation. The POA gives custody to a family member or friend for kids whose parents are suddenly taken from them. This unfortunately happens more than you would want to believe. The volunteers help parents fill out the forms. It's easy work, and no experience needed. Our team works with you and provides guidance. We have a series of these workshops in various Austin locations

throughout March. Notaries are also needed. We have served 37 families this month through the help of volunteers. Please help us pass the word to others who might be interested in this Gospel call. Contact the Rev. Jim Harrington at <a href="mailto:jim@stjamesaustin.org">jim@stjamesaustin.org</a> for more information.