



# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2024  
THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I  
8:00 A.M.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

### The Collect for Purity

p. 323

### Kyrie

p. 324

### The Collect of the Day

p. 163

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### The Lesson: Genesis 1:1–5

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 1

*Commentary: The creation account in Genesis 1 is theocentric, not creature-centered. Its purpose is to glorify the Creator by magnifying Him through the majesty of the created order. God made the universe from nothing. God alone is eternal, everything else owes its origin and existence to Him. Before God prepared it for habitation, the earth was formless, dark and empty. A major theme of the Bible is found in these verses: God is the One who brings light into darkness.*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord.

People

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 29

*read responsively by whole verse*

*Afferte Domino*

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 **The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.**
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.**
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

*People* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*People* The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

**The Nicene Creed**

p. 327

**The Prayers of the People**

p. 328

**The Peace**

p. 332

**Welcome and Announcements**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Eucharistic Prayer II**

p. 340

**Sanctus**

p. 341

**The Lord's Prayer**

p. 336

**The Breaking of the Bread**

p. 337

**Prayer of Humble Access**

p. 337

**The Communion of the People**

*Gluten-free wafers available upon request*

p. 338

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

p. 339

**The Blessing**

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Closing Hymn 509

“Spirit divine, attend our prayers”

*Nun danket all und bringet Ehr*



1 Spi - rit di - vine, at - tend our prayers, and make this house thy home;  
 2 Come as the light; to us re - veal our emp - ti - ness and woe,  
 3 Come as the fire and purge our hearts like sac - ri - fi - cial flame;  
 4 Come as the dove, and spread thy wings, the wings of peace - ful love;  
 5 Spi - rit di - vine, at - tend our prayers, make a lost world thy home;



de - scend with all thy gra - cious powers, O come, great Spi - rit, come!  
 and lead us in those paths of life where - on the right - eous go.  
 let our whole soul an - of - fering be to our Re - deem - er's Name.  
 and let thy Church on earth be - come blest as the Church a - bove.  
 de - scend with all thy gra - cious powers; O come, great Spi - rit, come!

The Dismissal



*Celebrant: The Reverend Cheryl Brainard*

*Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.*

*Organist: John Sullivan*

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

**MON.- FRI., JANUARY 8-12**

- MORNING PRAYER  
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom

**MONDAY, JANUARY 8**

- SJDS REGISTRATION OPENS FOR SJDS & SJP FAMILIES- ALL DAY
- VESTRY MEETING  
5:15 PM | Graham Parlor
- FELLOWSHIP A.A.  
7:00 PM | Great Hall

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 9**

- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY  
9:00-11:30 a.m. - Registration Required

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10**

- YOUTH BIBLE STUDY  
7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks
- CREATIVE CONNECTIONS  
8:30 - 11:00 AM | Stephen Ministry Room
- THE ARTS & THE BIBLE  
11:00 AM | Stephen Ministry Room
- HOLY EUCHARIST  
12:10 PM | St. James Chapel

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 11**

- EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
11:00 - 12:00 PM | Tatum Parlor
- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY  
6:30 - 8:00 PM | Registration Required
- CHOIR REHEARSAL  
7:00 PM | Choir Room

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12**

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13**

- EPIPHANY MINI-RETREAT:  
FOLLOWING THE LIGHT  
9:00 - 11:30 AM | Tatum Parlor | RSVP

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

- HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE I  
8:00 AM | St. James Parish
- FAMILY BREAKFAST  
8:30 - 9:10 AM | Great Hall
- FAITH FORMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL  
9:10 - 10:00 AM | St. James Parish
- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II  
10:15 AM | St. James Parish & Online

# TODAY AT ST. JAMES

## FOYER GROUP SIGN UPS CONCLUDE

*Last day to sign up: January 7, 2024*

Formal requests to join a foyer group should be made prior to the end of the day on January 7th. Later this January new groups will be announced. For those who have never been in a Foyer Group, they are small groups of parish members who gather about every six weeks throughout the year. It's a wonderful way to get to know parish members in a smaller setting. With our growing church, this is a golden opportunity to socialize and have lots of fun. *Contact: Sheila Osann (osannsbe@aol.com) or Nina Inge (ninabet55@gmail.com)*

## NAME TAG PICK-UP

*Sunday, January 7 | Following the 10:15 Service*

If you ordered a nametag before December 13, your name tag is in! Sunday, January 7th, we will have all of our nametags out and available for pick up.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

*Number of Pledges: 340*

*Total Pledge amount: \$1,463,615*

It's not too late to pledge to support St. James Parish in 2024. Visit our website or call the church office to participate.

[stjamesp.org/pledge/](http://stjamesp.org/pledge/)



Goal: 350 Pledges | 92.3% Complete

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS: CREATIVE CONNECTIONS - THE ARTS & THE BIBLE

*Beginning January 10 | Drop-in - 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Bible Study - 11:00 - 12:00 p.m. | Stephen Ministry Room*

Join us for our New Drop-in Community Building Opportunity & Epiphany Bible Study! At 11:00AM, our regular Wednesday Bible Study will meet in the Stephen Ministry Room (above the Great Hall). During Epiphany, we will study The Bible and the Arts. Jan 10, 2024 will be an introductory session. After our introductory session, we take a look at the tabernacle and meet Bezalel and Oholiab, the artisans God called to build it. Other sessions will focus on how musical, literary, and dramatic arts play a large role in Scripture. Hear how David played the harp to soothe King Saul and see how Ezekiel uses drama and symbol. The psalms are obviously a beautiful form of both musical and literary arts. Contact the Rev Cheryl Brainard ([cheryl@stjamesp.org](mailto:cheryl@stjamesp.org)) with any questions, interest or to order a booklet.

## EPIPHANY MINI-RETREAT: FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

*Saturday, January 13 | 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Lippitt Room*

What/Who is the light we are following? What gives us light for the journey and hope in the darkness? What gifts do we have to offer? Through poetry, Scripture, and prayer practices, we will explore these questions Epiphany gives us the opportunity to consider. Men, women, parishioners, friends, younger and older are welcome. Registration is requested and is available on the church's website and e-newsletters. Childcare will be available upon request. Contact Linda Murchison, [lindamurchison65@gmail.com](mailto:lindamurchison65@gmail.com)

## PRAYING SHAPES BELIEVING

*Returning February 1, 2024*

Are you interested in deepening your faith? Learning more about the Episcopal Church? Or even discovering the meaning and purpose behind what we say and do in worship? If so, then Praying Shapes Believing is for you! Praying Shapes Believing (PSB) serves as a course for all adults who want to be baptized, confirmed, received, or reaffirmed in the Episcopal Church in May 2024. It is also open to anyone, parishioners or newcomers, who are seeking to discover and learn more. PSB begins Thursday, February 1, 2024, 6:00-7:15 p.m. in the Lippitt Room. This seven-week series will guide you through the history and traditions of our faith and our church. It shows us what it means—in the words of our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry—to be a part of the “Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.” During this class, you will be invited to read through Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices. You can expect each session to begin with prayer and icebreaker questions, to hear and learn from clergy on relevant topics, and, in so doing, get to know others within the St. James community—longtime members and newcomers alike. We invite you to come as you are—comfortable! We'll have some light refreshments. If you have any questions, want to register, or need a copy of the book, please contact the Rev. Gray Hodsdon at [gray@stjamesp.org](mailto:gray@stjamesp.org).

# ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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