

**St. James Episcopal Church
Batavia, New York**



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020 Holy Eucharist

Whether at home, or gathered outside, you are an important part of the St. James Community and we know that we are united in love.

*"BCP" refers to "Book of Common Prayer"
Please join your voice in responses printed in bold*

The Word of God

Please stand.

Opening Sentences

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The 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

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**

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114 *In exitu Israel*

BPC p. 756

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *

the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary *

and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *

Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, *

and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *

O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *

you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

The Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew

18:21-35

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a

hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Mother Bonnie Morris

Between an Angel and a Cloud Place

When my mom is in a difficult situation that appears to give no room for option or negotiation, she might say "I'm stuck between a rock and a hard place". The Israelites fleeing from Egypt would understand that. In slavery they existed between the rock of brutality and the hard place of hard labor. Then God set them free. The story of armies, parting waters and a very present God has captured the picturesque imagination of story tellers and movie makers. Freed from the confines and structure of slavery, the people of Israel had to create their own boundaries and structures of life. That is one of the reasons that they spent 40 years in the desert—to learn to become a self-ruling people who based everything in the worship of the One God that created the world and guided them.

Before they found the boundary-free, open desert, they were surrounded by obvious guides—A pillars of cloud and fire, and angel leading and then protecting, and then the narrow path of dry land through the sea. The path was clear...move ahead, straight into the desert.

Wouldn't it be nice if our way were always so clear? Our path defined by pillars of cloud and angels with fiery swords? Some days we might feel as if we have been carefully led into that desert that the Israelites faced, without water, food, comfort or clear direction.

It feels that way. But! We also know that the guidance and path are there for us. Perhaps not as clear as an angel and the or a pillar of cloud, yet, they are there.

The Kingdom of Heaven is here, Jesus said. And here's how you can be a part of it. Guidance, words, miracles, signs, priorities. God's path is here! It does not work like two mighty walls of water that prohibit any deviation of course, but it is here! It may not be as obvious as a pillar of fire at night, but it does shine light on your path.

Love, service, and forgiveness. Forgiveness seventy times seven. The light for our path shines. We can ignore it, but it is there. We might have to clear some brambles out of its way, but it is there. We walk together, healed, restored, forgiven in a path between and angel and a cloud place. Amen.

Please stand.

The Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread,
and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return
to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every
human being?

I will, with God's help.

The Prayers of the People

Presider

As we join with the whole creation and celebrate with joy the Word made flesh, let us
offer prayers to God who dwells among us to the end of time.

Intercessor

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

Be with us, Lord.

For Michael our presiding bishop, Sean our bishop, and all bishops, for the priests,
deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

Be with us, Lord.

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place. We pray today especially for peace and reconciliation in the world.

Be with us, Lord.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

Be with us, Lord.

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth, and for those who seek and guard the peace,

Especially Eric, David, Paul, Brandon, Michael, Alex, Chad, Jim, Devyn and Trevor. Be with us, Lord.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison.

Be with us, Lord.

For the dying and the dead.

Be with us, Lord.

For friends, family and all those we love,

Especially, Carolyn, Matt, Douglas, Tim, Aiden, Gabriella, Diana, Carla, Venus, Debbie, Beth Ann, Cathy, Wendy, Evan, Travis, Pat, Nicholas, Bob, Charlene, Brian, Rita, Garth, Jessica, Richie, Mark, Brett, Harold, Charlie, Steve, Lew-Ann, Joanne, Phyllis, Clare, Donna, Debbie and *(Please add names on your personal prayer list here.)* May God keep our loved ones in his hand.

Be with us, Lord.

Joining our voices with the blessed Virgin Mary and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord, our God.

Presider

Source of grace and truth; accept the prayers we offer to you. Help us to see the true light who shines throughout the world and who is God for all eternity. Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The deacon bids us to confession:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is kept.

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.

The Presider stands and says:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all our 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.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim in resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

(At 9:30 only)

Let us now offer this prayer for Spiritual Communion together, as One Body, with our brothers and sisters who cannot be with us in person.

Dearest Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament, and that you fill us at all times with your holy, healing, and life-giving Presence. I love you above all else, and my desire is to always welcome you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in consecrated bread and wine, help me to know your Presence spiritually in my heart. I embrace you, knowing that you are already here, and I unite myself wholly with you. Never let me feel separated from you or from your love. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.
Please remain in your places. A minister will bring Communion to you.*

Communion Anthems

'Take Time to Be Holy'

'Sweet Hour of Prayer'

'Master Speak! Thy Servant Heareth'

Post Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

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.

The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude 'War March of the Priests'

Felix Mendelssohn

Thank you for joining the St. James community,



Happy Birthday!

Jim Neider 9/15, Donna Kauffman 9/16,
Karen Odell 9/16, Lily Sofia 9/20

September 20th – Final "Moving Forward" Meeting
In the parish hall, In person, social distancing, with masks

If there are questions that you didn't ask, or concerns that have come to mind since you attended a previous zoom meeting, join others in the parish hall after the 9:30 a.m. service. The vestry would also like your feedback after having more time to think about the decision to be made going forward in the life of St. James.

Week of September 13th -- through September 20th

Sept. 13

Reservations required

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4ea9ae2aa3fe3-service>

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Church

To join go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89810857988>

Or join by phone: (646) 558-8656, and use code 898 108 57988

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Church

11:30 a.m. Our Faith Discussion Class in the Parish Hall and Zoom

To join go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89810857988>

Or join by phone: (646) 558-8656, and use code 898 108 57988

Sept. 16

12:00 p.m. Bible Discussion Group

To join go to <https://zoom.us/j/579180457>

or join by phone: (646) 558-8656 and use code 579 180 457

Tuesday and Thursday Evenings

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer with the Genesee Deanery

To join go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88459547624>

or join by phone: 1-929-205-6099, and use code: 88459547624

Sept. 20

Reservations required

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4ea9ae2aa3fe3-service>

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Church

To join go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89810857988>

Or join by phone: (646) 558-8656, and use code 898 108 57988

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Church

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Or join by phone: (646) 558-8656, and use code 898 108 57988

Sept. 20 Join Bishop Sean in a Zoom Worship at 10:00 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/127336938?pwd=cm8zUWh0Y2loTjYyKy91YURsTVBCQT0>

If you are asked for a password, use **lakeerie**.

To join by phone instead of video, dial 646-876-9923 and use code 127336938#

**Masks and Social Distancing
are required at all times**



St. James Episcopal Church

405 East Main Street

Batavia, NY 14020

**Check out our website and Facebook for
online worship opportunities**

Everyone is Welcome!

The Rev. Bonnie F. Morris, Rector

rector.stjames@outlook.com

The Rev. Deacon Diana Leiker, dllart@aol.com

Choir Director: Dillon Hirsch, Organist: David Lange
Administrator: Barbara King, Bookkeeper: Sherry Garigen

Wardens:

Warden: Jim Neider, (585) 409-8891, jmaneider@outlook.com

Warden: Judy Essig, (585) 820-2615, jessig@gvbooces.org

Vestry:

Diane Cox, Amy Celentano, Bonnie Dvoroznak,

Dorian Ely, Barbara King, Dean Perry,

Harold Odell, Barbara Pierce, Bill Sofia

Clerk of the Vestry: Cathy Judkins

Treasurers: Peter Mark and Keith Price

Office Phone: 585-343-6802

Website: www.stjamesbatavia.org

Email: saint.james2@outlook.com

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