

St. James Episcopal Church Batavia, NY

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord"



*Christ and the Samaritan Woman
Henryk Siemiradzki 1890*

The Third Sunday in Lent March 8th, 2026

(9:00 a.m. zoom Liturgy of the Word)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Children of every age are welcome here and are invited to join in the opening and closing processions. In the front of the church, on the left side, is a "soft space" where children can "be children" and watch the service up close. Canon Johnnie invites everyone who would like to assist with the final blessing to stand in place and at the mention of the Trinity, Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to gently raise your right hand, palm up.

Please join your voice to the hymns and to the bolded portions of the liturgy taken from the Book of Common Prayer-BCP, red book in the pew.

Welcome and Announcements

None of us are here by accident. God has called us into this space and at this time, because God is working in our lives – individually and corporately as the Church. Please know that God loves you regardless, just as you are, and that love is practiced here at St. James. Also know that it is God who invites you into the Banquet of the Lamb – A God who welcome us all! So come, let us worship the Lord our God.

Opening Hymn 686 *Come, thou fount of every blessing*

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Sentences

BCP p 355

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14,16

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins to God, our neighbor and ourselves.

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 Absolution

The Trisagion (spoken at 9 am, sung at 10)

Hymnal S-100

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us.

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of Exodus (17:1-7)

Barb King

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord

Thanks Be to God

Psalm 95 (Let us read the Psalm in unison with the reader beginning...)

Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and
raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the LORD our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness, at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.

They put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

Forty years long I detested that generation and said, "This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways."

So, I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest."

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (5:1-11)

Lily Bringenberg

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been

reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn 455 *O love of God, how strong and true*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (4:5-42)

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know;

we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ

Sermon

The Reverend Canon Johnnie E. Ross

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father, through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, (+) and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

Kyrie Eleison

R.E. Schram

Please stand as you are able

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures, here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP p. 372

The Sanctus

Hymnal S-124

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S-161

Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts of God for us, the beloved of God: Come to the Table of the Lord and be fed.

All who desire communion are welcome to receive, for this is God's Table, not ours. If you are not baptized and desire to be baptized, please speak to the clergy. The distribution of communion is done in both kinds, the bread and the wine (in a common cup). Feel free to only receive the bread if that is more comfortable for you. Gluten free options are available. All people will receive communion (or a blessing) from the main floor at the top of the center aisle. We do this so that everyone may receive communion together, as one family. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest when you come forward and the priest will bestow God's blessing to you.

Communion Hymn 700

O love that casts out fear

Communion Hymn 658

As long the deer for cooling streams

Post Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

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 Lenten Blessing

Canon Johnnie invites all children present to join him for the Blessing

Closing Hymn 690

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Dismissal

*****Those attending the Zoom service please continue here.*****

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures, here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

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, forever and ever. Amen.**

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

*We will observe a moment of silence. If you have consecrated wafers please
consume one now, If you don't, please know that as others receive the
sacrament, so do you!*

Closing Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the fellowship of love your
Son taught us, making us one with all your people in heaven and
on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we
may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for
ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Please take this bulletin home with you!

Please pray for those on our parish prayer List

Ed, Debbie, Anne & Don, Paul, Peggy, James, Wayne, Angelique, Charlene, Bill, Pat, Patrick, Judi, Kim, Devon, Tim, Jean, Diane, Tom, Rich, Jane, Pearl, Bob, Sue, James, Bill, Chad, Jeff, Shirley, Judy, Lucas, Owen, Savannah, Nancy, Greg, Grace, Roger, Terry, Russell, Kennedy, Harrison, Margaret, Lucy, Sue, Brian, Jim & Marsha, Janice, Cal, Beverly, Missy, Jolene, Mary Annette, Lois, Sharon, Melinda, Dane, Blake, Erica, Debbie, Kathy, Peter, Meagan, and Christina

It's time to update our Parish Prayer list

Please let Bobbi Jo know if you would like your person to remain on the list.

The Easter Egg Hunt is back!

Once again we will be partnering with First Presbyterian Church to sponsor a community Easter egg hunt. It will take place on **Sunday, March 22nd at 1:00** at the Presbyterian Church. But first we need help setting up and filling bags of candy. If you have a couple of hours of free time on **Thursday, March 19th at 10:00** stop by the Presbyterian Church and lend a hand. So save March 22nd on your calendar. Bring your child, grandchild, or neighbor. Or just come yourself and watch some children enjoy a traditional Easter activity. It will be fun!

Sandwiches

Hope you have some extra time after today's service because we could use your help. There will be sandwich making in the kitchen to provide a meal for the unhoused in downtown Buffalo.

Lenten & Holy Week Schedule

Ash Wednesday - February 18 7am – 9am

Holy Week is March 29 - April 5

Mark your calendar for:

Palm Sunday, March 29th

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 5:30PM

Good Friday - Stations of the Cross & A Good Friday Service are being planned. Watch this space!

Lenten Book Study - *"The False White Gospel,"* by Jim Wallis

beginning Thursday, February 26 - March 26, 2026, 5PM

Come join in the fun... and if you need a book, please call the office and let Bobbi Jo know that.



Gethsemane Prayer Garden

Coming to Saint James AND WE NEED YOUR HELP...

We are asking for your help in transforming St. Michael's Chapel into an indoor garden of house plants. Gregg has already changed out the lighting to grow lights to properly care for the plants during the daytime and Canon Johnnie will care for their watering and feeding needs until they are picked up after Easter.

Please consider loaning us a houseplant or two for this garden. Once the Gethsemane Prayer Garden is all set up, (Sunday, March 15th) you are invited to spend some time there on your own or with family and friends. You are also invited to attend the Maundy Thursday Service, April 2nd, where we will eat the Passover Meal, share in Communion, visit the Garden, and Strip the Altar.

I can promise a powerful experience for those in attendance. The Presbyterian Church will be joining us on Maundy Thursday, and they have estimated 30-40 people attending, so we need to have a good showing as well.

If you are inclined to share one of your house plants, or purchase one for this purpose, please drop it by the office and leave them on the table outside Bobbi Jo's office, or if it's a large plant, just sit it on the floor outside of Canon Johnnie's Office. Thank you!



THURSDAY
MARCH

12TH

6:30PM

FROM BROKENNESS TO WHOLNESS

AN INTERFAITH COMMUNITY GATHERING FOR INSPIRATION, PEACE & COMPASSION

In the Japanese art of Kintsugi, broken pottery is mended with gold, creating something more beautiful and resilient because of its cracks. Our world and hearts feel shattered at this moment. Join us as we name our broken pieces and find the "gold" of compassion to bind us back together. Everyone is welcome.


The Evening Includes:

1. Music, Prayer, & Poetry
2. Candle lighting Ceremony
3. A time to name the challenges of our world.
4. A commitment to peace and mending.

Community Effort Hosted by:


Batavia First Presbyterian Church
St. James Episcopal
First Baptist Church
Mt. Zion Baptist

Location: The Front Lawn of **Batavia First Presbyterian Church**
300 E. Main St, Batavia, NY
(In case of rain, we will gather inside the Sanctuary)



An Observance & Experience of Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2 at 5:30 PM



Join us as we remember the night of the New Commandment of Jesus through three distinct movements of worship.

I. The Meal: A family-style Potluck Passover Supper with Scripture and Holy Communion. **Please bring a Mediterranean-inspired side dish or fruit to share.**

II. The Betrayal: A transition to St. Michael's Chapel for prayer and Gospel readings in the Gethsemane Garden.

III. The Shadows: A final move to the nave for the Stripping of the Altar, preparing our hearts for Good Friday.

Location:

St. James Episcopal: 405 E. Main Street, Batavia

Hosted by:



St. James
Episcopal



BATAVIA
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

St. James Calendar

Happy Birthday

Cathy Judkins 3-9 & Reed Pettys 3-10

Sun, March 8	9:00 am - 9:30 am	Zoom Service
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour

Mon, March 9	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Tue, March 10	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
Wed, March 11	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thu, March 12	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Office open
	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Thrift store open
Fri, March 13		Office closed
Sun, March 15	9:00 am – 9:30 am	Zoom Service
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am – 11:15 am	Holy Eucharist
	10:15 am	Sunday School

Zoom meetings use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8085432266?pwd=ZIBCZEI0WDQ1Szk5TEF2dFILbm4rUT09>

Meeting ID: 808 543 2266 Passcode: zrXG3y

canonjohnnie@gmail.com, (859)285-9361, or call the office. Keep in touch, if you wish to be added to our mailing list fill out this form and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher.



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Vestry:

Kim Isaac, Liz Findlay,
Steve Rumery, Terry McGuire, Tom Bringenberg
Dorian Ely: Clerk of the Vestry
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