

St Francis Episcopal Church San Jose, CA  
Morning Prayer, Thursday, October 21, 2021  
Commemoration of St. James of Jerusalem  
*Apostle and Brother of the Lord*

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When 2 people are reading: READER 1: Plain Text    *Reader 2: Italics*    **Both: Bold**  
**If there are 2 lessons, a reading and subsequent canticle may be omitted.**

**You are invited to begin the service by lighting a candle.**

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Good God, Creator of the world, draw us into prayer and celebration as we gather to remember the gifts of your earth and the stewardship you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your image. We know that in the gathering of the people, power is present among us; your Holy Spirit stirs and moves and gives us courage to remember that all good gifts come first from you. We praise you for this creation in the words of the Psalmist, sung by our ancestors in faith for generations:

*"God speaks: the heavens are made;*

*God breathes: the stars shine.*

*God bottles the waters of the sea  
and stores them in the deep*

*All earth, be astounded,  
stand in awe of God."*

Keep us faithful to this gathering in faith and "bless this vine your right hand has planted." Now and forever, Amen.

O Lord, open our lips  
*and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind. As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. *Amen.*

Psalm 1

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 *Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night.*

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

4 *It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.*

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 *For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

12 *The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles.* <sup>13</sup>*After they finished speaking, James replied, ‘My brothers,\* listen to me.* <sup>14</sup>*Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name.* <sup>15</sup>*This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,*

<sup>16</sup> *“After this I will return,*

*and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;*

*from its ruins I will rebuild it,*

*and I will set it up,*

<sup>17</sup> *so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—*

*even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.*

*Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things* <sup>18</sup>*known from long ago.”\**

<sup>19</sup>*Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God,* <sup>20</sup>*but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled\* and from blood.* <sup>21</sup>*For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.’*

22 *Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members\* and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers, The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God**

**Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, O heavens and all waters above the heavens.**

**Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, all winds and fire and heat.**

**Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, drops of dew and flakes of snow**

**Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, O shining light and enfolding dark.**

**Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him**

for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen

*Song of the Three Young Men*

*A reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

*54 He came to his home town and began to teach the people\* in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? <sup>55</sup>Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup>And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?' <sup>57</sup>And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.' <sup>58</sup>And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

***Thanks be to God.***

**O God of my ancestors and Lord of mercy who has made all things by your word, and by your wisdom has formed humankind to have dominion over the creatures you have made, and rule the world in holiness and righteousness, and pronounce judgement in uprightness of soul, give me the wisdom that sits by your throne, and do not reject me from among your servants.**

**With you is wisdom, she who knows your works and was present when you made the world;**

**She understands what is pleasing in your sight and what is right according to your commandments.**

**Send her forth from the holy heavens, and from the throne of your glory send her, that she may labour at my side, and that I may learn what is pleasing to you.**

**For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory.  
Then my works will be acceptable, and I shall judge your people justly, and shall be worthy of the throne of my father.  
For who can learn the counsel of God?  
Or who can discern what the Lord wills?  
For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail; for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the thoughtful mind.  
We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens?  
Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high?  
And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you, and were saved by wisdom.'** *from The Book of Wisdom, Ch9 NRSV*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

#### The Apostles' Creed

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

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Let us 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.**

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
*Govern and uphold them, now and always.*  
Day by day we bless you;  
*We praise your Name for ever.*  
Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
*Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.*  
Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
*For we put our trust in you.*  
In you, Lord, is our hope;  
*And we shall never hope in vain.*

Grant, O God, that, following the example of your servant James the Just, brother of our Lord, your Church may give itself continually to prayer and to the reconciliation of all who are at variance and enmity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. *Amen.*

Let us pray to God, that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation.

You have created the universe by your eternal Word,  
and have blessed humankind in making us stewards of the earth.  
We pray for your world,  
that we may share and conserve its resources,  
and live in reverence for the creation  
and in harmony with one another.  
Father, Lord of creation,  
*in your mercy, hear us.*

You have given the human race a rich land,  
a land of streams and springs,  
wheat and barley,

vines and oil and honey.  
We have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow.  
We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction,  
that they may come to share the life of wholeness and plenty.  
Father, Lord of creation,  
*in your mercy, hear us.*

In Christ you call us to a new way of life,  
loving our neighbors before ourselves.  
Help us to treat with care and respect the world as it is  
as we live in hope and anticipation of the world as it will be  
when your kingdom comes and your will is done.  
Thank you for those, living and departed,  
who have shown a true respect for your creation ...  
Help us to follow in their footsteps,  
until, with them, we see you face to face,  
where all is made new in Christ our Lord.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*<sup>1</sup>

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world,  
that their cries for daily bread may inspire  
works of compassion and mercy  
among those to whom much has been given.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the farmers  
with limited or marginal land throughout the world,  
for those who lack access to water and other resources,  
and for the light of research and support services  
to shine in the lives of all God's people.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for an end to the divisions and inequalities  
that scar God's creation,  
particularly the barriers to freedom  
faced by God's children throughout the world because of gender;  
that all who have been formed in God's image  
might have equality in pursuit of the blessings of creation.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

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<sup>1</sup> from **New Patterns for Worship**, copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002. From the Church of England's [Common Worship](#) website. Posted on the [Canadian Foodgrains Bank](#) website. Visit that site for other good Earth Day worship resources.

Let us pray for the health of women, children,  
and families around the world,  
especially for an end to maternal and child mortality,  
that in building healthy families,  
all God's people may be empowered  
to strengthen their communities  
and repair the breaches which divide nations and peoples.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease throughout the world,  
particularly those exacerbated by lack of nutritious food and outright hunger;  
that plagues of death may no longer fuel poverty, destabilize nations,  
and inhibit reconciliation and restoration throughout the world.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for an end to the waste and desecration of God's creation,  
for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people,  
and for communities and nations to find sustenance  
in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all nations and people  
who already enjoy the abundance of creation and the blessings of prosperity,  
that their hearts may be lifted up to the needs of the poor and afflicted,  
and partnerships between rich and poor for the reconciliation of the world  
may flourish and grow.  
*Lord, hear our prayer<sup>2</sup>.*

Go out from here as workers in God's upside-down kingdom, where the last are  
first and the first are last, where needs are met in miraculous ways, and there is  
grace enough for all!

And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the  
Holy Spirit surround you and sustain us in the coming days. **Amen.**<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> posted on the **National Catholic Rural Life Conference** website.  
<http://www.ncrlc.com/page.aspx?ID=133>

<sup>3</sup> based on Exodus 16:2-15, Matthew 20:1-16  
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/benediction-upside-down-kingdom.html>

# JAMES OF JERUSALEM

## BISHOP AND MARTYR (23 OCT NT)

James of Jerusalem is referred to in the New Testament as the brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

He was for many years the leader of the Christian congregation in Jerusalem, and is generally supposed to be the author of the Epistle of James, although the Epistle itself does not state this explicitly.

James is mentioned briefly in connection with Jesus' visit to Nazareth (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3).

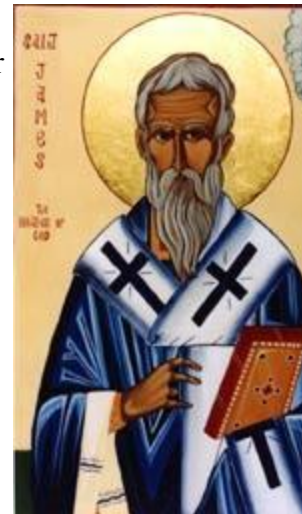
We are told that Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him (John 7:2-5), and from this, and from references in early Christian writers, it is inferred that James was not a disciple of the Lord until after the Resurrection.

Paul, listing appearances of the Risen Lord (1 Cor 15:3-8), includes an appearance to James.

Peter, about to leave Jerusalem after escaping from Herod, leaves a message for James and the Apostles (Acts 12:17). When a council meets at Jerusalem to consider what rules Gentile Christians should be required to keep, James formulates the final consensus (Acts 15:13-21).

Paul speaks of going to Jerusalem three years after his conversion and conferring there with Peter and James (Gal. 1:18-19), and speaks again of a later visit (perhaps the one described in Acts 15) on which Peter, James, and John, "the pillars," placed their stamp of approval on the mission to the Gentiles (Gal. 2:9).

A few verses later (Gal. 2:11-14), he says that messengers from James coming to Antioch





discouraged Jewish Christians there from eating with Gentile Christians. (If this refers to the same event as Acts 15:1-2, then Paul takes a step back chronologically in his narration at Gal. 2:11, which is not improbable, since he is dictating and mentioning arguments and events that count as evidence for his side as they occur to him.)

On his last recorded visit to Jerusalem, Paul visits James (others are present, but no other names are given) and speaks of his ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 21:18).

Outside the New Testament, James is mentioned by the Jewish historian Josephus, who calls him "the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ," and reports that he was much respected even by the Pharisees for his piety and strict observance of the Law, but that his enemies took advantage of an interval between Roman governors in 62 AD to have him put to death. His death is also reported by the second-century Christian writer Hegesippus.

Numerous references in early Christian documents show the esteem in which he was held in the early Church.

There appear to be at least three persons named James mentioned in the New Testament, and possibly as many as eight. For an attempt to sort them out, see the [BIO of Philip and James](#) at 1 May.

*by James Kiefer*