

Saint James' Episcopal Church

Mill Creek Hundred

A Congregation of The Episcopal Church in Delaware



Established 1714

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 12th, 2023

WELCOME TO ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH MILLCREEK HUNDRED

Thank you for being with us today. St. James' Episcopal Church is a committed and vital community, and we hope a friendly and welcoming one. If you have any questions, please ask.

On Sundays we gather to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers." As we worship together, we hope you will find peace in this place and a home in our community.

**St. James' Mill Creek Hundred
2106 St. James Church Road
Wilmington, DE 19808**

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 1:00pm

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PARISH STAFF AND OFFICERS

Rector The Rev. Ben Rockwell

Director of Music Keith St. John

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Sexton Borden Adams, Blue Sky Maintenance

Vestry Carolyn Joynt (Senior Warden), Jenny Vrana (Jr. Warden),
Carol Bruno, Ed Burdick, Cathy Coppel, Jim Craig, Val Hall,
Chuck Haywood, David Niehaus, and David Perry

Clerk of the Vestry Nancy Patterson

Treasurers Steve Prescott, Parish Treasurer
Allyson Heinold, Disbursing Treasurer
Susan Winward, Receiving Treasurer

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Please observe silence fifteen minutes before service begins



Prelude Voluntary on the tune *America*

Flor Peeters

Opening Hymn Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Hymn 690

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

The Celebrant says

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

Hymnal S 280

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



The First Reading ~ Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors — Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor — lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond

the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Attendite, popule

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 **I will open my mouth in a parable; ***
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 **We will recount to generations to come**
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
- 6 **That the generations to come might know,**
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
- 7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

The Second Reading ~ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have

died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn In your mercy, Lord, you called me **Hymn 706**

The Gospel ~ Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers

and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Ben Rockwell



The Nicene Creed

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 worshipped 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 Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop; Kevin our Bishop; and for all bishops
and other ministers; for...
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your
eternal kingdom.

Silence

The people may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant concludes with a suitable collect.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your 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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

People The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements



Offertory Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
Spiritual arr. by Jay Althouse
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The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP pg 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **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.

Here a Proper Preface is said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

Sanctus

Hymnal S 129

*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.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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

Agnus Dei

Hymnal S 164

*Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace, give us your peace.*

Communion Hymn Let us break bread together on our knees

Hymn 325

Post Communion Prayer

BCP pg 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 Priest may bless the people.

Concluding Hymn There's a wideness in God's mercy **Hymn 470**

Postlude Our Father in Heaven **Herbert Collum**

Dismissal

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please be aware that we are recording this service in its entirety. Any talking can be picked up by the microphones. So, please save your conversations for outside the church or after the completion of the music after the Dismissal. Thank you.

The flowers on the altar of the church are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Wilma Toulson, from her daughter, Deb Nuss.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola
- In The Episcopal Church in Delaware: 239th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Delaware
- In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Service Ministries: Bazaar Group, Mission/outreach ministry, Meals on Wheels, Parish Life Ministry, Emmanuel Dining Room, Family Promise, Pastoral Care Team, Hope Center, and Brandywine Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

For those in the parish who have special concerns, especially: Gary, Adrian, Betsy and her husband and daughter, Jean S, Steve, Pat, Don, Sue, Dan, Dean, Helen, Marion, Carl, Patrick, Dave C., Sharon and Don, Gail and family, Sue, Donna, Christie, Cherisse, John, Mary, Lexi, Daniel, May, Darryl, Keith A., Pam, Nancy A., Marlene, Ed, Ginny, Kathy, Pablo Sr., Randy, Steve, Tome, Rich, Alaina, Karen B., James, Gail, Tammy, Christine, Carolyn A., Debbie M., Diane, Barbara B., Sandy, Geri, Judy, Jean, and those we serve and care for through our outreach ministries.

Welcome your servant Leslie Tabo into your kingdom and be with those who mourn her passing, and we also remember our dear friend Helen Hickam whose memorial service took place this past weekend at St. James’.

And we pray for all those who are celebrating their birthdays this week, especially Shawn, Kate, Ed, Judy, Molly, and Jerry.

And we pray for all those who are celebrating their anniversaries this week, especially: Jerry & Ed Clark, and Manny & Mell DelleDonne.

“THE GOOD BOOK CLUB” RETURNS IN JANUARY!

“The Good Book Club” returns in January as we turn our minds and our hearts to the book of Genesis. We’ll read one chapter of day for fifty days, and we’ll come together on Sunday mornings following our 9:30 service to discuss what we’ve discovered in our readings. There is a companion book for this class, and we can get a discount if we order multiple copies! If you’d like to join us as we read through the book of Genesis, call the church office to sign up by November 1st. Please contact Fr. Ben with any questions.

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant:	The Rev. Ben Rockwell
Eucharistic Minister/Intercessor:	Deb Nuss
Eucharistic Minister/	
Chalice Bearer:	Aly Hall
Lector:	Val Hall
Director of Music:	Keith St. John
Videographer:	Bruce Vrana
Ushers:	Dave Winward
	Susan Winward
Vestry Greeter:	Val Hall
Counters:	Susan Winward
	Dick Prettyman
	Susan Winward