

Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite II with Humor Sermon
April 27, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

St. James' Episcopal Church, Potomac, Maryland

Facemasks are available in the entrance for those who wish to wear them.

Help us save paper! Share this bulletin with a neighbor in your pew, or view it online using the code at right or the link in your Sunday email.



Welcome and Prelude

Processional Hymn (stand) “Come, ye faithful, raise the strain”

Hymn 199

The Word of God

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.**

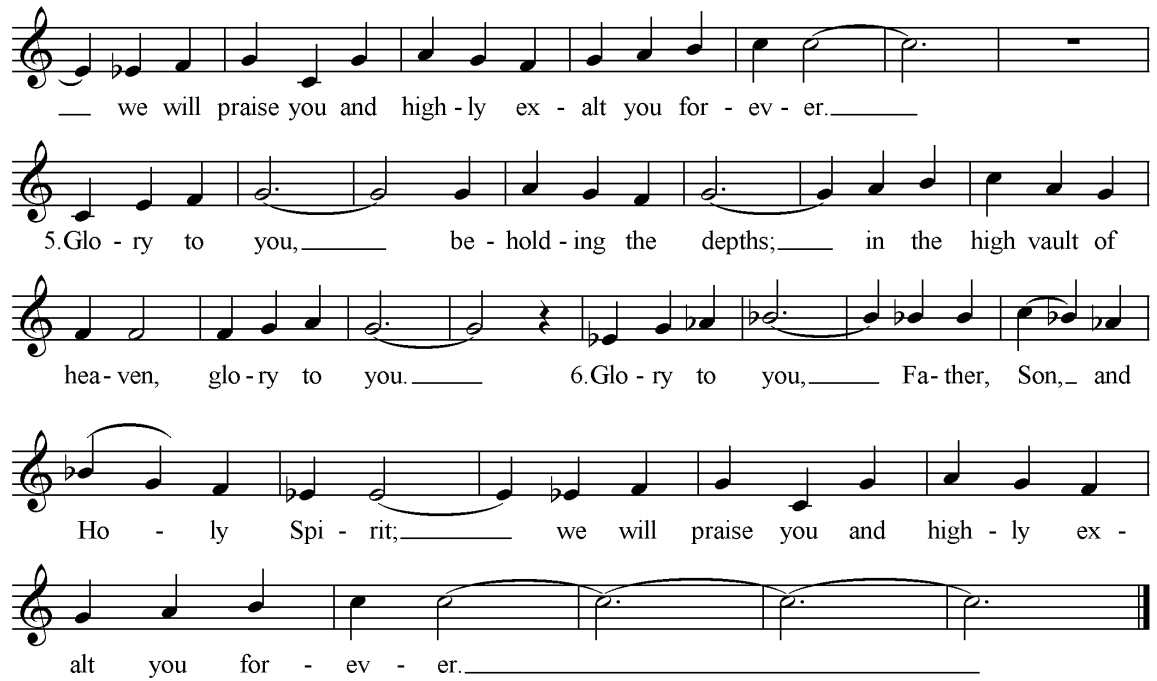
Song of Praise (stand)

“Glory to you”

Hymn S-236, John Rutter

Led by Dylan Nohilly

1. Glo - ry to you, _____ Lord God of our fa - thers; _____
_____ you are wor - thy of praise; glo - ry to you. _____ 2. Glo - ry to you _____
_____ for the ra - di - ance of your _____ ho - ly Name; _____ we will praise you and high - ly ex -
alt you for - ev - er. _____ 3. Glo - ry to you _____ in the
splen - dor of your tem - ple; _____ on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to you. _____
_____ 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed be - tween the Cher - u - bim; _____



The Collect of the Day (*remain standing*)

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

Celebrant Let us pray together.

All **Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The First Lesson (*sit*)

Acts 5:27-32

Brad McCullough

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

*The leader may choose for all to read in unison,
or responsively by verse or breaking at the asterisk.*

- 14 The LORD is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:
- 16 “The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! *
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!”
- 17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the LORD.
- 18 The LORD has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- 20 “This is the gate of the LORD; *
he who is righteous may enter.”
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the LORD’s doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the LORD has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Hosannah, LORD, hosannah! *
LORD, send us now success.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- 27 God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 “You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”
- 29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (*stand*) “We walk by faith, and not by sight” Hymn 209
vss. 1-2 *before Gospel*, vss. 3-4 *after*

The Holy Gospel (*stand*) John 20:19-31

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon *(sit)*

The Rev. James S. Isaacs

The Nicene Creed *(stand)*

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.

Prayers of the People *(stand)*

Ann Venton

Adapted from Praying the Scriptures

Leader Let us rejoice and be glad, saying, "You are our God; *and we thank you.*"

Almighty God, you have given your Church the ministry of reconciliation: grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Mariann, our Bishop; Meredith, James, and Catherine, our priests; for this gathering; and for all who minister in your Church.

Silence

People You are our God;
And we thank you.

Leader We pray for our parish ministries; for our “Exploring our Faith” Thursday morning study group; for St. James’ Children’s School, the Bishop Walker School, and our partner church and school in Haiti, Bon Samaritain Parish, L’Acul.

See stjamespotomac.org/parish-ministries.

Silence

People You are our God;
And we thank you.

All you do, O Lord, is marvelous in our eyes: give us a respect for all you have made.

Silence

You are our God;
And we thank you.

Mighty Savior, raise up faithful witnesses in our community, that our neighbors might come to know that you love them and have freed them from the power of sin.

Silence

You are our God;
And we thank you.

O Lord, you are good; your mercy endures forever: be the strength of the weak and the song of those who mourn. We pray for people living with mental illness and those who love them; for all on our parish prayer list; and for those we now lift in prayer, silently or aloud.

*See bulletin back page for mental health resources.
Parish prayer list may be found in bulletin announcements.*

The people may add their own petitions.

You are our God;
And we thank you.

Alpha and Omega, you do not hand your beloved ones over to death, but promise life eternal to all those baptized into your Son: to you be glory and dominion forever.

Silence

You are our God;
And we thank you.

Celebrant May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of God’s blessing. **Amen.**

The Peace (*stand, remaining at your pew*)

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

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Announcements (*sit*)

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory Sentence (*sit*)

Ephesians 5:2



Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Scan the code at right to give to St. James' online at stjamespotomac.org.
NOTE: Pledges can be changed or paused if needed in these turbulent times by contacting the office, office@stjamespotomac.org. We love you no matter what.*

Offertory Anthem (*sit*) "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

Plainchant: O filii et filiae

Arr. by Mark Schweizer

St. James' Singers

Presentation Hymn (*stand*) "At the Lamb's High Feast"

Tune: Salzburg

Text: Latin (1632)
tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868)

Music: Jakob Hintze (1622-1702)

Musical notation for the hymn "At the Lamb's High Feast" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The hymn consists of four lines of music.

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
2. Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who has washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side:
From sin's pow'r do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, — whose love di - vine gives his sac - red Blood for wine,
Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim Christ the priest.
ri - sen Lord all praise to thee with the Sp - rit ev - er be.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP pp. 369-372

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **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 God thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.



Glo - ry to you for e - ver and e - ver.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.



By your will they were cre - a - ted and have their_ be - ing.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.



Have mer - cy, _ Lord, for we_ are_ sin - ners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.



By his_ blood, he re - con - ciled us. By his_ wounds we are_ healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



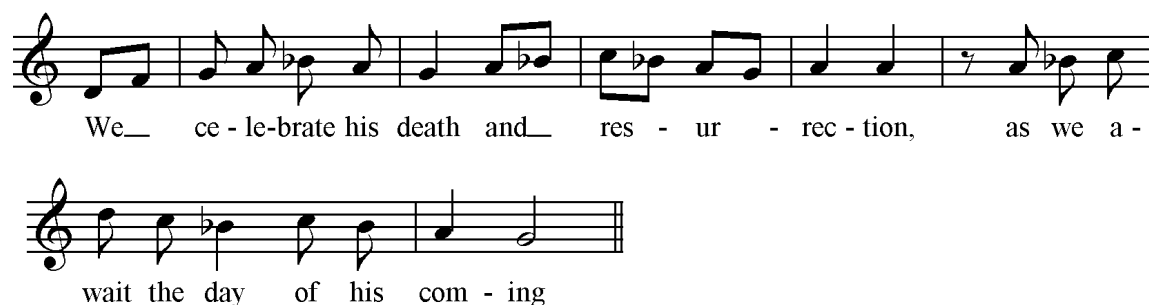
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven___ and earth___ are full___ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes___ in the name___ of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,



We___ ce - le - brate his death and___ res - ur - rec - tion, as we a -
 wait the day of his com - ing

Lord God of our Ancestors; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Miriam, and Mary; God of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Celebrant Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.



Accept these prayers and praises, God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.



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

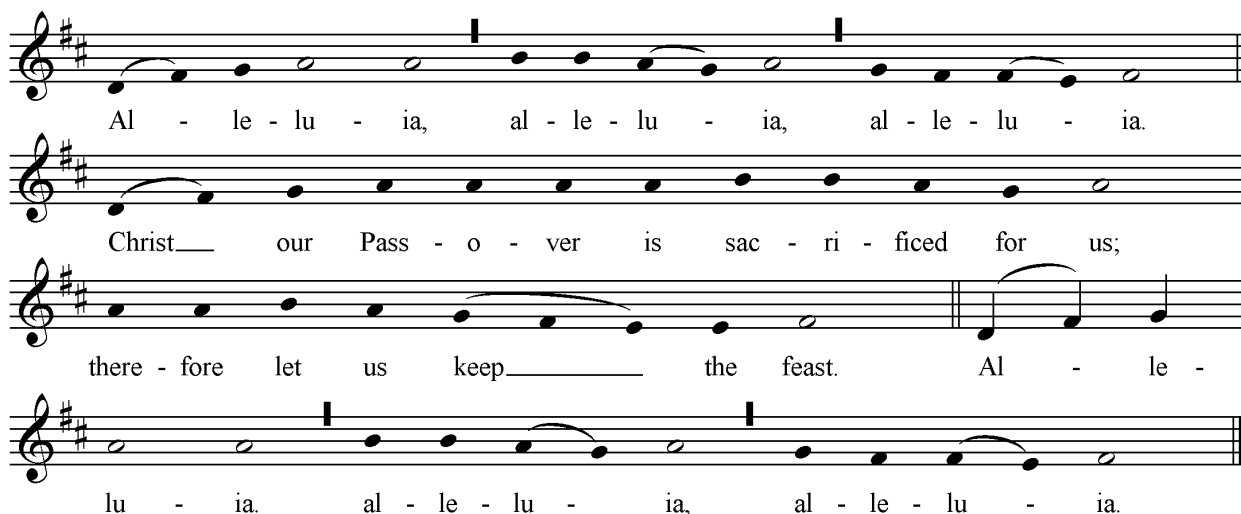
All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Hymn

David Hurd



Celebrant 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.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Please follow the ushers' guidance to receive Holy Eucharist at the altar.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, you may cross your arms over your chest and the clergy will bless you. If you prefer not to receive wine, you may touch the base of the chalice as the words are spoken, or request grape juice from the server.

If you prefer intinction as we share the common cup, you are invited to hand your wafer to the Lay Eucharist Minister when they offer the wine, and they will dip it for you. Having only one person intinct keeps the cup more sanitary for all of us.

If you are uncomfortable partaking of wine or juice, you may abstain. To honor the Blood of Christ, you are welcome to touch the chalice as the wine is offered. Communion in one kind (bread only) is full communion.

Communion Hymn

"Breathe on me Breath of God"

Hymn 508

Prayers of Comfort and Healing

You are invited to bring your concerns to the altar rail for prayer and the laying on of hands.

Prayer Hymn

"O Lord hear my pray'r"

Psalm 102

Jacques Berthier, Taizé



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Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray together.

All **Eternal God, 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 *(stand)*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn *(stand)*

“Christ is alive!”

Hymn 182

Dismissal *(stand)*

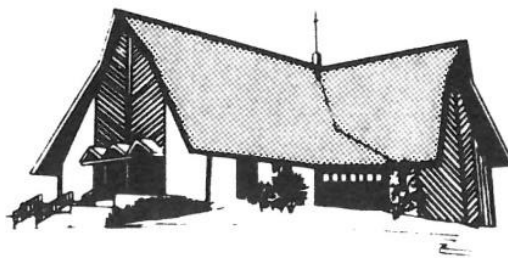
Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

All are invited for fellowship immediately following the service. **Newcomers, welcome!**
Please introduce yourself to the clergy and learn about the many ways God is working at St. James’.

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Help Us Raise the Roof! Give Today!

Our Vestry has approved \$450,000 to replace the roof and upgrade our drainage. As of Easter, we have raised about \$302,000 and our goal is to raise the remaining \$123,000. If you have already given, thank you.

We are accepting gifts of any size toward this project. They can be pledged over time or given in lump sums. To give appreciated securities, contact treasurer@stjamespotomac.org.

- Please make checks to St. James’, or give online at stjamespotomac.org/donate (scan the code above) and enter “Roof” in the “Designation” box or check memo line.
- Pledge for 2025 toward this project at stjamespotomac.org/make-a-pledge.

Finally, if you are experiencing any employment or economic uncertainty and can’t contribute right now, please know we understand. Your prayers and moral support are a blessing by themselves!

Ministry Minute: “Exploring our Faith” Study Group

This study group meets Thursday mornings with Rev. Meredith and Rev. Catherine on Zoom from 10 to 11 a.m. (except during the summer). Each week’s program centers around a book or study guide and is an opportunity for reflection and discussion, with fellowship and prayers for mutual support.

We are taking a short Easter break but will resume on May 8 to explore the book of Acts, using the Kerygma bible study, *Into the world, The Acts of the Apostles*, from kerygma.com/products/acts. The guide is \$33. If you need assistance with this purchase, please reach out to the clergy. To prepare for May 8, please read chapter 1 in the guide, “Prologue to the Acts of the Apostles.”

All are welcome to join us! The link to participate is given in our Sunday email, printed bulletin announcements, and on stjamespotomac.org, under News and Events.

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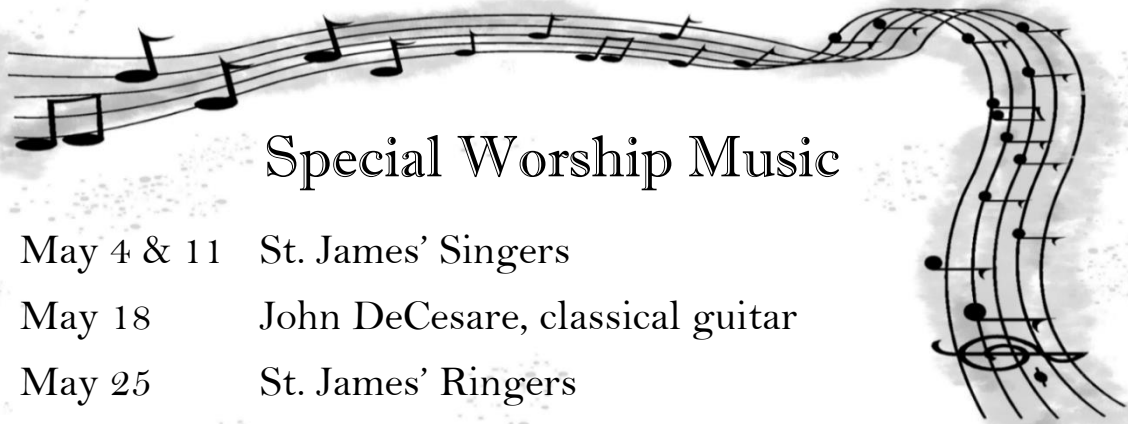
About Today’s Music

by Newton Lewis, St. James’ Music Director

The text of the popular hymn “Come, ye faithful, raise the strain” is based on “The Song of Moses,” one of the canticles for Easter Vigil that refers to Moses leading the Israelite people from bondage in Egypt, through the Red Sea to freedom.

The text was used in the Greek Orthodox Liturgy for Low Sunday (the first Sunday after Easter) and written in the mid eighth century by John of Damascus. The translation from Greek was one of many classical texts done by John Mason Neale in the mid nineteenth century. This is one of his more literal translations. It first appeared in an article on Greek hymnody in the journal *Christian Remembrancer* (April, 1859).

The music was composed by Arthur Sullivan (as in Gilbert and...) specifically for this text in 1872. When it appeared two years later in a collection put together by Sullivan, the text bore the name St. Kevin. The Irish saint is said to have died in 618 at the age of 120. The text and tune were included in *The Hymnal 1892*, and have been included in every subsequent edition of our hymnal ever since.



Special Worship Music

May 4 & 11	St. James’ Singers
May 18	John DeCesare, classical guitar
May 25	St. James’ Ringers



stjamespotomac.org



St. James' Episcopal Church

11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD 20854

The Mission of St. James' : To bring people together to be transformed by and to proclaim Christ's love through worship, spiritual formation, and service.

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Vestry 2025

Wardens

Dawn Iype,
Senior Warden/Worship
Courtney King,
Junior Warden/Facilities

Officers

Tracy Lively, Treasurer
Sheryl Cooper, Secretary

Members

Yemi Agboola – Racial Justice
DeAtley Barish – Mental Health
Jennifer Gartin – Fellowship
Adam Govia – Care for Creation
Amy Black Metcalf – Communication
Jennifer Nordin – Administration,
Christian Formation

Ann Venton – Finance
Walter Weaver – Mission & Outreach

Convention Representatives

Delegates: Laurence Canete, Sarah
Hnatov
Alternates: Carolyn Ragland,
Dan Zimmerman

St. James' has discerned a call to mental health ministries. If you are ever in crisis, a 24-hour response is offered at the Montgomery County Crisis Center: 240-777-4000. OR call the National Crisis Hotline: 988