



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

10:00 a.m.

St. James' Episcopal Church

WELCOME

A Warm Welcome to All! St. James' is especially delighted and blessed to welcome you to our beloved church today. Assisted Listening Devices are available from an usher. Restrooms are located in the hallway through the exit at the front left corner of the sanctuary. Visitors are invited to fill out a Welcome Card located in each pew, drop it with an usher or put it in the collection basket. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion in our church.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Prelude Meditation from “Thais” by Jules Massenet (1842-1912)/Arr. by Rick Parks

Welcome and Announcements

You will need the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and the Blue Hymnal for today’s service, all located in your pews.

All stand as able.

Opening Hymn Christ is Made the Sure Foundation Blue Hymnal #518

Opening Acclamation BCP 355

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

Collect for Purity

Celebrant

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.**

Gloria Blue Hymnal S-280

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the lessons.

The Lessons

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the

feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

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

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

*Read responsively, changing at the *. Lector begins with 1st verse and congregation follows*

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
**for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.**
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

A reading from the first letter of Peter

2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”,

And “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

All stand as able.

Sequence Hymn

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

Blue Hymnal #536

A reading from the Gospel of John

14:1-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Gina Gore

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

**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

Form V

BCP 389

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Jeff and Laura our Bishops, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, Have mercy

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

The reader adds our Parish Intercession

Please add your own prayers and thanksgivings.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

Rejoicing in the fellowship of James and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect, or the following Doxology

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and
for ever. **Amen.**

Silence

Confession of Sin

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Ministers and People, standing or kneeling

**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.**

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.**

All stand as able.

The Peace

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

Please greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ECW Ministry Moment

Janet Brown

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

All are seated.

Offertory Anthem

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place
Tune: Brother James' Air, by James Leith Macbeth Bain Chancel Choir

All stand as able.

Presentation Hymn

From All That Dwell Below The Skies Blue Hymnal #380

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP 369

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 God thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

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 created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners 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 reconciled 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:

Sanctus

Blue Hymnal S-125

**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.

The people may kneel, as the Celebrant continues.

And so, Father, 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 celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father 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. 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.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, 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. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,
Celebrant and People

Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

LEVAS #264

**Our Father, which 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

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

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

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to come forward for Communion. To receive a priestly blessing instead, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Hymns	The Church's One Foundation	Blue Hymnal #525
	Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life	Blue Hymnal #487

All are seated.

Following communion

Sending Forth of the Eucharistic Visitors [when applicable]

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts,
that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of
Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we all share one
bread, one cup.**

A Prayer for Those Worshipping Online

Closing Prayer

BCP 366

All stand as able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

Come Away To The Skies

Blue Hymnal #213

Dismissal

Postlude

Rigaudon, by Andre Campra/Arr. by Diane Bish

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Please take home a copy of the new, weekly Parish Announcements.
If you are visiting us for the first time, WELCOME! We hope you will join us again soon.
Please feel free to introduce yourself to us or fill out a welcome card in the pews.

Assisting in Worship

May 3, 2026 • 10:00 am

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Gina Gore

Music Director: Joanne F. Archibald

Ushers: Lew Westfall, Michelle Cummings

Altar Servers: Pat Pearson, Jewell Smith-Thornton

Lectors: Janet Brown, Denise Holl

Intercessor: Jana Draper

Audio Tech: Jim Beschle

Financial Stewards: Susan Parille, Carolyn Flynn

Flower Arranger: Ernie Harrington

Flower Deliverer: Judy Griemsmann

Parish Intercessions

Let us pray for all who are ill, in danger, or in sorrow, especially Ed Lagarto & family, Gary, Bob, Cathy, Bob, Mark, Sandy, Lenore, Myrna, Theo, Adam, Melissa, Jana, Jim, Jamie, Ginny, Claire, Gabby, Cady, Freddie, Shirley, Jean, Jane, Ricky, John and Vivien.

St. Peter's Grace, Monroe; St. Mark's, Mystic; St. Michael's, Naugatuck; For Retirement communities, especially Armsmead & Seabury Retirement community; chaplains at retirement communities, Retired Clergy Chaplains. For Elder Ministry Network. For the Church of North India.

We pray for peace, protection, and comfort for those affected by conflict in the Middle East, asking for wisdom for leaders, safety for civilians, and a swift end to violence.

For the intentions on our prayer wall: Joy in the morning; Jesus saved me.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Dan Cox

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of Peter Johannsen Sr, and Peter Johannsen, Jr. given by Carole Johannsen.

Pastoral Care Support

Prayer Chain To add your name to the prayer chain contact Kathy Sabbagh at 203-748-4042 or email kathysabba48@gmail.com.

Prayer List To add your name to the weekly bulletin prayer list, please call or email the office at 203-748-3561, or welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org.

Healing Prayer

Healing ministers are available for healing prayer after Sunday services every week. Please ask an usher or clergy member to direct you to one. Please join us for our healing worship service every third Sunday of the month.

Pastoral Support or a pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Gina Gore at 203-748-3562 to leave a confidential message or email ggore@saintjamesdanbury.org.

St. James' Episcopal Church
25 West St., Danbury CT 06810 • (203) 748-3561
welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org • www.saintjamesdanbury.org

Worship Schedule

Sundays **Holy Eucharist: 8:00 am in (Chapel)**
 Choral Holy Eucharist: 10:00 am (Church & live-streamed)
Wednesdays **Holy Eucharist: 9:30 am (Chapel)**

Office Hours

Mondays (Office Angels): 9:30-1:30
Tuesdays and Wednesdays (Amy): 9:30-3:30

Clergy, Wardens, & Staff

The Rev. Gina Gore, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Carole Johannsen, Affiliate Priest
The Rev. Dr. Michael Plekon, Affiliate Priest
The Rev. Dr. Jim Wheeler, Affiliate Priest
Joanne F. Archibald, Director of Music
Garry Riordan, Sexton
Russ Griemsmann and Jim Beschle, Wardens

Please note: Our main Church has an accessibility ramp. However, our smaller Chapel (used at 8:00 a.m. on Sundays and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays), is not wheelchair accessible