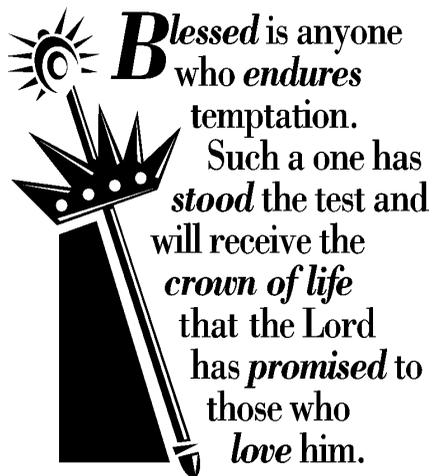


ST. JAMES OF JERUSALEM, BROTHER OF JESUS AND MARTYR

October 23, 2016

Worship Focus

Grace, not Blood-lines, Calls and Strengthens in Faith



J a m e s 1 : 1 2

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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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OPENING HYMN

229 – This Day at Your Creating Word



1 This day at your cre - a - ting word First o'er the
2 This day the Lord for sin - ners slain In might vic -
3 This day the Ho - ly Spir - it came With fi - ery
4 This day of light and life and grace We gath - er
5 All praise to God the Fa - ther be, To Christ, who



earth the light was poured: O Lord, this day up -
to - rious rose a - gain: O Je - sus, raise your
tongues of clo - ven flame: O Spir - it, fill our
in our wor - ship - place: This ho - ly hour, blest
set his peo - ple free, Whom with the Spir - it



on us shine, And fill our souls with light di - vine,
peo - ple, too, From death of sin to life in you,
hearts this day With grace to hear and grace to pray,
gift of love, Give we a - gain to God a - bove,
we a - dore For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW (LM) *Musicalish Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien*, Hamburg, 1690, alt.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (250:1)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Grant, O God, that following the example of your servant James of Jerusalem, brother of our Lord, your Church may give itself to fervent prayer and to the healing of strife and discord; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.





THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Acts 15:12-22a

James, though a relative of Jesus, was not a believer during Jesus' lifetime. However, God's grace later called him to faith and he served as a leader in the church in Jerusalem, as evidenced by his role in the "Jerusalem Council".

ACTS 15:12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. ¹³ When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. ¹⁵ The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

¹⁶ "After this I will return
and rebuild David's fallen tent.
Its ruins I will rebuild,
and I will restore it,

¹⁷ that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,
and all the Gentiles who bear my name,
says the Lord, who does these things'

¹⁸ that have been known for ages.

¹⁹ "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. ²⁰ Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. ²¹ For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

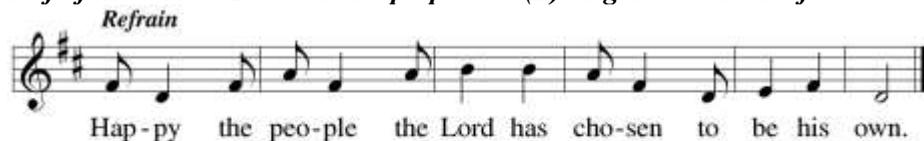
²² Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

PSALM

Psalm 133-134

Refrain Tune: Columba Kelly. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,
www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

All sing Refrain and Gloria. Those seated on the baptismal font side (B), sing the first half of the verses. Those on the pulpit side (P) sing the second half.



(B) How good and pleas | ant it is*
(F) when brothers live together in | unity!

For there the LORD bestows his | blessing,*
even life for | evermore.

Refrain

Praise the LORD, all you servants | of the LORD*
who minister in the house | of the LORD.

Lift up your hands in the sanctu | ary*
and | praise the LORD.

May the LORD, the maker of heav | en and earth,*
bless you from | Zion.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON James 1:1-12

James, the earliest of the New Testament books, feels and sounds like a sermon from Jesus. Once among the faith-less, James now encourages faith-fullness.

JAMES 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Greetings.

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

⁹ The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. ¹⁰ But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

¹² Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.



VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights. Alleluia. (James 1:17)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:54-58

We presume James lived in Nazareth as a close relative (or even brother) of Jesus. He would have been among those who rejected the Savior’s message. But grace would later capture his heart.

MATTHEW 13:54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked.⁵⁵ “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?”⁵⁶ Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”⁵⁷ And they took offense at him.

But Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”

⁵⁸ And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

552 – By All Your Saints Still Striving

1 By all your saints still striv - ing, For
 2 Praise for the Lord's own broth - er, James
 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And

all your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
 of Je - ru - sa - lem, He saw the ris - en
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the

Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blessed. You
 Sav - ior And placed his faith in him. Pre -
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till

rose, our King vic - to - rious, That they
 sid - ing at the coun - cil That set
 all the ran - somed num - ber Who stand

might wear the crown And ev - er shine in
 the Gen - tiles free, He wel - comed them as
 be - fore the throne As - cribe all pow'r and

splen - dor Re - flect - ed from your throne.
 kin - dred On e - qual terms to be.
 glo - ry And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio B. Nelson, 1823–1913, st. 1-4, 6-27, alt.; Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945, st. 5, St. 1-4, 6-27. From *The Hymnal 1982*. © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Church Publishing Inc., New York, NY.
 St. 5 © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel, All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: KUORTANE (76 76 D) Finnish folk tune, c. 19th century.

SERMON

James 1:12

“Direct Us to What is Right in YOUR Sight...”

1. ... as we show patient love for our neighbor.
2. ... as we give priority to our love for you.

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M In the name of the Lord Jesus and on the sure foundation of the prophets and apostles, let us pray for God's continued blessing upon us and all people.

Brief silence

M For the Church, that all those who belong to Jesus, who have been set free from the slavery of sin and death through faith in His Gospel, would be led by His Spirit to crucify their flesh with all its passions and desires and use their freedom to love one another in true peace and joy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M For all the messengers of Christ in the world, that having set their hand to the plow, they would not look back but preach the kingdom of God; that by the voice of His Gospel, the Lord, our God, would reveal Himself to His people and preserve them in the faith and worship of His name, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M For the president and Congress of the United States and all others in authority, and for all who work for peace, justice, health and protection, that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ would grant them wisdom by His Word and Holy Spirit; that we also might serve Him without fear within our callings and walk before Him in justice and truth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M For all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed in mind, body or estate; for those who travel, and for all who are in danger; for the homebound and hospitalized, and for all who have no house or home on earth; [*especially...*], that the Word of the Lord would come to them and comfort them in all adversity; that He would save them from destruction and grant to them His peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M For all those who have not received and do not know the Son of Man, that our Lord God would call them to repentance, free them from their error and, to the glory of His name, bring them into the faith and fellowship of Christ, their Savior, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M Hear us, O Lord, the God of hosts, in these our humble requests which we offer unto You in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

555 – For All Your Saints, O Lord



1 For all your saints, O Lord, Who strove
2 For all your saints, O Lord, Who strove
3 They all in life and death, With you,
4 For this your name we bless And hum -



in you to live, Who fol - lowed you, o -
in you to die, Who count - ed you their
their Lord, in view, Learned from your Ho - ly
bly pray a - new That we like them in



beyed, a - dored, Our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.
great re - ward, Ac - cept our thank - ful cry.
Spir - it's breath To suf - fer and to do.
ho - li - ness May live and die in you.

Text: Richard Mant, 1776–1848, abr., alt.
Tune: ENERGY (SM) William H. Monk, 1823–89.

PRAYER

M O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

329 – Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For the gos - pel's
3 So when - e'er the sig - nal's giv - en Us from earth to



joy and peace. Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion
call a - way, Borne on an - gels' wings to heav - en,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. Oh, re - fresh us,
In our hearts and lives a - bound! Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad the sum - mons to o - bey, May we ev - er,



oh, re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with Christ in end - less day.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Tune: NEW ULM (87 87 87) Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924.