



HOLY BAPTISM

THE FOURTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

SUNDAY 16 JUNE 2024

9:30 A.M.

Opening Hymn 423

“Immortal, invisible, God only wise”

St. Denio

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,
 in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;
 most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see
 al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 299

Celebrant
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
 There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;
 One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.
 The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:6–10,14–17

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 1055

Commentary: Paul wrote that believers are either in their mortal bodies and absent from the Lord or they are with the Lord and absent from their mortal bodies. Believers now walk by faith but there is no need to despair, since God has revealed what is in store for them. As they look forward to their destination, heaven, they can follow Paul's example of living to please God now. Paul realized that God's love for him merited his complete devotion to God in return. Through faith in Jesus Christ, Christians become not just better people, they become new creations, indwelt by the life-giving Holy Spirit.

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

The Holy Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

NRSV, p. 916

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

THE HOLY BAPTISM
OF
WILLIAM SUTTON PITTS
Parents
Carson and Katherine Pitts

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 301

Priest

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents

I present William Sutton Pitts to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Priest

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Priest

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Then the Priest asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infant

Question

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer

I do.

Question

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer

I do.

Question

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer

I do.

The Priest addresses the congregation, saying

Priest

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People

We will.

Priest

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

p. 304

Priest

Do you believe in God the Father?

People

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

Priest

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People

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.

Priest Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Priest Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidate

p. 305

Priest Let us now pray for Sutton who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Priest Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

p. 306

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Priest touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

p. 307

Priest Sutton, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Sutton, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.
Amen.

Priest Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Priest and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace

p. 308

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

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving — Eucharistic Prayer B

p. 367

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 him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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, then the Celebrant continues...

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:

Celebrant and People

**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 stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues, saying in the midst of the prayer:

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues, concluding with:

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

p. 364

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

p. 364

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

The Postcommunion Prayer

p. 366

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

The Dismissal

p. 366

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

TODAY AT ST. JAMES

LEMONADE AT MT. LEBANON

Through September 1st

As we get ready to open Mt. Lebanon Chapel for the summer, you're invited to share in the ministry of cookies and lemonade! Each Sunday while we worship at Mt. Lebanon Chapel, we're looking for parishioners to sign up to provide and serve lemonade and cookies following the 9:30 a.m. service. Contact Communications@stjamesp.org if you are interested in learning more.

If you are interested in providing supplies or serving, please visit our website to sign up!

EFWM BACKPACK DRIVE

Deadline Sunday, June 23

The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry Backpack Drive is back! This year, they're hoping to collect filled backpacks for over 400 children and teens who will be in need of school supplies this fall. St. James has committed to providing backpacks for almost 60 Pre-K & Kindergarten students. A huge thank you to everyone who has adopted a child to shop for. Please bring all filled backpacks to the Parish Office by June 23rd. You may also bring the backpack with you on Sunday Mornings. If you don't think you will be able to fill a backpack but would still like to support this ministry you may Donate to the EFWM directly or shop their Amazon Wishlist. Links are on our website. Have questions about ways you can support the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry Back to School Drive? Reach out to communications@stjamesp.org to get connected!

ST. JAMES COOKBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

Spiral-bound versions of "Before We Say Grace" are now available in the Parish Office for \$35. Proceeds from the cookbook's sale will go to support the St. James Episcopal Church Women and other outreach projects. Please reach out communications@stjamesp.org.

LET US KNOW!

Life is full of changes! We want to help support you through the bad and the good. If you, or a loved one would like a pastoral care visit or to request prayer, please make sure to reach out to our church office or our clergy. We want to know how we can be there for you. The parish office number is 910-763-1628. Similarly, if you've experienced a job change and have a new preferred email, or maybe you've moved and have a new mailing address, please make sure to let us know. Please reach out to communications@stjamesp.org to update your contact information.

PARISH MEET AND GREET

Sunday, June 23 | 10:30 a.m. | Mt. Lebanon Chapel

The St. James Evangelism Commission will be hosting the Parish Meet & Greet on June 23rd! Following the 9:30 a.m. service, we'll gather at Mt. Lebanon Chapel for a time of fellowship. Come ready to welcome one another and build relationships with newcomers to our church family.

MEN ON A MISSION

The St. James Men on a Mission continues to serve dinner at Good Shepherd on the *first and third Tuesdays* of the month (4:30-7:00 pm), as well as at the Sgt Ashley Center (5:00-7:00 pm) for homeless veterans on the *fourth Thursday* of each month. If you are interested in signing up to serve, please reach out to Brian McMerty at bmmerty@arris.partners.

WILMINGTON SHARKS GAME

Sunday, June 30 | 5:00 p.m. | Legion Stadium

On June 30th, the St. James Bread Breakers will be gathering together for the Wilmington Sharks Baseball Game. The game starts at 5:00 p.m. Please use the link online sign up for tickets. Anyone 4 or older will need a ticket to the game. Kevin and Taber Tornes are hosting this special gathering and will cover up to 50 tickets for the Breadbreakers, so sign up early if you want tickets for your family!

MEALS ON WHEELS

Sunday, June 30

St. James is once again responsible for the delivery of Meals on Wheels on Sunday, June 30th and we need volunteers! Anyone willing to drive, cook, and/or bring two dozen rolls is greatly appreciated. We are responsible for preparing, packaging, and delivering meals to approximately 180 grateful Meals on Wheels recipients, who are elderly or disabled shut-ins, many of whom have little to no social interaction or hot meals other than Meals on Wheels. If you are willing and able to participate, especially drivers, please contact nllbplus21@gmail.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!

August 5th - 8th | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

VBS returns August 5th - 8th. Registration for Start the Party is NOW OPEN and we have a few spaces remaining. Make plans to join us as we celebrate the Good News at VBS: Start the Party!

Register online at: stjamesp.org/vbs24/

Want to get involved? As we begin to dive into planning for another wonderful VBS, we're calling on our parish family to help us make it happen. There lots of ways to get involved! We have opportunities for all ages and abilities. To volunteer now, please email Ansley at christianformation@stjamesp.org.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

MON.- FRI., JUNE 17-21

- MORNING PRAYER
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom

MONDAY, JUNE 17

- LIVING WELL IN MIDST OF GRIEF
5:00 PM | Graham Parlor or Zoom

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

- MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING AT
GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER
4:30-7:00 PM | Good Shepherd Center

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

- JUNETEENTH - OFFICE CLOSED**
• NO EVENTS PLANNED

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
LANDSCAPING THE UNITY BUILD
7:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Spaces are limited.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

- HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE I
8:00 AM | St. James Parish
- HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II
8:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel
- HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II
9:30 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel
- PARISH MEET & GREET
10:15 AM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel
- HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II
10:15 AM | St. James Parish & Livestream



*Celebrant: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon
Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.
Music: Zach Bugg
St. Mary's, Burgaw: The Reverend Dan MacGill*

*To all who are weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Saviour;
to all who are idle and look for service; to all who are strangers
and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to whosoever will come—this church opens wide her doors.*

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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