



St. James Episcopal Church

*204 Lee Street, Leesburg, FL 34748
(352)787-1981 / www.stjames-leesburg.org*

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

August 23rd, 2026 ~ 10:15 a.m.

Preludes: *“How Lovely Is The Dwelling Place” (Brahms, arr. Ham)*
 “Meditation” (Larson)

Processional Hymn 525: *The Church’s One Foundation*

1 The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed;
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4 Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war

she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Celebrant Bless be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen

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 in the Highest *Gloria (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.

The Collect of the Day

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

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Lesson ~ Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 124

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Epistle: Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn 656: *Blest Are the Pure in Heart* (vv. 1-2 before; vv. 3-4 after)

1 Blest are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs,
their soul is Christ's abode.

2 The Lord, who left the heavens
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with us,
our pattern and our King;

3 He to the lowly soul
will still himself impart
and for his dwelling and his throne
will choose the pure in heart.

4 Lord, we thy presence seek;
may ours this blessing be;
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple fit for thee.

The Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

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

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

The Sermon *The Rev'd Thomas Trees*

Nicene Creed (BCP 358)

We believe 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.

The Prayers of the People Form III (BCP 387)

Father, we pray for your Holy Catholic Church;
That we may all be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for **Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Justin our Bishop, Tom our Rector, Sebastiana our Priest Associate and Art our Deacon**, and for all bishops, priests and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for **Donald our President, Ron our Governor, and Allyson our Mayor**, and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world:
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

We especially remember **Rita Clements, Kristen Daley, Shirley Dunne, Cheryl Dudley, Alexis Dunmire, David Healey, Court Hintze, Mary Hooper, Charlie Johnson, Dee Kermode, Barbara Morgan, Cricket Morrison, Lynn Olsen, Michael Saylor, Dott Vedder & Jan West.**

Give to all the departed eternal rest
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence

We offer our thanksgivings for both the newly born, and for those who celebrate the anniversary of their birth this week, especially, **Cherie Knowles (23rd), Patsy Cyrus (24th), Nancy Boyer (27th), David Dunmire (27th), Jeff Register (27th), Dr. Uju Amadi (28th), Ed Walter (29th) and Barney Woodward (29th)** and those celebrating the anniversary of their marriage this week especially **Michael & Tara Meyer (23rd) and Chip and Fran Deems (24th).**

Your own intercessions are invited at this time, either aloud or in the privacy of your hearts.

The Celebrant concludes with the following Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 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

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

Offertory: ***“My Hope Is Built”*** (*Bradbury, arr. Dalton*)

Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A*

	The Lord be with you
<i>People</i>	And also with you
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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 *Sanctus (S-130)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full,
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

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:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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 for ever. *AMEN*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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

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

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.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace. *(Mass of Creation)*

Communion Hymn 517:

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place

1 How lovely is thy dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts, to me!
My thirsty soul desires and longs
within thy courts to be;
my very heart and flesh cry out,
O living God, for thee.

2 Beside thine altars, gracious Lord,
the swallows find a nest;
how happy they who dwell with thee
and praise thee without rest,
and happy they whose hearts are set
upon the pilgrim's quest.

3 They who go through the desert vale
will find it filled with springs,
and they shall climb from height to height
till Zion's temple rings
with praise to thee, in glory throned,
lord God, great King of kings.

4 One day within thy courts excels
a thousand spent away;
how happy they who keep thy laws
nor from thy precepts stray,
for thou shalt surely bless all those
who live the words they pray.

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

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 Celebrant says the Blessing:

Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in the love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, now and always. Amen.

Recessional Hymn 473: *Lift High the Cross*

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred Name.

1. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine. [Refrain]

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. [Refrain]

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. [Refrain]

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. [Refrain]

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *“Voluntary in A minor” (Lasky)*



**Daughters of the King
Service of Admission of Daughters**

Presenters: Shirley Dunne and Kay Oestreich: It is my privilege to present **Lara Lahey, Deni Lawrence & Victoria Mymudes**, as candidates for membership in The Order of the Daughters of the King®.

Fr. Tom: We are gathered here in the sight of God and before this congregation to admit these women into The Order of the Daughters of the King. We commend them to your earnest prayers that they may have grace to fulfill the obligations of The Order and that their labors may be to the glory of God and to the welfare of all His people.

Addressing the candidates

Fr. Tom: The Order of the Daughters of the King is an Order for women whose mission is the extension of Christ's kingdom, especially among women and girls, through prayer, service, and evangelism. Do you desire to become a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King?

Candidates: I do with God's help.

Fr. Trees: Do you promise to obey faithfully the two Rules of The Order, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service? To offer your support to the clergy for the good of the parish and the extension of Christ's Kingdom? To wear faithfully the cross of The Order? And to work for its purposes, as God may give you opportunity?

Candidates: I do with God's help.

Fr. Trees: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit I receive and admit you as members of The Order of the Daughters of the King.

Addressing the congregation

Fr. Trees: Will you support these women in their ministry of prayer and service?

Congregation: We will.

Fr. Trees: *Blesses the crosses.*

Fr. Trees: Bless, O Lord, these crosses and grant to your servants now admitted into this Order such an abundance of your Grace that they may wear this sacred symbol in the spirit of humility and with devotion to the service of the King of kings. *Amen.*

Each new member is presented a cross with the following words:

Fr. Trees: Bless, O Lord, these crosses and grant to your servants now admitted into this Order such an abundance of your Grace that they may wear this sacred symbol in the spirit of humility and with devotion to the service of the King of kings. *Amen.*

Representative from the Diocese, Heather Herrington: Accept and wear faithfully the cross of The Order, remembering the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Take up your cross and follow me."

New Members: Almighty God, help me to pray so faithfully that I may draw near to you and learn your will. Help me to serve so joyfully that others may be drawn to you. May your Holy Spirit guide me each day, in that all I think, do, or say may be pleasing in your sight. I ask it all for the sake of Him whose cross I wear, my King and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

All Daughters: O Eternal Father, you have sent us your Son to teach us things pertaining to your heavenly kingdom. Give your blessing to our Order wherever it may be throughout the world. Grant that we, your Daughters, every may discern your truth and bear the cross through the battles of our earthly life. Give us strength to overcome temptation and the grace to work to spread your Kingdom and to gather your scattered sheep within your fold. Pour out upon us the

sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit that we may always remember it is your work we are called to do; that all we think, do or say may be pleasing in your sight. We ask it all For His Sake, our King and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Fr. Trees: May your love, O Lord, help the Daughters live lives of love, and may your holiness lead them to be examples of virtue, that they, strengthened by your Holy Spirit, may pray and serve all their days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*



Madonna Flowers: To the Glory of God from the Daughters of the King

SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

Our Eucharistic Visitors today is **Blanca Crabtree**. She will be taking Holy Eucharist to **Dee Kermode**:

Celebrant: Blanca, please take these Holy gifts of our Lord's Body and Blood.

People: We send you forth in the name of St. James bearing these Holy gifts, so that those to whom you go may experience with us the majesty and mystery of his presence through the sharing of the bread and wine. May you carry the prayers of us all.

Celebrant: We who are many are one body because we share one bread, one cup.

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