

# ST. JAMES THE ELDER, APOSTLE

Pilgrim's Progress

July 25, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

In Scripture and our hymnody, human life is often portrayed as being a pilgrimage. “I’m But a Stranger Here” includes this classic line: “Short is my pilgrimage, Heav’n is my home” (*LSB* 748:2). The earthly pilgrimage of hymnwriter Thomas Taylor lasted only twenty-eight years—a brief life lived to God’s glory. The lives of many followers of Jesus have been brief, yet powerful. On this day, the Church remembers St. James the Elder, whose earthly life was ended at the murderous order of King Herod. As we sing of the “noble army of martyrs” in the *Te Deum*, we remember this singular disciple of Jesus Christ as part of that noble army.

## ✂ PREPARATION ✂

### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

Sovereign God, benevolent ruler of all creation, of all heaven and earth nothing is out with your care, Your authority, Your love, even the aphids in the leaves of the might oaks are under Your influence, though they may know nothing of it. But we are blessed, with hearts and minds which know You, which love You and wish to know and love You more, each and every day. So, we gather, from places near and far, as Your church in this place, in this time. We gather, together to feel Your loving care in Your presence with us. May our worship be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God May it be holy and worthy, a blessing to us as, in fellowship with one another, we meditate on your word, sing your praises and offer our prayers. Help us to set our eyes on You, to listen to Your voice calling to us, knowing You will guide us through the troubles and fears and confusion we may have. May we grasp that You is the great I AM who is present with us in the

storm, and may that change us. Soften our hearts. May Your presence give us confidence no matter how the sea may rage or the winds blow. In the name of the one who stills storms and multiplies loaves and walks on water, in the name of the great I AM, in the name of the one who died for our sins and who invites us to repent and follow Him. Amen.

### **WELCOME:**

**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE....** Some of us are exhausted, we come to rest. Some of us are curious about Jesus, we come to learn. Some of us are hungry, we come to be fed. Some of us are disoriented, we come to pray. Some of us are broken, we come to be healed. We gather around you this afternoon, O Christ, for you to Teach us, feed us, hear us, heal us. As we worship, let us pray that He will open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous blessings out of His word. That we may share God's love and life and may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ. Let's join together in worship! Welcome!

### **SELECTION**

**Minister Terry Dale**

### **INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:** Amen.

### **OPENING SENTENCES** *Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b, alt.; 1 Peter 3:8, 15*

**Pastor:** How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news,  
**People:** **who publish peace and bring good news of salvation.**

**Pastor:** Their voice has gone out to all the earth,  
**People:** **and their words to the ends of the world.**

**Pastor:** Have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.  
**People:** **In your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God, our gracious Father.

**People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we humbly confess our sins to You. We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have not observed and honored Your Law in our thinking, speaking, or doing. We have followed our own ways and have not obeyed Your commands. We have not always been merciful, meek, or peaceable. We repent of our many sins and ask Your forgiveness.**

Pastor: In His mercy, God hears our confession and responds with forgiveness and love. As a called and ordained servant of my Lord Jesus Christ and at His gracious command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

**People: Amen.**

### **WITNESS FROM JAMES** Part 1

Pastor: St. James the Elder is one of the better-known disciples. He, his brother John, the other son of Zebedee the fisherman, and Peter comprise the inner circle of the disciples. He has a special closeness to Jesus. That close relationship to the Lord may well have led to his becoming the first of the disciples of Jesus to die a martyr's death. He was condemned to die by King Herod and was beheaded most likely in AD 44—in the very first years of the Church at Jerusalem. Tradition suggests that his final resting place was at Santiago da Compostela in Spain, a place that has been visited by many Christian pilgrims through the centuries. The scallop shell, associated with Christian pilgrims for many centuries, is linked to the sacred remembrance of St. James the Elder, who was called to discipleship by Jesus at the Sea of Galilee.

✘ WORD ✘

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O gracious God, Your servant and apostle James was the first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the name of Jesus Christ. Pour out upon the leaders of Your Church that spirit of self-denying service that they may forsake all false and passing allurements and follow Christ alone, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**      “Glory Glory, Hallelujah”    [TFBY 148 Sts. 1 & 2 ]

1. Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down, Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
Since I laid my burden down.

2. I feel better, so much better, Since I laid my burden down, I feel better, so  
much better, Since I laid my burden down.

**FIRST READING**    *Acts 11:27–12:5* (The death of James at the order of King  
Herod)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SELECTION**

**Minister Terry Dale**

**EPISTLE**     *Romans 8:28–39*     (The assurance of God’s care)

Leader:     This is the Word of the Lord.

People:     **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**     *Mark 10:45*

Leader:     Alleluia. Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,  
and to give His life as a ransom for many. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *Mark 10:35–45* (Jesus calls His disciples to a life of service.)

Leader:     The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

People:     **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader:     This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People:     **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SELECTION**

**Minister Terry Dale**

**SERMON**

**SELECTION**

**Minister Terry Dale**

**(We Bring Our Tithes and Offering)**

## APOSTLE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence 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.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, rejoicing that through it, the message of salvation has been preserved and transmitted. Grateful for the witness of James the Elder and other faithful disciples, we pray that the message of salvation be proclaimed and the gifts of God be shared in all generations. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the world in which we live. On our journey as pilgrims through this world, help us to live as peacemakers to make the world a better place and to enjoy the blessings we receive each day with thankful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: As we follow in the footsteps of St. James, grant that we find ways to encourage all disciples of our Lord in these times, especially affirming and supporting the work of pastors and educators, missionaries, and those engaged in Christian charitable work, [*including . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Remembering at the throne of mercy all those with special needs and concerns this day, we now pray for the hospitalized, the grieving, the unemployed, the shut-ins, and all others for whom our petitions are desired, [*including . . .*]. Enable us, O Lord, to encourage, uphold, and strengthen those around us in Your saving and healing name. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: As we bring our petitions, Lord, we remember not only St. James the Elder, but all who have departed this life and now are rejoicing in the glory of Your promised heavenly kingdom. Direct our ways on earth that we complete this life in faith and at last rejoice together with saints and angels and all the company of heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.  
**People: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

## **WITNESS FROM JAMES** Part 2 *Mark 10:39, 43–44*

Pastor: When Jesus said to James the Elder and his brother John, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,” He was affirming that there is a cost that is paid by all who would be disciples of Jesus. For James, that cost of discipleship would include his very life. In losing his earthly life, he served the cause of his Savior and in so doing fulfilled the prophetic words of Jesus: “But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must

be slave of all.” The disciple and martyr James the Elder serves us as a guide and a mentor, and we proceed through our lives on the pilgrimage that takes us not to an earthly destination, but to the eternal courts of heaven.

## **CLOSING COLLECT**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Grant, O Lord, that as St. James the Elder readily followed the calling of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we by Your grace be enabled to follow as true pilgrims in the footsteps of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:** Amen.

## **SELECTION**                      **Minister Terry Dale**