Year A – Saint James

Saturday, July 25, 2026

Collect for Saint James

O gracious God, we remember before you today your servant and apostle James, first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the Name of Jesus Christ; and we pray that you will pour out upon the leaders of your Church that spirit of self denying service by which alone they may have true authority among your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Old Testament

Jeremiah 45:1-5

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1 The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these
words in a book at the instruction of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king
of Judah, saying, 2 Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: 3 You said, 'Woe is me
now! For the LORD has added grief to my sorrow. I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest.' '

4 Thus you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, what I have built I will break down, and
what I have planted I will pluck up, that is, this whole land. 5 And do you seek great things for
yourself? Do not seek them; for behold, I will bring adversity on all flesh,' says the LORD. 'But I will
give your life to you as a prize in all places, wherever you go.' ' '

Officiant: **The Word of the Lord.**

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 7

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1 O LORD my God, in You I put my trust; Save me from all those who persecute me; And deliver
me, 2 Lest they tear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver. 3 O LORD
my God, if I have done this: If there is iniquity in my hands, 4 If I have repaid evil to him who was at
peace with me, Or have plundered my enemy without cause,

5 Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me; Yes, let him trample my life to the earth, And lay my
honor in the dust. *Selah* 6 Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my
enemies; Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded! 7 So the congregation of the peoples
shall surround You; For their sakes, therefore, return on high. 8 The LORD shall judge the peoples;
Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me.

9 Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God
tests the hearts and minds. 10 My defense is of God, Who saves the upright in heart.

**At the end of the Psalms this is sung or said*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

New Testament

Acts 11:27-30, 1-3

27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus,
stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world,
which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, each according to his
ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to
the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.
1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. 2 Then
he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he
proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Officiant: **The Word of the Lord.**

The People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 20:20-28

Deacon: *The Lord be with you.*

People: *And also with you. Or And with your spirit.*

Deacon: *May the Lord be on our minds, on our lips, and on our hearts as we hear His Holy Gospel. The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.*

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

Deacon: *We are reading from Matthew's Gospel chapter 20, beginning at verse 20.*

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking
something from Him. 21 And He said to her, 'What do you wish?' She said to Him, 'Grant that these
two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.' 22 But
Jesus answered and said, 'You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am
about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They said to Him, 'We are
able.' 23 So He said to them, 'You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I
am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those
for whom it is prepared by My Father.'

24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called
them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who
are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to

become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave --

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.'

After the Gospel reading, the deacon can elevate the book and says:

Deacon: ***The Gospel of the Lord.***

People: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*