

James the apostle Festival 28th July 2026



About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ² He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³ After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.

[Acts 12. 1-3](#)

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

As we come together this evening in the name of Jesus,
as the family St Matthews,
we give thanks for the Good news that the living Lord Jesus Christ,
the word who became flesh,
is among us,
as we meet in His name.

Leader. The lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Leader. O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Leader. My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.'
Your face, Lord, will I seek.

Leader. As we invite God's presence amongst us as we prepare to bring him our worship.

Leader. Lord, we lift our hearts and voices to you. **Come, Holy Father.**

Leader. Lord, we kneel at the foot of your cross. **Come, Holy Son.**

Leader. Lord, we open our lives to your glory. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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Lighting of Worship Candles



Blessed are you Lord God,
creator of day and night:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As darkness falls you renew your
promise to reveal among us the light of
your presence.
By the light of Christ,
your living Word,
dispel the darkness of our hearts
that we may walk as children of light.
Amen

The Lord is my light and my salvation:
my God shall make my darkness to be bright.
The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you
All and also with you.

Leader. Almighty God,
unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify **your** Holy Name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Invitation to confession

L, The gospel calls us to turn away from sin
and be faithful to Christ.
As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith,
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.
Lord have mercy **All. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader. Christ the light of the world has come to dispel
the darkness of our hearts.
Christ, have mercy. **All. Christ, have mercy.**

Leader. We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.
Lord, have mercy. **All. Lord, have mercy.**

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Reader. Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,

Leader. Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
All. we pray that you have mercy upon *us*,
pardon and deliver *us* from all *our* sins,
confirm and strengthen *us* in all goodness,
and keep *us* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader. O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

Reader . Said Hymn.
Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.

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

Scripture Reading

Reader. *James 2:14-18 nrsv*

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?

Can faith save you?

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.,**

Leader. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Leader. May the Lord be in our minds, on our lips and in our hearts as we hear the words of the holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

All. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader. **Mark 1:14-20**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,
and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

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And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him. This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All Praise to you, O Christ.**

Leader. O God, my Strength, we believe that We can do all things through you who strengthens me.

We ask that You have Your divine way in our lives so that we can grow into this divine promotion that You have called us to. **Amen**

Gospel Canticle

Reader

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2.29-32)

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

Prayers, Let us Pray,

Leader That the rest of this day may be holy, peaceful, and full of your presence: **We pray to you, our God.**

Leader That the work we have done and the people we have met today may bring us closer to you: **We pray to you, our God.**

Leader That we may hear and respond to your call to peace and justice: in faith we pray. **We pray to you, our God.**

Reader. That you will sustain the faith and hope of those who are lonely, oppressed and anxious: **We pray to you, our God.**

Reader. That you will strengthen us in your service, and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom: **We pray to you, our God.**

Reader. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body and mind, those that will be given bad news during the coming week, the sick; those caring for others; those finding it hard to care for themselves, for the dying and those who wait with them; give them courage in their troubles;

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In a moment of quietness, we name in our hearts those we know or love who are in need or ill at this time.....

Moment of Quiet

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Leader, We pray for The Sick and Those in Need named on our parish news page:

May Christs healing hand rest upon them and give Them wholeness of body, mind and spirit and also give their families peace and comfort
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Leader. We pray for all who have departed this life, for past members of this community, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

+ Rest eternal

Grant unto them O Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in Peace **AND RISE IN GLORY**

We pray that those left behind may find comfort through the lords Grace.

Father, we rejoice all out prayers in fellowship with St Matthew, st James, all the saints, with those of our Blessed Mother.

In your unfailing love for us, hear and answer our prayers through your Son, as we honour his mother and say:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Leader. Faithful God, we thank you for the opportunity of being together in prayer. In the coming week, we pray for an awareness of your love and support in all we do.

Merciful Farther,**Please accept these prayers For the Sake of your Son Our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN**

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Reader The Collect

Merciful God, whose holy apostle **Saint James**,
leaving his father and all that he had,
was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him
even to death:
help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world,
to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever.. **Amen.**

Leader. The Peace

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you, **All. and also with you.**

Take a moment- Prayer of Spiritual Communion

L. The Lord be with you **all. .and also with you.**
L. The Lord is here. **all. His Spirit is with us.**
L. Lift up your hearts. **all. We lift them to the Lord.**

L. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
all. It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader. Pour out your Holy Spirit
The Light of God surrounds us;
The Love of God enfolds us;
The Power of God protects us;
The Presence of God watches over us;
Wherever we are, --God is----

Leader. We give you thanks, most gracious God,
holy and undivided Trinity:
because you have given us the light of the knowledge of God
in the face of Jesus Christ,
that we may grow into your likeness,
and be changed from glory to glory.

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Reader. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For with your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit
you are one God, one Lord.

Leader. Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us:

**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 them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Leader

My Jesus, we believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
We love You above all things, and desire to receive You into our souls.
Since we cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
We pray that You come at least spiritually into our heart.

All I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself
wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

We rest in the love of God.
We Thank Him for entering beneath the roof of our soul
As we say,
Soul of Christ, **All** sanctify me.
Body of Christ, **save me.**
Blood of Christ, **inebriate me.**
Water from the side of Christ, **wash me.**
Passion of Christ, **strengthen me.**

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All O good Jesu, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from you.
From the malicious enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me and bid me come to you.

And that with St Matthew,

All O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day Amen.

Almighty God, we pray that you keep us united with all our brothers and sisters here at St Matthews and throughout the church.

All Bind us together in Word, Sacrament and Love, until we are reunited again in Your church. . Amen.

Moment of Silence

Leader The Lord be with you. **All** And also with you

Reader. Christ we pray you give us grace to grow in holiness, to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow you, and that the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us, always. **Amen.**

NOTICES .

The Conclusion

l.eader. In peace we will lie down and sleep;

Readerfor you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Leader.. Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

Reader. for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

l.eader.. As the night watch looks for the morning,

Reader.so do we look for you, O Christ. AMEN.

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Leader .

In your mercy, Lord, dispel the darkness of this night.

Let your household so sleep in peace that at the dawn of a new day they may, with joy, waken in your name.

Through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

-X-X-X-X-XX-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X—X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-

- Goodbyes

Leader. Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

Loud Response by All. I come to Christ.

Leader. The Lord bless us and keep us;

The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace

. And we pray that the blessing of God almighty,

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Will be among us and remain with us always. Amen

Let us bless the Lord. **All Thanks be to God**

and **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**