



Friday 25th July 2025
Patronal Festival Eucharist

St James' Church
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

Welcome to this celebration of our patronal festival! Large-print copies and sheet music for the mass setting are available from the sidespeople. Please ask if you are unsure.

In particular today, we welcome: the Rt Rev Dr Mike Harrison, Bishop of Exeter, as our celebrant and preacher; the Rev Jo Stobart, Chaplain to the Bishop of Exeter.

St James, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, was the brother of John. Both apparently had a hot temper; Jesus gave them the nickname 'Boagernes', which means 'Sons of Thunder'. Their father was Zebedee, a fisherman.

St James was the first apostle to be martyred and he is the only one whose death is described in the Bible. He was executed by the sword in AD 44.



According to legend, St James' relics are buried in Santiago de Compostela. He is the patron saint of Spain and his symbol is a scallop shell or cockleshell. One story behind this recounts how St James' remains were on a ship heading from Jerusalem to Spain. At the same time man was riding a horse along the shore, when the horse suddenly galloped into the sea, trying to reach the boat. When the man and horse emerged from the sea, they were covered in cockleshells.

In addition to the shell symbol St James is often depicted as a dark-bearded man carrying a pilgrim's staff or a scroll, symbolising his extensive travels and his preaching of the good news of Christ.

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.

Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Music

Processional hymn 747
Offertory hymn 86
Communion anthem
Recessional hymn 683

Music Setting: Mass of St Thomas (by David Thorne)

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
He Came to Earth
To God be the Glory!

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

First Reading: Acts 11: 27 - 12: 2

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

Psalms 126



What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing;

They come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4: 7-15

We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture – 'I believed, and so I spoke' – we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20: 20-28

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.' When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

