

# Saint James of Jerusalem

October 23

## First Lesson: Acts 15:12-22a

<sup>12</sup> The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. <sup>13</sup> When they finished, James spoke up: “Brothers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

<sup>16</sup> “After this I will return  
and rebuild David’s fallen tent.  
Its ruins I will rebuild,  
and I will restore it,

<sup>17</sup> that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,  
and all the Gentiles who bear my name,  
says the Lord, who does these things’

<sup>18</sup> that have been known for ages.

<sup>19</sup> “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

<sup>22</sup> Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

## Second Lesson: James 1:1-12

<sup>1</sup> James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work

so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

<sup>9</sup> The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. <sup>10</sup> But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

## Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58

<sup>54</sup> Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked.

<sup>55</sup> “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup> Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” <sup>57</sup> And they took offense at him.

But Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”

<sup>58</sup> And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

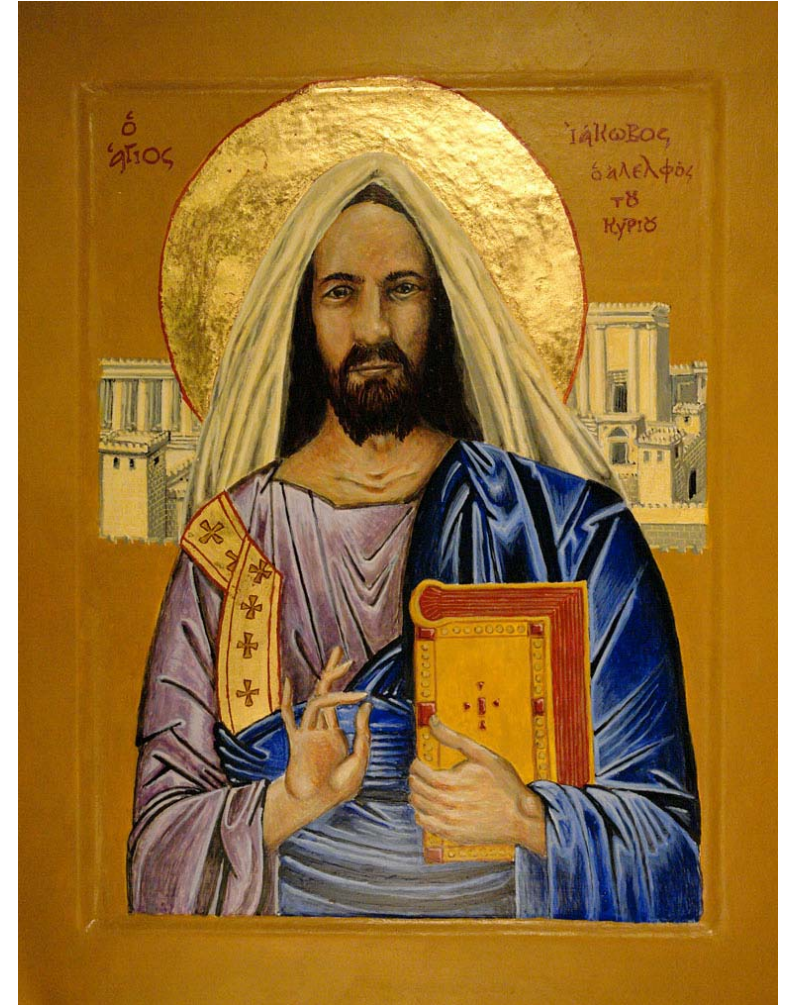
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## Saint James of Jerusalem

Brother of Our Lord



Welcome  
to  
Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

To the friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to our first time guests we extend it most sincerely; and to those seeking a church home, we offer fellowship with the risen living Redeemer, membership in His Church, and citizenship in His eternal kingdom. Our message is as old as the Word of God to man and as new as the new life it brings: *Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to give eternal life to people everywhere.*

Christ's Love,  
Our Calling.

**Dear Visitors:**

- **The bookmark** in this service folder will guide you through our service.
- If you **need assistance** in worship, ask an usher. We offer worship partners.
- Before you leave today, **please sign our guest book**. It is located in the Narthex.

**Personal sound enhancement receivers** are available to help the hearing impaired. An usher will be happy to assist you.

**Today's Service** is being broadcast at [www.peacewithgod.com](http://www.peacewithgod.com). Click on the blue box labeled "Live Online Services." It can be viewed LIVE or any time from the collection of archived services.

✘ ✘ ✘ **Before participating in Communion** ✘ ✘ ✘



We welcome all people to our services, those who are fully united with us in Christ's teachings as well as those who do not yet share our confession of the Faith. However, it is a sad consequence of the divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend a general invitation to all Christians to receive Communion with us. Our Lord teaches (1 Cor. 10:17 and elsewhere) that Communion is an action of the celebrating community that declares their oneness in the Faith, life, and worship. Communing with Christians not in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS] or our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS], would imply a oneness that does not truly exist, but for which we pray. Our pastor will gladly talk with you about establishing communion fellowship here at Peace.

**Suggestions for Pre-service meditation**

**Meditate** on the readings (on the back of the bulletin cover) keeping in mind *Today's Theme* and the comments on the lessons written below. Then do the same with the words of the *Psalm of the Day* and the words of the *hymns*. Both are listed on the worship *bookmark*.

*The Theme of Today's Service*

**Lord, give us the wisdom to use your word to bring godly concord.**

**Prayer of the Day**

*Grant, O God, that following the example of your servant James of Jerusalem, brother of our Lord, your Church may give itself to fervent prayer and to the healing of strife and discord; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**The Lord speaks to us in his word:**

**The First Lesson: Acts 15:12-22a**

*At the Council of Jerusalem, James demonstrates the evangelical wisdom God gave him. He became a widely respected leader of the Church in Jerusalem. Many enemies of the gospel even respected him.*

**The Psalm: Psalm 1**

*James of Jerusalem was a living example of what God's word can work in us, as promised by this Psalm.*

**The Second Lesson: James 1:1-12**

*James encourages us to seek the wisdom and maturity that come from God through trials and hardships. With this wisdom James persevered through many trials to the very end, dying a martyr's death.*

**Verse of the Day: James 1:17**

Alleluia. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights. Alleluia.

**The Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58**

*Matthew reveals that Jesus had a half-brother named James. The evidence identifies him as the author of James, known as James of Jerusalem, the well-respected and devout Church leader mentioned in Acts.*

**The Sermon: James 1:1-12**

**Lord, grant me wisdom for Life.**