

GOOD SHEPHERD

Episcopal Church and School



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The Holy Eucharist

Rite Two

March 15, 2026 ♦ 10:00 a.m.

MISSION

We exist to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love.

VISION

We are called to be a vibrant spiritual and educational community, radiating God's love for everyone, everywhere.

WELCOME FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Jesus welcomed children and so do we. We don't mind wiggles and noise, but if you would prefer a quiet room when infants become fussy, one is located off the lobby. A window and sound system allow families to see and hear the service. Nursery care for children under three is available in the Ryon Building (office) for the 10 a.m. service and is well-staffed by caring adults. For children in preschool through 5th grade, Sunday School is available during the 10:00 service. Children leave the church during the service and go to their classes in the Ryon Building. Children join their families in church mid-service for communion. Be sure to ask the greeters for directions or help.

WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU

We are so glad you're here. Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning after some time away, we all belong in God's community. We'd love to get to know you better and stay connected! Please scan the QR code below to share your information with us. It's a simple way for us to welcome you personally, answer any questions, and let you know about upcoming events. You are always welcome here—just as you are.



ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The 40 days of Lent are traditionally a period of penitence and fasting as well as time for spiritual preparation and self-examination. Our worship during this season is more austere and reflective as we journey with Christ on his mission toward Jerusalem, where he will suffer and die. And yet, the penitential spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful expectation of Jesus' resurrection. During this season, it is customary to be more intentional about engaging in the spiritual practices of prayer, Bible reading, and meditation. The liturgical color during Lent is purple, a symbol of penitence and there are no altar flowers in keeping with the somberness of the season.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST



THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

People stand for the silent procession.

QUIET PROCESSION

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People **His mercy endures forever.**

THE DECALOGUE

Read by Josie Maniscalco

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

People stand

LORD HAVE MERCY

Musical notation for the first system. The top staff is for Soprano/Alto (S/Alto) and the bottom staff is for Baritone. The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The notation includes a fermata over the first measure of the second phrase.

Musical notation for the second system. The top staff is for Cantor/Choir and the bottom staff is for the accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy." The notation includes a fermata over the first measure of the second phrase.

Musical notation for the third system. The top staff is for Cantor/Choir and the bottom staff is for the accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The notation includes a fermata over the first measure of the second phrase and a *rit.* marking at the end.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE READINGS

THE FIRST READING

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 *sung by all*



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- 1 The LORD is my / shepherd; *
I shall not be in / want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green / pastures *
and leads me beside still / waters.
- 3 He revives my / soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his / Name's sake.

- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no / evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they / comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who / trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running / over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my / life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for -/ ever.

THE SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN • 339

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1-41

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Sanford H. Groff, Jr.

*A moment of quiet reflection will follow the sermon.
The people stand.*

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of
the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

God of glory, be present as you have promised; hear our prayers and respond swiftly to the yearnings of our hearts as we say, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Awaken your church to its mission of healing and reconciliation, that it might be a beacon of hope.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Stir the leaders of this nation to pursue justice and peace so that all who live here might live with dignity and the confidence of a better tomorrow.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Arouse in us the desire to be engaged with our local communities that they might be places where the potential of all might have a chance to be discovered and nurtured.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Stir up in us the courage to confront the challenges of a changing climate, that we might ensure a world where future generations might thrive.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bring your healing peace to all who suffer, especially all those on our parish prayer list and for those we now offer, either silently or aloud. Keep us mindful of their needs, that they might know wholeness and healing.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the dead and the dying, especially Kerin Griswold, Brandon Blade, and those we remember either silently or aloud. We pray for those who grieve, deliver them from their distress and grant us all a place in your eternal kingdom.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us now pray for our own parish family.

Almighty and everlasting God, make our parish of Good Shepherd truly a community of prayer and belonging. Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others. *Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

CONCLUDING COLLECT *prayed by the Celebrant*

Through your Law, your prophets, and your Son, O God, you have ever sought to expand our perception and to lead us into deeper relationship with you and your creation. Keep us in your love and show us how to continue Christ's mission of healing and reconciliation in our own lives. All we ask, we ask through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, indivisible and forever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.

BLESSING OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Celebrant and People

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on these your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you as you celebrate your birthday or wedding anniversary this week, and always. **Amen.**

THE OFFERING

Celebrant I appeal to you, beloved, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

In Lent, we slow down and make room for God's voice. This season calls us to prayer and reflection, inviting us to listen more closely and live more intentionally. Giving becomes part of that holy listening, an embodied way of loosening our grip and trusting God more deeply. Your offering supports Good Shepherd's ministries of mercy and care. Thank you for practicing generosity as part of your Lenten journey.



Scan to give

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Lord is My Shepherd

Matthews

The people stand.

DOXOLOGY • (blue Hymnal, 380 vs. 3)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

In this season of repentance, we bring these gifts to you, acknowledging our need for your mercy. Bless these gifts and those given online, that they may be instruments of your grace in the world and a means of drawing us ever deeper into your way. In the name of Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow him. **Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Prayer A*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People and Celebrant

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 those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Music from *Mass of the Sacred Heart*/T. Smith

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to receive communion this morning, an ancient practice intended for all baptized Christians, no matter your tradition.

You may receive just the bread (which is full participation in the sacrament), or both the bread and the wine. As an alternative to sipping directly from the cup, you may receive by intinction and the priest will dip the bread in a separate chalice for you. To receive by intinction please fold your hands in front of you at the altar rail to indicate your preference. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister.

For those not receiving communion, you may also cross your arms over your chest for a blessing.

If you would like special prayers for healing--whether it be physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual--members of the Healing Team are available to pray with you in the side chapel. Please notify an usher if you would like a Healing Team member to come to you.

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

	<i>The Prayer of St. Patrick</i>	Rutter
	<i>Speak and We Will Hear</i>	Stevens/Martin
<i>Congregation will join in singing</i>	<i>The King of love my shepherd is</i>	Hymn 645

SENDING FORTH EUCHARISTIC VISITORS *When scheduled*

Celebrant In the name of God and of this congregation, we send forth you bearing these holy gifts to N., that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

SOLEMN PRAYERS

Priest Come let us bow down and bend the knee.

People **And kneel before the Lord our maker.**

The People kneel in silence

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN • 493

O for a thousand tongues to sing

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Priest Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

TODAY'S SERVANT LEADERS

- Celebrant:** The Rev. Dr. Sanford H. Groff, Jr.
Preacher: The Rev. James B. Cook
Acolyte: Sophie Riddle
Torch Bearers: Ben Bonneau, Alia Thomas
Verger: Peggy Greene
Reader: Peggy Chittum
Intercessor: Judy Hall
Eucharistic Ministers: Carol Block, George Creel
Healing Ministers: Margaret Dunstan, Patti Dunne
Ushers: Nancy Cole, Kevin Riddle
Greeters: Sandy English, Mike Greene
Vestry Host: Larry Smith
Vocalists: Ian Anderson, Peter Carras, Mark Chittum, Peggy Chittum, Jenna Hoefert, Eddie Howard, Emily Kane, Patrick Levitsky, Chantal Pontbriand, Gary Riggs, Loretta Smith, Tom Valk, and Debbie White
Organist: Timm C. Johnson-Reynolds
Violin: Liana Branscome
Sound: Erik Pariseleti
Altar Guild: Linda ClenDening
Coffee Hour: Valerie Hampe, Mary Jane Seitz



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