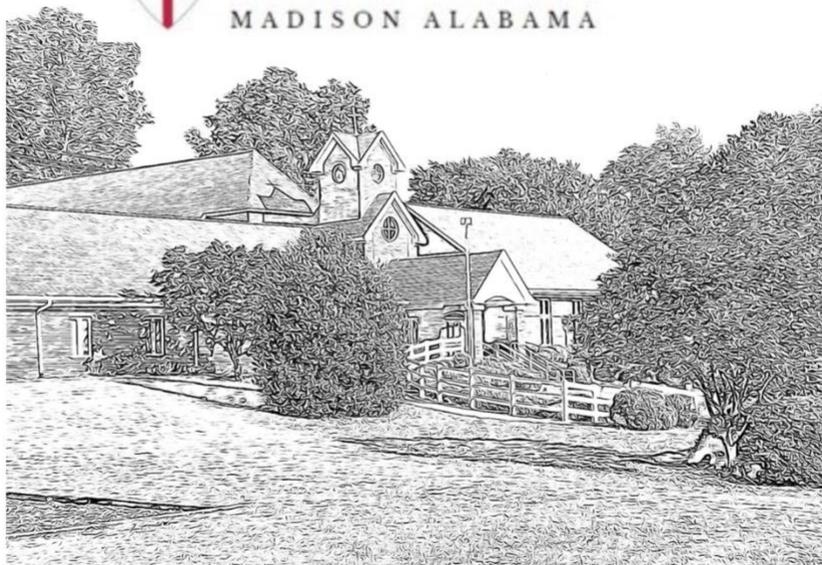




**ST MATTHEW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

MADISON ALABAMA



**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**MARCH 15, 2026**

**10:00 AM**



*Quiet before the service helps us to mark sacred space and time. Please use this time to prayerfully prepare for worship. Please remember to silence your cell phone.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

**The Prelude**

**Erhalt uns, Herr**

*(J. G. Walther)*

**Processional Hymn #143, *Standing, sung by all***     **The glory of these forty days** *(vs. 1-4)*

**The Penitential Order**

*The people standing*

*Celebrant*     Bless The Lord who forgives all our sins.

***People***     ***His mercy endures for ever.***

*The people kneeling*

*Celebrant*     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 before me.

***People***     ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

*Celebrant*     You shall not make for yourself any idol.

***People***     ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

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

***People***     ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

*Celebrant*     Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

***People***     ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

*Celebrant*     Honor your father and your mother.

***People***     ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

*Celebrant*     You shall not commit murder.

***People***     ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

*Celebrant*     You shall not commit adultery.

***People***     ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

*Celebrant*     You shall not steal.

***People***     ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

*Celebrant* You shall not be a false witness.

*People* ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

*Celebrant* You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*People* ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

*Celebrant* Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.***

**Kyrie #S-91, *Sung by all, standing***

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

### **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 Lesson, 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.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 23**

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 Epistle, 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.”

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

*Deacon* 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."

*Deacon*      The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Deacon Taylor Johnson

**The Nicene Creed,** *Standing*

BCP 358

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.**

## **The Prayers of the People – Form 1**

BCP 383

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Glenda, our Bishop; for Richard, our Bishop-Elect; for Susan, our Interim Rector; for Taylor, our Deacon; for Bob and Sam, our retired clergy; for Lauren, our missionary in Kenya; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For Donald, our President; for JD, our Vice President; for Kay, our Governor; for the Congress, State Legislature, and courts; for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For this city, Madison; for Ranae, our Mayor; for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the Anglican Church of Kenya; for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and for their bishop, Lloyd; For all who plan and lead Christian Formation in the parishes; for the Episcopal Retreat Houses and places of spiritual refreshment; for St. Joseph on the Mountain in Mentone; for the Food Bank of North Alabama; for First Stop; for the Episcopal Relief and Development; for Sawyerville; for the Huntsville Assistance Program; for the National Children's Advocacy Center; for peace in Ukraine, and the Middle East, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

***To thee, O Lord our God.***

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

**The Peace** *Standing*

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

*People* **And also with you.**

**Welcome**

**Offertory Anthem, Sung by Choir Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice** *(arr. Robert J. Powell)*

# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

*The people remain standing.*

*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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...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:

**Sanctus #S-124, Sung by all**

*Standing or kneeling*

*Celebrant* 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, according to his command, O Father,

*People* **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* 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,

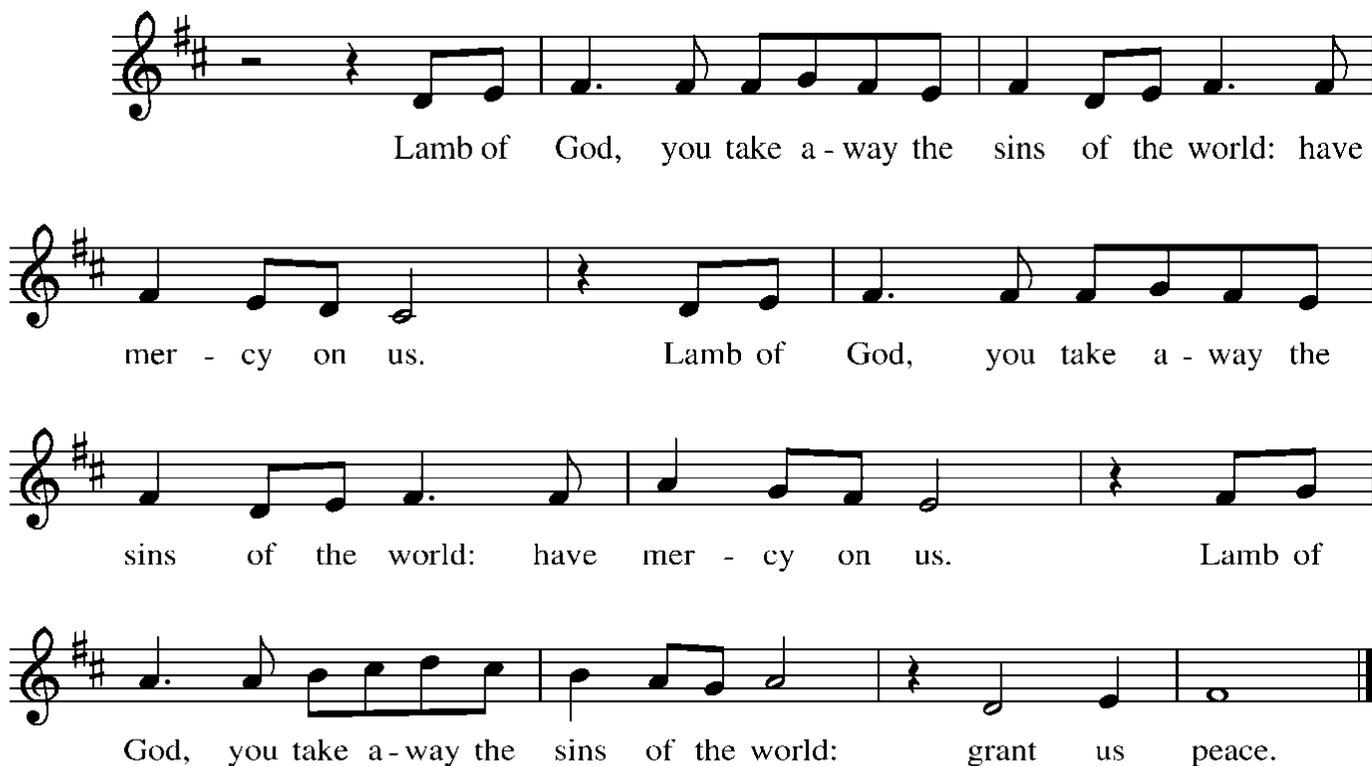
**The Lord's Prayer**, *Said by all*

BCP 364

**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.**

**Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei***, *Sung by All*

*Enriching Our Music, #38*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Regardless of the denomination of your baptism, you are invited to receive Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest. If you are interested in being baptized please speak with the clergy after the service or contact the church office.*

**Communion Hymn, *Sung by Choir***

**Have thine own way, Lord!**

**Communion Hymn #490**

**I want to walk as a child of the light**

**The Postcommunion Prayer** *Said by all, standing or kneeling*

BCP 365

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **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.**

**The Blessing, *all standing***

**Closing Hymn #493, *Standing, sung by all***

**O for a thousand tongues to sing**

**The Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Postlude** Toccata on “O for a Thousand Toggles to Sing” *(Alfred V. Fedak)*



**Remember in your prayers this week:**

Bill Byrd, Chuck, Lorna, and Roy Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, David Osmond, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, Mary Travers, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Rhoda Kitchen, Brenda Kirkendall, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Molly Killian, the Sloan Family, Trudie Gruman, Ray and Shirley White, George and Sandra Burgess, Norm Smith, Keith Ulrich, Tyron Newton, Clarissa Dozier, Daryl Carpenter, Carmen M. Colon, Robert Sampson, Deborah Harrison, Dennis and Beth Blanco, Scott Cechovic, Beau Womack, Joan East, Jeff Anderson, Barbara Combs, Robby Brueggeman, Laura Weatherbee, Jimmy Hubbard.

**Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:**

Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Cathy Taveras, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Peggy Wagner, Joe Frank Trevino, Emmy & Drew Champion, Ron Mandelbaum, Dave Knowles, Wade Allen, Emily Nebrig, Bobby Paysinger, Barbara Lemley, Steve Sands, Felicia Temple, John David Landin, Mike Bolton, Dr. Mark Bronner, Ashley Jenkins, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Ann Reid Cronin, Elizabeth Hodges, Jill Kanuchok, Mike Mumfrey, Joyce Lewis, Allan Scott, Christine Van Dyke, Christopher Taveras, Mike Rice, Suzette Rice, Vaughn Cassell, Shannon Carpenter, Jarilyn Alleman, Jake Sowder, Cheryl Lavazza, Margaret McHugh, Shawn and Rachel Blanco, Jane Stanland, Wisam Safie, Diego Candia, The Hardin family, Anthony Hardin, Cathy Collier.

## *Week at a Glance*

<b>Sunday, March 15</b>	<b>The Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>
8:15 AM	Contemplative Service/HE, Nave
9:00 AM	Inter-generational Lenten Studies, GH
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
11:15 AM	DOK Meeting, CE 2
<b>Monday, March 16</b>	
5:45 PM	Scouting America Troup #628, Amy West
6:00 PM	Sewing Sisters, CE 1,2
6:30 PM	Bells Angels rehearsal
<b>Tuesday, March 17</b>	
7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast, GH/Kitchen
9:30 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
6:00 PM	Vestry Meeting, CE 1
<b>Wednesday, March 18</b>	
11:00 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
12:00 PM	Noon Eucharist, Nave
6:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Nave
<b>Thursday, March 19</b>	
9:30 AM	Ladies Bible Study, Gruman Hall
<b>Friday, March 20</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Cleaning Service <b>(Church Closed)</b>

---

## **Bulletin Announcements – March 15**

**The church office is unable** to assist with 2025 contribution statements. For any inquiries concerning your 2025 contribution statements, please reach out to Chips Lanier at [chipslanier@icloud.com](mailto:chipslanier@icloud.com).

**Intergenerational Lenten Program** continues this morning in Gruman Hall during Christian Education hour and runs through March 22. All other Sunday school classes will pause during Lent.

**Ladies' Bible Study** meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in Gruman Hall to study Adam Hamilton's "The Walk" during Lent. All ladies are welcome.

**Easter Lilies**, \$20 each, are available for purchase in the narthex until March 22.

---

### **SERVING TODAY (10:00 AM)**

**PREACHER:** The Rev. Deacon Taylor Johnson

**CELEBRANT:** The Rev. Susan Sloan

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Tom Killian

**ORGANIST:** Susan Fletcher

**ALTAR GUILD:** Stacey Bagwell

**LEM:** Shelia Weaver, Natalie Lapacek-Trout

**LECTOR:** Paul Marques

**EPISTOLER:** Patty McGraw

**INTERCESSOR:** Jim Salmon

**ACOLYTES:** Natalie Lapacek-Trout, Samantha Jones

**USHERS:** Michael Barton, Terry Sampson

**COUNTERS:** Michael Harrison, Sherry Cox

**HOSPITALITY:** Joyce Turner

**NURSERY:** Amber Anderson, Mary Brown

**VESTRY OF THE DAY:** Bill Byrd