

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
MORNING PRAYER: RITE II  
9:00 A.M. SERVICE  
SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

## **CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL**

**9 South Main Street  
Sharon, CT 06069**



### Mission Statement

We are called to be one with God and each other,  
by living the Gospel with love and compassion.

P.O. Box 1778  
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Sharon, CT 06069

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**Prelude**     *Meditations on Lent*

*Officiant: Welcome to all who have come to be with us today for worship.  
Our service starts with our:*

**Opening Hymn:** *O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing*     **Hymnal 493**

**Opening Sentence:** I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,  
"Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you; I am  
no longer worthy to be called your son."     *Luke 15:18, 19*

**Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

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 Invitatory and Psalter**-*all stand*

Officiant: Lord open thou our lips

*All: And our mouths shall proclaim thy praise*

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

**Psalm 130 responding at the asterisk\***

**Lector: Tanya Waugh**

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; \*

*let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.*

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, \*

*O Lord, who could stand?*

3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*

*therefore you shall be feared.*

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; \*

*in his word is my hope.*

5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, \*

*more than watchmen for the morning.*

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, \*

*for with the Lord there is mercy;*

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*

*and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.*

**First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**Lector: Tanya Waugh**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**The Epistle: Romans 8:6-11**

*Lector: Tanya Waugh*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

*All rise*

**HYMN:**     *O Bless the Lord My God*

**Hymnal 411**

**The Gospel: John 11:1-45**

**Officiant**

The Gospel of our Lord, according to John

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

*Glory to you, Lord Christ*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ*

**Homily**

**Officiant**

**Music Meditation:** *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

**The Apostles’ Creed**     *Officiant and People together, all standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the  
body, and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

**The Prayers**      *The people stand or kneel as able*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

**Latin**

Pater noster, qui es in caelis,  
sanctificetur nomen tuum.  
Adveniat regnum tuum.  
Fiat voluntas tua,  
sicut in caelo et in terra.  
Panem nostrum quotidianum da  
nobis hodie.  
Et dimitte nobis debita nostra  
Sicut nos dimittimus debitoribus  
nostris.  
Et ne nos inducas in temptationem  
sed libera nos a malo.

**Suffrage B** *people respond at italics*

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. *Govern and uphold them, now and always.*

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. *We praise your name for ever.*

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. *Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.*



V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. *For we put our trust in you.*

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. *And we shall never hope in vain.*

**The Collect:** Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Collect for Sundays:** O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A Collect for Grace:**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Christ Church Prayer:**

**Intercessor:** *Tanya Waugh*

O God, who has brought us into the Church of thy dear Son, make all in our parish a family of one heart and mind in love towards thee; and grant that our common life and work may help to bring in thy kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving**

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Grant us all things necessary for our common

life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Strengthen and sustain all whose spirits are weak and whose lives are gripped by pain or suffering or distress. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

For those who have asked for our prayers, especially:

*Bill, Nancy Briggs, John Fagan, Doris Higgins, Rindy Higgins,  
Francoise Kelz, Allan Morjikian Eileen Mulligan,  
Wendy Grace Rossi, Joyce Weegar  
(and for those we now name either silently or aloud.)*

Living Lord, confused friends left your empty tomb in both fear and great joy. We hold before you the sadness of loss and the joy of our hope in you.

**Officiant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

**Officiant:** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

**Offertory Solo:** *I Cannot Tell*

**Presentation of Offering -Doxology**

**Hymnal 380**

*Officiant continues*

**A Prayer For Joy in God's Creation:** O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The General Thanksgiving**      *Officiant and People together*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love

In the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise not only with  
our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by  
walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

**Blessing:** Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the  
Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. *Amen*

**Closing Hymn:** *Go Forth With God, Go To The World In Peace* **Hymnal 347**

**Officiant:** Let us bless the Lord.

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

**Dismissal:** **Go In Peace**

**Postlude:** *Give Me Jesus*



**ECCT Prayer Cycle:** *All Saints', Meriden; St. Andrew's, Meriden; Christ Church, Middle Haddam; Collaborative ministries and all Ministry Networks.*

**Worship Assistance Today:**

Soloist: Donna Castaner

Lay Leader:

Lector & Intercessor: Tanya Waugh

Usher: William Trowbridge

Altar: Cathy Casey

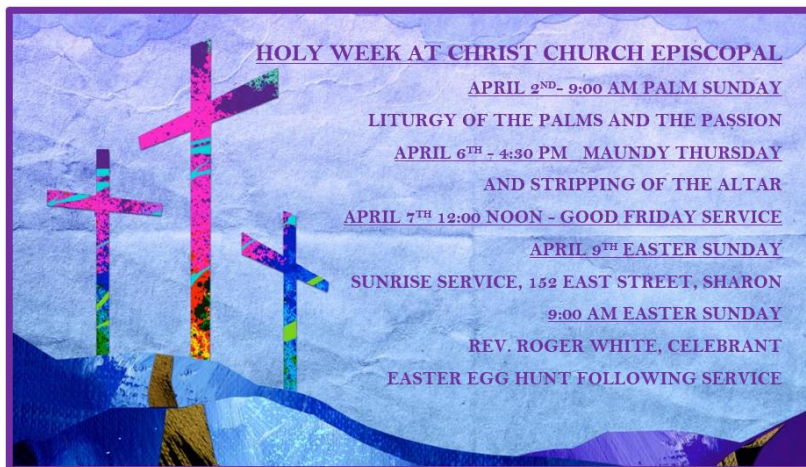
Hospitality:

**SUNDAY NIGHTS- AA MEETINGS MENS GROUP- 7:30 TO 8:30**

**TUESDAY & THURSDAY-SHARON AA HAPPY HOUR-5:30 TO 6:30**

**CRAZY CRAFTERS CONTINUES ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAYS at 3:00-4:30 PM.**

**Next one is April 4th.**



**Christ Church Episcopal**

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