

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

10:00 am



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)

Knowing • Loving • Serving

God + Neighbor

204 Monument Road

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Silence in Lent

Good morning. As we continue through the five Sundays of Lent to Holy Week, we invite silence in church as we gather. Keeping silence signals both an intentional withdrawal from the racket and churn of the wider world and willingness to open space for prayers — our own and those of congregants sitting near us. Please help us build and maintain silence by refraining from conversation before the liturgy begins with the ringing of the bell.

The Word of God

The Prelude

Meditation on “Beautiful Savior”
The Belladonnas

arr. C. Moglebust

Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.

The Opening Hymn 490 I want to walk as a child of the light

Houston

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People God’s mercy endures forever.

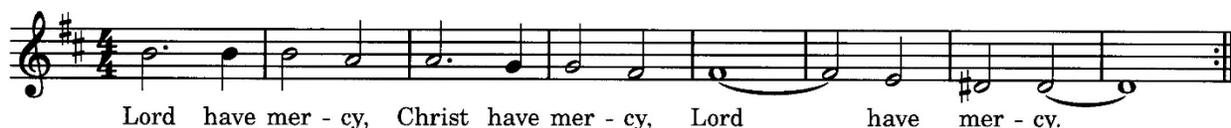
The Confession of Sin

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 Kyrie (*sung 3 times*)

John Bell



Let us confess our sins to God and to our neighbor.

Silence is observed.

You may remain standing or choose to sit or kneel as you are able for the confession.

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.

Please stand as you are able.

The Absolution

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.**

The Collect of the Day

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious God, 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 forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the scripture appointed.

The Lessons

A reading from the First Book of 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.

People: The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 (*Prayed responsively, by half verse.*)

- 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 forever.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the 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.”

People: The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and the reading of the gospel.

The Sequence Hymn 538 God of mercy, God of grace

Lucerna Laudoniae

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John 9:1-41

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.”

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Please stand as you are able for the creed; you may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

Eternal God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Christ. In confidence and trust we pray for the Church: St. Barnabas' Church, Falmouth; Christ Church, Harwichport; Grace Church, Vineyard Haven; and for all churches in the Diocese closed or merged.

Father, enliven the Church for its mission
that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.
Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

We pray for the world: remembering especially those regions of the world torn apart by war or civil unrest, including Iran, Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Gaza, Nigeria, Venezuela, Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti and our own nation. We pray for those in every land who suffer for the sake of conscience.

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.
That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others
that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

We pray for those who have asked for our prayers: Dick Anderson, Robert Blanchet, Terese Brown, Maureen Cardenas, Sally Drew, Joanne Gamble, Bill and Judy Gardiner, Joan Kirkby, Andrew Payne, Barbara and Philip Sousa, Dottie Walsh, Matthew, Alex, Bob, Carole, Cathi, Charlie, Dave, John, Lauren, Linnea, and Pat, as well as for those we name before you now, silently or aloud.
(Pause)

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn and those we name before you now, silently or aloud. (Pause)

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone.

Into your hands we commend them.

Finally, we pray for ourselves and our ministries. (Pause).

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

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

The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Almighty and Everlasting God

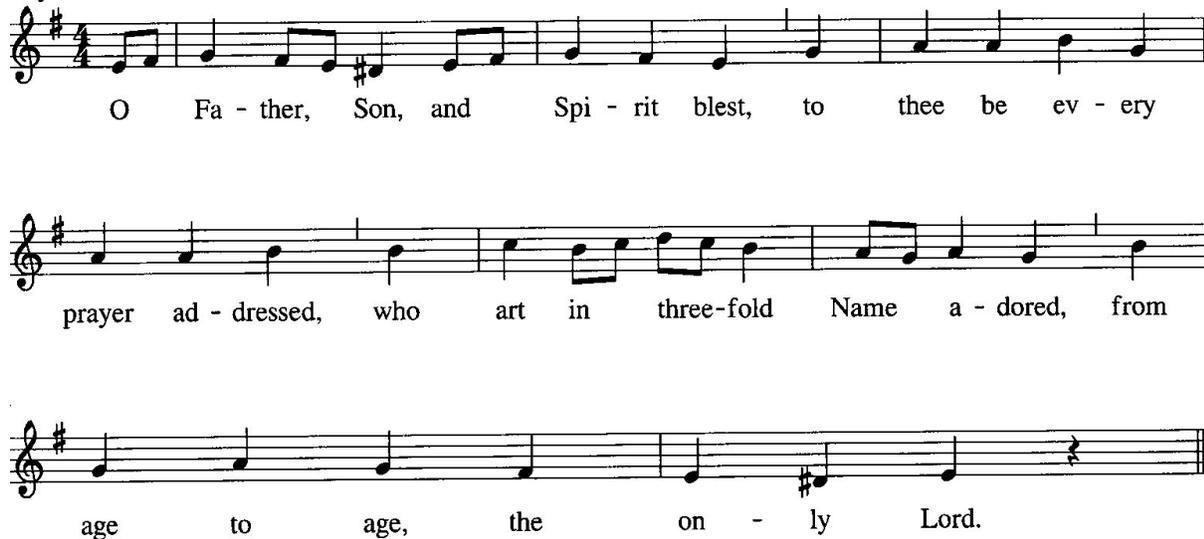
Orlando Gibbons

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities
and in all our dangers and necessities
stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Please stand as you are able as our offering is presented.

Hymn 143

Erbalt uns, Herr



O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to thee be ev - ery
prayer ad - dressed, who art in three-fold Name a - dored, from
age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant: May God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to God.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, God, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus (Sung in canon; congregation sings with choir.)

John Bell

(cantor)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, _____
Bless - ed is the one who comes _____

God of pow'r and might,
in the name of the Lord!

hea - ven and earth are full, _____
Ho - san - na in the high - est! _____

are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Ho - san - na in the high - est! In the high - est!

You may remain standing, sit or kneel for the continuation of the Eucharistic prayer.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”*

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.

Lord of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen God, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

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

**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

Agnus Dei

John Bell

(cantor)

1&2 Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the
3 Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the

(all)

[on us.] peace. 1&2 Lamb of God you take a-way the
3 Lamb of God you take a-way the

world, world, have mercy on us.
grant us your peace.

sin of the world, have mercy
sin of the world, grant us your

(v.3 only)

Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.

(v.3 only)

peace. Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.

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 Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

All are welcome to receive communion. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please make your needs known to the person serving you.

The Communion Hymns

Hymn 645 The King of love my shepherd is

St. Columba

Hymn 676 There is a balm in Gilead

Balm in Gilead

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

The Sending (*when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits*)

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts,
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, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn 493 O for a thousand tongues to sing

Azmon

The Dismissal Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Nancy J. Hagner
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. Patrick C. Ward
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Joan Kirchner
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Celia Calhoun, Kate Paradise
<i>Readers</i>	Earle Bailey, Pia MacKenzie, Ike Cole
<i>Usbers</i>	Mary Anne Bragdon, Rich Gregory
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Gail Binney-Sterne
<i>Audio/Video</i>	John Harter

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