

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

PRELUDE.....Sr. Helena Marie, CHS, Music Director

THE ANGELUS

The Angelus is a traditional Christian devotion offered before Holy Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer in honor of the Incarnation. It is usually accompanied by the ringing of the church bell (in three sets of three for each versicle, response, and Hail Mary, followed by one set of nine for the concluding prayer). You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.

The first three bells



*V. The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary,
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death.

The second three bells

*V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it unto me according to your word.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

The third three bells

*V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelled among us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

The nine bells



*V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN.....*The Hymnal 1982, #339*

1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
 2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who
 3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me

gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's
 dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
 glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der
 know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth:
 vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
 at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
 from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

won-drous ban-quet found-ed— high o'er all the heavens he
 be a fit par-ta-ker of this bless-ed food from
 vast and deep its trea-sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign-eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign-eth.
 hea-ven, for our good, thy glo-ry, giv-en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re-ceive me.

Words: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Schmücke dich*, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND CONFESSION

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your 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 commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A brief silence is 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 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

Cantor or Choir *All* *Cantor or Choir*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

All *Cantor or Choir* *All*

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE (*chanted in unison*)*Psalm 23*

- 1 The LORD is my | **shepherd**; *
I shall not be in | **want**.
- 2 You make me lie down in green | **pastures** *
and lead me beside still | **waters**.
- 3 You revive my | **soul** *
and guide me along right pathways for your | **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*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the

Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Words: Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott
Music: William Bradley Roberts

O come to my heart, Lord Je - sus! There is
room in my heart for thee. O thee.

THE GOSPEL.....John 9:1-41

Celebrant 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."

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

THE SERMON.....The Rev. Matthew Wright

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition, the People sing in response

Lord, hear our prayer. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, in your mer - cy, Lord, hear our prayer.

Text and Music: Liam Lawton, b. 1959; © 1995

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

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

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Parish announcements may be made.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *(sung by choir)*

DOXOLOGY *(sung by all, standing in body or spirit)*



Praise God through - out these for - ty days. Praise



Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir - it who im -

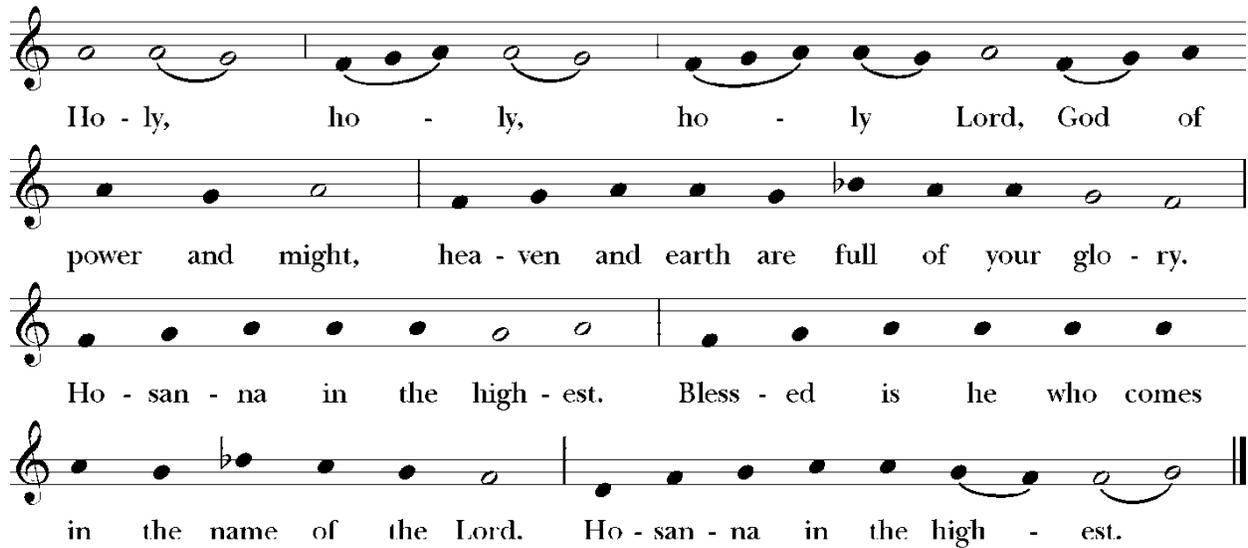


parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic prayer.

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,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A brief silence follows. All then joining in singing

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.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

If you are unable to physically participate in Communion, you may offer a Prayer of Spiritual Communion during this time.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN.....*The Hymnal 1982, #145*

1 Now quit your care and anx - ious fear and wor - ry; for
 2 To bow the head in sack - cloth and in ash - es, or
 3 For is not this the fast that I have cho - sen? (The
 4 For right - eous - ness and peace will show their fac - es to
 5 Then shall your light break forth as doth the morn - ing; your

1 schemes are vain and fret - ting brings no gain. Lent calls to
 2 rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal; but to be
 3 pro - phet spoke) To shat - ter ev - ery yoke, of wick - ed -
 4 those who feed the hun - gry in their need, and wrongs re -
 5 health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring God's glo - ry

1 prayer, to trust and ded - i - ca - tion; God brings new beau - ty
 2 led to where God's glo - ry flash - es, his beau - ty to come
 3 ness the griev - ous bands to loos - en, op - pres - sion put to
 4 dress, who build the old waste plac - es, and in the dark - ness
 5 bright, your way through life a - dorn - ing; and love shall be the

Unison *Harmony*

1 nigh; re - ply, re - ply, re - ply with love to love most high;
 2 near. Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light ap - pear;
 3 flight, to fight, to fight to fight till ev - ery wrong's set right.
 4 shine. Di - vine, di - vine, di - vine it is when all com - bine!
 5 prize. A - rise, a - rise, a - rise! and make a par - a - dise!

Unison *Harmony*

1 re - ply, re - ply, re - ply with love to love most high.
 2 Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light ap - pear.
 3 to fight, to fight to fight till ev - ery wrong's set right.
 4 Di - vine, di - vine, di - vine it is when all com - bine!
 5 A - rise, a - rise, a - rise! and make a par - a - disc!

Words: Percy Dearmer (1867-1936), alt. Music: *Quittez, Pasteurs*, French carol; harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958).

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**