

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
EPISCOPAL

5:00 PM

The Fifth Saturday in Lent

March 21, 2026



WELCOME

Christ Church is an Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of Massachusetts. We welcome and honor the God-given gifts that make us unique as individuals and strong as community. You and your family are welcome regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status or prior religious affiliation.

A Note to Parents and Caregivers with Children in Church

Thank you for bringing your children to church. We are so glad you are here!

We know it can be difficult at times to manage little ones during the service.

For that reason, we have provided some resources which we hope will make it easier for you and your family to enjoy worship together.

You will find books and coloring pages at the back of the Mary Chapel. Please feel free to utilize these at any point during the service.

We have installed a TV in the nursery! You are welcome to visit the nursery with your child during any portion of our service and join us via our livestream.

It is okay to take breaks. If you need to step out with your child, our parish grounds are a great place to get the wiggles out.

Above all, please remember: You and your family are very welcome here!

Though your children may be squirming, talking, or making noise, they are also observing, copying, and learning. Children are a gift and an important part of our community; we are grateful to have them worship with us.

Hearing assistance devices are available in labeled baskets by the sanctuary entrances.

OPENING SENTENCE

The Officiant says

If we say 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.

OPENING SONG

Be Thou my vision

1982 Hymnal 488

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Officiant says to the people

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

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 Officiant remains kneeling and says

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

The Invitatory and Psalter

VERSICLE

All stand

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

INVITATORY

**O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

Psalm 130

The people sit.

¹Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

²If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?

³For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.

⁴I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.

⁵My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.

⁶O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;

⁷with him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

At the end of the Psalm is sung or said

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Lessons

FIRST READING:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

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, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

FIRST CANTICLE

The people stand.

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.**

**He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

**The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

SECOND READING:

Romans 8:6-11

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

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.

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SECOND CANTICLE

All stand.

Canticle 17: The Song of Simeon

Nunc dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;**

**For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:**

**A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

THIRD READING:**John 11:1-45***The people sit.*

A Reading from 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SERMON

The Rev. Deacon James Thomas

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

SALUTATION

The people stand or kneel

Officiant **The Lord be with you.**

People **And also with you.**

Officiant **Let us pray.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant and People

**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 forever. Amen.**

SUFFRAGES

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of [_____ and] all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 PEACE

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST PERILS

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Julia, Ian and Mary our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

All stand.

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

As the Deer

Celebrate 133

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People

**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.**

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one
accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have
promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three
are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of
them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be
best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth,
and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

CONCLUDING VERSICLE

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

CLOSING SONG

Spirit Song

Celebrate 136

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Announcements

**Please keep the following people in your prayers during the coming week.
Any names added this week are in bold.**

Anita Chase; Arnie Kaupp; Barbara Hulme; Carol MacPhee; David Flynn; David Mann; Don Bolt; Donna Eby; Dorothy Smith; Ellen Nordquist; Evelyn Ferioli; Francis Ferioli; Forrest Berardi; Greta Couter; James Elksnin; Jim Kelly; John Powderly; John Steele; for the repose of the soul of John Todd Girard; Karen Guerra; Katharine LiBretto; Kathy Rust; Kenny Blackwell; **Kesha Nielsen**; Kim Stevenson; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Mark Poster; Nancy Dixon; Peter Trenouth; Polly Chadwick; Raymond Reid; Sandy Underhill; Skip Nielsen; Stephanie "Petie" Blanchard; Suzanne and Dave Salois; Sylvia Wade; Theodora DeGaust; Mark Ouellette; Valerie B. Pflock

We ask your prayers for those serving in the military and their families:

Aidan McKinney, Andrew Barton, Austin Vico, Harry Morini, Joel Carveiro, Josh Zabin, Peter Leone

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for:

Churches of the Cape & Islands Deanery, including

Trinity Chapel, Oak Bluffs

Church of the Holy Spirit, Orleans

Boston Episcopal Charitable Society

From the Office

In order to have your announcements included in the weekly bulletin and *Keeping Connected*, please send them to the office by 12 Noon on Wednesday. They should include date, time, place, description of event and contact information and should be written exactly the way you want them to appear.

Easter Flowers - If you wish to remember or honor a loved one or give in thanksgiving, you may do so by sponsoring the flowers for our Easter services. The form will be included at the end of the service bulletins. In order to have your memorial listed in the Easter bulletins, please return the form to the church office by Monday, March 30.

Looking Ahead to Holy Week...

We will need readers for the following...

Palm Sunday Weekend, March 28 & 29
For bit parts in the Passion for all three services.

Tenebrae
For the 7 PM service on Wednesday, March 31.

Please let Connie know if you are willing and for which service(s) you are available
– conmel@aol.com / 508.746.3805

We will also need folks, including families, to participate in the Gethsemane Watch (Overnight Prayer Vigil), beginning on Thursday, April 2 after the Maundy Thursday service. More than one person can sign up for a slot. Families are invited to participate. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the St. Francis door.

Free Veterans Breakfast

Each Spring, my VFW Post 6258 Halifax offers Veterans and a guest a FREE full catered breakfast. This not a sales event...it is simply an educational session where you can learn about your benefits, the VA Medical process, changes to disability ratings and how to improve yours. Presenters include Veterans Agents from local towns, medical professionals, MA State Representative, VFW State Adjutant, fiscal planning agent, and more.

The gathering will take place on Saturday, April 18th at 9:30am at White Pine Village Community Center, 6 Della Way, East Bridgewater, MA 02333. This a 55+ community where I live. Please text or call me @ 774-222-3070 to confirm your attendance...a total of 40-50 people maximum.

Bill Finn
Quartermaster VFW Post 6258

Christ Church 2026 Holy Week Schedule:
All are welcome to join us for these sacred days.



Eve of Palm Sunday - Saturday, March 28

5:00 PM – Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Gospel, and Holy Eucharist

Palm Sunday – March 29

8:00 AM – Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Gospel, and Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM – Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Gospel, and Holy Eucharist –
all are invited to gather outside before 10AM for the Liturgy of the Palms

Tenebrae - Wednesday, April 1

7:00 PM – A service of candlelight, Psalms, Lamentations, silence, and simple responsory chant
in the style of Taizé

Maundy Thursday – April 2

7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Footwashing and Holy Eucharist

Overnight – Gethsemane Watch in the Mary Chapel (advance sign-up required)

Good Friday – April 3

Noon – Good Friday worship including Stations of the Cross for all ages –
please dress appropriately for the weather, as we will walk and pray the Stations, rain or shine

Holy Saturday– April 4

5:00 PM – Holy Saturday Liturgy – A simple, contemplative worship service as we wait with the
women at the tomb. Silence, Scripture, holy images, prayer, candle lighting. There is no Holy
Eucharist at this service.

Easter Sunday – April 5

8:00 AM – Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00 AM – Easter Sunday Festival Eucharist Rite II with Choir

11:30 AM – Easter Egg Hunt & Coffee Hour

Christ Church Parish, Episcopal * 149 Court Street, Plymouth

Week At - A - Glance * March 22, 2026 – March 29, 2026

SUNDAY	7:00 AM	Overnights of Hospitality End
	8:00 AM	Morning Prayer – The Fifth Sunday in Lent
	9:00 AM	Church School, Grades PreK-5
	9:00 AM	Youth Formation
	10:00 AM	Morning Prayer – The Fifth Sunday in Lent
	11:30 AM	Men's Group Brunch
MONDAY	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
TUESDAY	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	12:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe Meeting
THURSDAY	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	10:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Food Pantry
	1:00 PM	Faith Based Book Study
	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Food Pantry
FRIDAY	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	5:30 PM	Youth Group
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Food Pantry
	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	5:00 PM	Holy Eucharist Rite II – Eve of Palm Sunday
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I – Palm Sunday
	9:00 AM	Church School, Grades PreK-5
	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 AM	Youth Formation
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II – Palm Sunday
	11:30 AM	Coffee Hour



In order to have your memorial included in the Easter bulletins, please return this form to the parish office no later than

Monday March 30, 2026

Easter Flowers

Given by:

In Loving Memory of:

As a Thank Offering:

*Amount Enclosed:_____ Envelope Number:_____

To honor your request appropriately and in keeping with standard accounting practices, checks must be made out for each fund with a notation in the memo line with the fund's name, i.e, Flowers, Thank you.

Christ Church Parish

Seeking Christ in Ourselves * Serving Christ in the World

JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

MINISTERS

All the people of Christ Church Parish

Staff

The Rev. Melissa Howell, Rector
The Rev. Deacons James & Natalie Thomas
David Tyler, Parish Administrator
Lea Tyler, Choir Director
Peter Litchfield, Accompanist
Sam Stevenson, Sexton

Officers and Vestry Representatives

Robb Pflock, Senior Warden
Alex Manchester, Junior Warden
Ray Rogers, Treasurer
Amanda Peterson, Clerk

Wil Bernard, Tom Choinski, Donna Eby, David Greene, Don Hill,
Barb Hurney, Judy Lutz, Melissa Pechey, and Nancy Ricks

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Scan here to visit our website:

<https://www.christchurchplymouth.org/>



Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM