



All Saints Episcopal Church

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The Right Rev. Robert S. Skirving, Bishop

The Rev. Thomas C. Drake IV, Rector

Mr. Steve Blackstock, Director of Music & Organist

The Rev. Keith Dey, Assistant Director of Music & Organist

Mrs. Christina Atkinson, Parish Administrator

Mr. Martin Donlan, Facilities Manager

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15th, 2026

8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

Rooted in compassion and enlivened by the Spirit, we are an inclusive and affirming parish of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina. We joyfully welcome the full diversity of all God's people—without exception—to worship, to belong, to serve, and to bear witness to love's power to heal and transform.

Whether you're a long-time member, a seasonal visitor, or here for the first time, we're glad to have you with us today. We pray that you experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in a way that feeds and sustains your soul.

Near the entry to the church, you'll find a selection of books and activity bags that children can use throughout the service. We joyfully welcome children into our services as full members of the Body of Christ. Their presence is a reminder of the vitality, curiosity, and spontaneity that enrich our faith community. Children teach us to approach God with wonder and trust, and their activity reminds us that worship is not about perfection, but about embodiment, participation, and connection. We celebrate their voices, questions, and energy as signs of life and growth, believing they bring us closer to the heart of Jesus, who welcomed children with open arms.

THE WORD OF GOD

Please enter the church in sacred silence, allowing others to pray and prepare for worship

Welcome

***Processional Hymn** *Lord, who throughout these forty days* **Hymnal 142**
ST. FLAVIAN

*Opening Acclamation

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

*Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Kyrie Eleison

[8:30 a.m.] **BCP, 356**
[10:30 a.m.] **Hymnal S-95**

*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 people sit

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

[8:30 a.m.] **Spoken**

[10:30 a.m.] **Sung**



- 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.

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.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Hymnal 490

HOUSTON

*Holy 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.*

Homily

The Reverend Tommy Drake

Silence may be kept

*Nicene Creed

Silence may be kept

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**

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially *Norman Sparks*.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

We pray for *Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Rob, the Bishop of our Diocese, Sarah, our Bishop-elect, for Tommy, our priest, and for all the clergy and for all bishops and other ministers.*

We pray for those who are sick or in need of our prayers, especially *Hilary, Jill, Carolyn, Blair, Carol, Lita, Christie, Elizabeth, Hilary, Angie, Teresa, John, Megan, Sarah, and the Meiggs family* _____.

For those with ongoing concerns, especially *Charles, Reese, Isabel, Chris, Steve, Nickie, Jeanne, Moira, Gigi, Christy, Marcia, Sueellen, Joyce, Bob, Glen, and Mary Lou* _____.

For those celebrating another year of life, including *John Tucker, Mary Anne DeYoung, Spottswood Graves, and Betsy Robbins* _____.

For those we now name aloud or silently in our hearts,

The people may add their own petitions

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

***Confession**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people stand or kneel.

Silence may be kept.

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.*

***Absolution**

***The Peace**

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Rector's Welcome

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But to do good and to distribute, forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

***The Presentation:**

[10:30 a.m.] **Hymnal 143 Vs 5**

O Father, Son, and Spirit blest
ERHALT UNS, HERR

O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
to thee be every prayer addressed, who art in three-fold
Name adored, from age to age, the only Lord.

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 everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

[8:30 a.m.] **Spoken**

[10:30 a.m.] **S-130**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

[8:30 a.m.] **BCP 407**

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.

*Communion of the People

Please come forward when directed by the usher to receive a host from the celebrant. You may then drink from the common chalice or intinct using the intinction cup offered by the second eucharistic minister. If you do not wish to receive the elements, you are invited to come forward to receive a priestly blessing.

Hymn

God of mercy, God of Grace
 LUCERNA LAUDONIAE

Hymnal, 538

***Post Communion Prayer**

BCP 366

The people stand or kneel.

*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 forever. Amen.*

***Blessing**

***Processional Hymn** *O for a thousand tongues to sing*
AZMON

Hymnal 493

***The Dismissal**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

ASHES TO ALLELUIAS

Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Lent invites us to slow down and make space for God's presence in real life. On Wednesday nights, join us for the following two-week series introducing simple Christian spiritual practices that help us listen, pray, and live with greater intention. Each session is designed for beginners and longtime pray-ers alike, and includes a brief teaching, a guided experience of the practice, and a simple take-home invitation for the week ahead. We will start serving supper at 5:30; sessions begin at 6:15 p.m. in the Gathering Space.

March 18: Contemplative Prayer - An introduction to silent prayer as consent to God's presence and action, learning how to return gently when the mind wanders.

March 25: A Rule of Life (and commissioning) - A practical, life-giving way to shape a sustainable rhythm of prayer, Scripture, service, and rest that can carry you beyond Lent.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please pray for **Margot Elizabeth Clissold**, daughter of **George and Hailey** and granddaughter of **Susan**, who will be baptized on **Sunday, March 22**, at the **10:30 a.m. service**.

Easter Lily Order Form: You are invited to contribute \$12.50 to purchase Easter lilies and flowering plants to adorn the Church on Easter Sunday. Please fill out the form and place it in the donation plate or bring it to the Church Office by April 1st.

The Ordination and Consecration of the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina | 10:00 a.m. | May 23rd, 2026, at the Riverfront Convention Center, New Bern, North Carolina. For more information, including how to sign up to volunteer, please check our Weekly Newsletter.

Child Care: To help support families, childcare is now available during both Sunday services and for Wednesday evening programs. Care is provided by paid childcare personnel and volunteers serving together. Children of all ages are always welcome in all worship services, and we are glad to offer childcare as an additional option for families.

HOLY WEEK AT ALL SAINTS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**March 29th: The Sunday of the Passion
Palm Sunday**

8:30 am and 10:30 am

If you would like to help read the Passion Narrative at either service, please call the office.

April 2nd: Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm: Agape Meal

7:00 pm: Holy Eucharist II, washing of the feet/hands, reserve of the Sacrament, Solemn stripping of the altar, the beginning of the Watch

April 3rd: Good Friday

3:00 pm: Word of God, Procession of the cross, the veneration, communion from the Reserve Sacrament

4:00 pm: Labyrinth Walk and Stations of the Cross

April 5th: Easter

9:00 am and 11:00 am services

Holy Eucharist II

The nursery will be available for both services

Those Who Minister Today

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Thomas Drake
Director of Music and Organist: Steve Blackstock
Assistant Director of Music and Organist: Keith Dey

8:30 a.m.

Greeter: Sandy Feyrer
Usher: Ann Laughner
Lector: Deborah Beddingfield
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Carol Vipavetz
Coffee Hour: Susan Smith

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Kaye White
Ushers: Joan Smalley and Matt Witter
Lector: Debbie Lubelski
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Carole Kimmel
Nursery: Arline Arnold and Deborah Beddingfield
Sunday School: Jean Loudon and Janan Usher
Coffee Hour: Coffee Hour Committee
Facebook Hosts: Karen & Kenny Murrill

Vestry Person of the Day: John Hunting-Dunigan
Welcoming Coordinator: Mary Moynahan
Flower Guild: Maureen McGrath
Altar Guild: Sally Myers and Betsy Brown
Counters: John Hunting- Dunigan and Jen Adams-Falconer