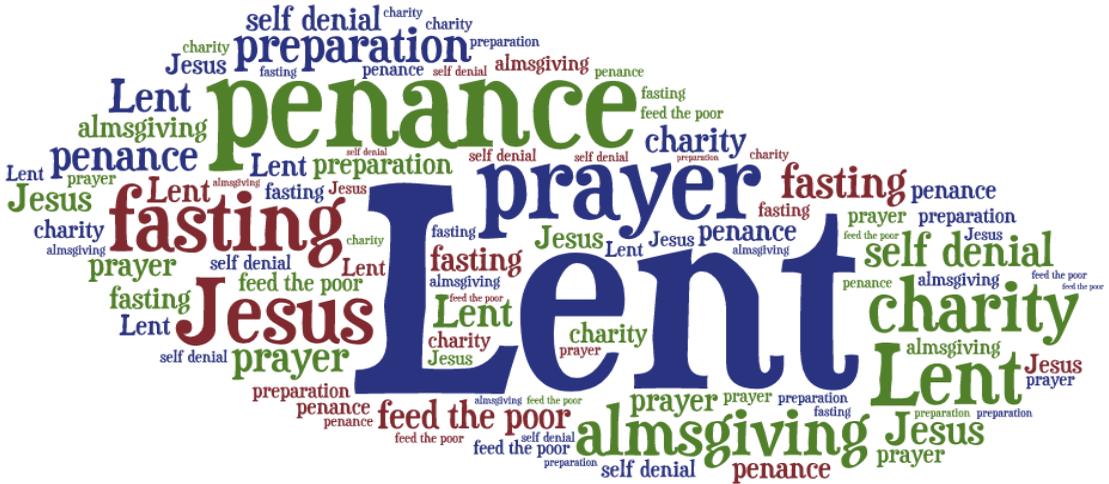


# MORNING PRAYER



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Sharon E. Williams, Rector

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THE HISTORIC ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## Mission Statement

To love and serve God and our neighbor, by striving to meet the needs of God's people.

## Vision Statement

To be a Christian community of faith where love lives, love works, to spread the good news of God's grace and mercy.

Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Confession**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.*

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.*

**Versicle and Response**

Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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

**Venite Psalm 95:1-7**

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

*Come let us adore him.*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

*The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:  
Come let us adore him.*

## **66** *Jubilate Deo*

1 Be joyful in God, all you lands; \*  
sing the glory of his Name; sing the glory of his praise.

2 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! \*  
because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

3 All the earth bows down before you, \*  
sings to you, sings out your Name."

4 Come now and see the works of God, \*  
how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.

5 He turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot, \*  
and there we rejoiced in him.

6 In his might he rules for ever; his eyes keep watch over the nations; \*  
let no rebel rise up against him.

7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

11 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and goats.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;

17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

**67** *Deus misereatur*

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase; \*  
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

## **The First Lesson Genesis 48:8-22**

### **A Reading from the Book of Genesis**

When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, 'Who are these?' Joseph said to his father, 'They are my sons, whom God has given me here.' And he said, 'Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them.' Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, and he could not see well. So Joseph brought them near him; and he kissed them and embraced them. Israel said to Joseph, 'I did not expect to see your face; and here God has let me see your children also.' Then Joseph removed them from his father's knees,\* and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand towards Israel's left, and Manasseh in his left hand towards Israel's right, and brought them near him. But Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands, for Manasseh was the firstborn. He blessed Joseph, and said, 'The God before whom my ancestors Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all harm, bless the boys; and in them let my name be perpetuated, and the name of my ancestors Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude on the earth.'

When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. Joseph said to his father, 'Not so, my father! Since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.' But his father refused, and said, 'I know, my son, I know; he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.' So he blessed them that day, saying, 'By you\* Israel will invoke blessings, saying, "God make you\* like Ephraim and like Manasseh.'" 'So he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh. Then Israel said to Joseph, 'I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your ancestors. I now give to you one portion\* more than to your brothers, the portion\* that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow.'

**Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.**

*Thanks be to God.*

**The Song of Zechariah Benedictus Dominus Deus** *Luke 1:68-79 (Canticle 16)*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
**he has come to his people and set them free.**

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
**born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies,  
\* **from the hands of all who hate us.**

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
**and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

Free to worship him without fear, \*  
**holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God \*  
**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

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

## **The Second Lesson Romans 8:11-25**

### **A Reading from the Book of Galatians**

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. So then, brothers and sisters,\* we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba!\* Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness\* with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in\* hope we were saved. Now hope that is

seen is not hope. For who hopes\* for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.**

*Thanks be to God.*

## **Doxology**

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; \*  
**sing praise and give honor forever.**

In the high vault of heaven, glorify the Lord, \*  
**sing praise and give honor forever.**

## **Canticle 21**

You are God

*Te Deum laudamus*

You are God: we praise you; You are the Lord: we acclaim you; You are the eternal Father: All creation worships you. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you; Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all worship, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father. When you became man to set us free you did not shun the Virgin's womb. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You are seated at God's right hand in glory. We believe that you will come and be our judge. Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

## **A Reading from the Book of John 6:27-40**

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So

they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which\* comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’

Hear what the spirit is saying to the churches.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Homily

### The Apostle's Creed

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.*

### Suffrages

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

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

Day by day we bless you;

**We praise your Name forever.**

Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
**Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**  
Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
**For we put our trust in you.**  
In you, Lord, is our hope;  
**And we shall never hope in vain.**

### **Collect of the Day**

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

### **A Collect for Sundays**

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

### **The Prayer for Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

### **A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. ***Amen.***

## **The General Thanksgiving**

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 ourselves 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**

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.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OFFERTORY**

How Great Thou Art

Jennifer Hudson

### **Benediction**

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### **Closing Hymn**

Forgive our Sins as we Forgive

Hymnal 674

## LAY READER'S SCHEDULE

| DATE                   | I LESSON             | II LESSON            | PRAYERS            |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| March 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Anna Marie Ferguson  | Jerome Rubin         | Stephanie Combs    |
| March 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Darcel Arrington     | Andrea Porter        | Velma Romain-Rouse |
| March 15 <sup>th</sup> | Gail Williams        | Lois Jackson         | Yvonne Gates       |
| March 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Will Seifert-Kessell | Dianne Audrick Smith | Stephanie Combs    |
| March 29 <sup>th</sup> | Anna Marie Ferguson  | Jerome Rubin         | Brenda Shepherd    |

### CHALICE MINISTERS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| March 1 <sup>st</sup>                     | Lois Jackson, Rod Adams                          |
| March 8 <sup>th</sup>                     | Rod Adams, Lois Jackson, Darcel Arrington        |
| March 15 <sup>th</sup>                    | Lois Jackson, Rod Adams, Kelly Henderson-Kessell |
| March 22 <sup>nd</sup>                    | Rod Adams, Lois Jackson, Gail Williams           |
| March 29 <sup>th</sup> <i>Palm Sunday</i> | Lois Jackson, Rod Adams                          |
|   | <b>Alternate – Linda Adams</b>                   |

### USHER'S SCHEDULE

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| March 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Kelly, Gail        |
| March 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Leticia, Patti Joy |
| March 15 <sup>th</sup> | Jim, Andrea        |
| March 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Patti Joy, Darcel  |
| March 29 <sup>th</sup> | Andrea, Pearl      |

### VESTRY COUNTERS' SCHEDULE

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| First Sunday  | Andrea Appling, Darcel Arrington        |
| Second Sunday | Roderick Adams, Carmen Wildgoose        |
| Third Sunday  | Andrea Porter, Brenda Shepherd          |
| Fourth Sunday | Giesele Greene, William Seifert-Kessell |
| Fifth Sunday  | Dianne Smith, Andrea Appling            |



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