

# St. Philip's Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

8:00 and 10:30 am



**The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest, Rector**

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## WELCOME!

We are so glad you are here, and I hope you find worship at St. Philip's Episcopal Church to be inspiring, spirit-filled, and nurturing for your faith journey. Here are two ways to take a next step:

- 1). Simply fill out the visitor card in the pew. Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate or given to an usher. Your responses are confidential, and we will contact you only if you make that request.
- 2). A calendar of events can be found on our website at [stphilipsrva.org](http://stphilipsrva.org) or in our e-News (subscribe on the website) as an invitation to you! All of our classes, services, and programs are open to all. If you are interested in learning more about St. Philip's or the Episcopal Church, please let me know!

As you prepare your heart, soul, mind, and body for worship, may the love of God and the mercy of Christ fill your heart with peace.

The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest  
Rector of St. Philip's

### About Today's Worship:

We welcome all people to meet Christ in the sharing of our sacred meal. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the sacraments of bread and wine, please come forward during communion and place your arms across your chest.

**A gluten-free alternative** is available. Please communicate this preference to our priest.

Holy Baptism is our rite of initiation into the Christian faith and primary to membership in our parish. If you would like to learn more about this sacred rite and membership in our church, please speak with Rev. Marlene or contact our office at 804-321-1266.

# HOLY EUCHARIST - Rite I

## THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

**Celebrant:** Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

**People:** His mercy endureth for ever.

## THE DECALOGUE

God spake these words, and said: I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Honor thy father and thy mother.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt do no murder.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not steal.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Thou shalt not covet.

**Lord have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. (*Matthew 22: 37-40*)

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### THE TRISAGION

Hymn S 360

**Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

**Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

**Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 23

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.

## THE SECOND LESSON

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 Am Thine*

AA Hymn 387

**1 I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice, And it told Thy love to me; But I long to rise in the arms of faith, And be closer drawn to Thee.**

**Refrain:**

**Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To the cross where Thou hast died; Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To Thy precious, bleeding side.**

**2 Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, By the pow'r of grace divine; Let my soul look up with a steadfast**

**hope, And my will be lost in Thine. [Refrain]**

**3 O, the pure delight of a single hour That before Thy throne I spend, When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend! [Refrain]**

**4 There are depths of love that I cannot know Till I cross the narrow sea; There are heights of joy that I may not reach Till I rest in peace with Thee. [Refrain]**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

We pray for the church around the world in all its forms—for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures, for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires, for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight, for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For those called into positions of civic responsibility—for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice, for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For those who call upon you for mercy—for all who live in poverty and experience hunger, for any who feel tested beyond their strength, for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing especially Marc Albertson, Trey Bankhead, Jean Boone, Cynthia Bentley, Dan Bylsma, Shirley Brown, Sheila Carter, Janette Davis, Francis Dye, Mary Carter, Marilyn Chalmers, Alexander Corbett, Alice Flannigan, Joseph Flannigan, Eudora & Lewis Forrest, Marvis Hazel, Eva Hicks, Ester Hyatt, John Jenkins, Kevin Jiggetts, Francine L. Johnson, Alaina LaVonne, Mary Little, Steven Little, Barbara Lowe, Kay Mack, Christian Miller, Robinette Miller, Edmund Moore, Romaine Morgan, Lela Morris, Tonja Philips, Tara Plummer, Hortense Powell, Henry Robinson, Brady Whaley, Clementine Washington, Louise White, and Cynthia Smith Williams. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For the advocacy efforts of this congregation—for those whose faith leads them to speak

difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers, for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

For those whose earthly journeys have ended, Janetta Davis, we give thanks. With all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Morgan Albertson, Judith Anderson, Brandon Carter, and Cynthia Dyson as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church. Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants Frank & Maude Saunders that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen. You welcome us into your heavenly realm. We give thanks for those whose labors on earth are ended and who now rest with you. On the final day gather us all, with them, in your loving arms. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

# The Peace of God

Eudora L. Forrest  
2000

$\text{♩} = 90$

The peace of God be al - ways with you, And may God's

grace be al - ways in your heart. And may His love keep

you in per-fect peace, The love of God, the love of God,

the love of God keep you in per - fect peace.

rit.

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## LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### DOXOLOGY

LEVAS 56

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures, here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by those grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

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, Lord, 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:

**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.**

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 God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Rebecca; and Jacob, Rachel, and Leah; 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 Lord, 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 sing,

**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.**

**FRACTION ANTHEM***Lamb of God*

Hymn S 160

**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.**

**COMMUNIOM HYMN***Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

AA Hymn 263

**1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed,  
And did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For sinners such as I?**

**2 Was it for crimes that I have done,  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree!**

**3 Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
And shut His glories in,  
When God, the mighty Maker, died  
For man, the creature's sin.**

**4 But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away;  
'Tis all that I can do.**

**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.**

Bow down before the Lord,

Look down in your mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you above and beyond what you could ask or imagine. **Amen.**

May the Lord's face shine upon you revealing the depths of God's infinite love. **Amen.**

May the Lord be gracious to you breaking your heart open with new mercies. **Amen.**

May the Lord's countenance be upon you reminding you that you are chosen and valued. **Amen.**

May the Lord give you peace assuring you of the Holy One's constant faithful care. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever more.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*Must Jesus bear the cross alone*

AA Hymn 554

**1 Must Jesus bear the cross alone  
And all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for ev'ry one,  
And there's a cross for me.**

**3 Upon the crystal pavement, down  
At Jesus' pierced feet,  
Joyful, I'll cast my golden crown  
And His dear name repeat.**

**2 The consecrated cross I'll bear  
Till death shall set me free,  
And then go home my crown to wear,  
For there's a crown for me.**

**4 O precious cross! O glorious crown!  
O resurrection day!  
Ye angels, from the stars come down  
And bear my soul away.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and your neighbor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Marilyn West (8AM)

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Thomas Beatty and Brad Mackey (10:30AM)

**Lector:** Bill Harris (8AM)

**Lectors:** Lela Morris (10:30AM)

**Organist/Minister of Music:** Dr. Willis L. Barnett

**Verger:** Nathaniel Lewis

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## Lenten and Holy Week Service Schedule



Holy Week is the week preceding Easter and the final week of Lent. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. Holy Week includes Holy Thursday (also known as Maundy Thursday) and Good Friday, which, together with Holy Saturday, are known as the [Triduum](#). Before the revision of the liturgical calendar in 1969, Holy Week was the second week of Passontide; in the current calendar, Passontide is synonymous with Holy Week.

During Holy Week, Christians commemorate the Passion of Christ, who died on Good Friday in reparation for the sins of mankind and rose on Easter Sunday to give new life to all who believe. Thus, while Holy Week is solemn and sorrowful, it also anticipates the joy of Easter through the recognition of God's goodness in sending His Son to die for our salvation.

[\*\*Palm Sunday \(April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023\):\*\*](#) 9:30 AM, one service only. Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem is commemorated by everyone joining in a procession of singing and the waving of palm leaves, followed by the Holy Eucharist.

[\*\*Maundy Thursday with Agape Meal \(April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023\):\*\*](#) 7 PM. The Last Supper is remembered with a service that includes Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar.

[\*\*Good Friday \(April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023\):\*\*](#) 12 Noon. This solemn service commemorates Christ's suffering and death on the cross by offering special prayers and Holy Communion. More information forthcoming on *7 Last Days* at Cedar Street Baptist Church, 7PM.

[\*\*Great Easter Vigil \(April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023\):\*\*](#) 7PM. The liturgy intended as the first (and arguably, the primary) celebration of Easter. The service begins in darkness, sometime between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter and consists of four parts: The Service of Light (kindling of new fire, lighting the Paschal candle, the Exsultet); The Service of Lessons (readings from the Hebrew Scriptures interspersed with psalms, canticles, and prayers); Christian Initiation (Holy Baptism) or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows; and the Eucharist.

[\*\*Easter Sunday \(April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023\):\*\*](#) During the service, participants affirm that "the Lord is risen indeed." Easter Egg Hunt to follow the 10:30am service.

## Upcoming Highlights at St. Philip's

Today, Sunday, March 19th is dedicated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Over the last year, there has been an increase in requests for general assistance from the church due to the pandemic. The Rector's Discretionary Fund gives the clergy a pool of funds to pull from when these un-anticipated requests arise. These requests may be for utilities, food, clothing, education, prescription, or any number of other needs. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners like you, we can help a neighbor keep lights on at home. St. Philip's annual budget does not include the Rector's Discretionary fund, as it is a separate account. Please donate generously to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

**Lenten Devotional Study** We had a wonderful Lenten Study last week joining in to talk about the *Healing Marks of Jesus*. Please join us Tuesday's at 7pm on Zoom. Our Discussion Schedule is as follows:

March 21: Devotions 22-28  
March 28: Devotions 29-35  
April 4: Devotions 36-40 and Wrap up

**Confirmation Class, Sunday, April 23:** Save the date! If you would like to be confirmed, reaffirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church, our first confirmation class will be on April 23 between services. Email Diem if you are interested: [office@stphilipsrva.org](mailto:office@stphilipsrva.org).

**Easter Egg Candy Donations** It's not too soon to start thinking about our Easter Egg hunt! We have plenty of plastic eggs but need donations of candy (individually wrapped and no nuts or peanut butter please) Please drop off your donations in the marked box across from the church office in the atrium.

**Stuffing Plastic Eggs & Pizza Party** Join in the fun after the 10:30 am service on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> and enjoy fellowship, pizza and stuffing plastic eggs. We need a few volunteers to hide easter eggs on Easter morning. Let Diem know if you are interested. Thank you

**Next Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> is CPC Outreach Sunday.** Church Periodical Club would like you to bring your change/dollars to help assist with filling the JAR. These donations will be used to purchase books for the Richmond area and provide grants worldwide. In the past, we have given funds to purchase books for Barack Obama Elementary School, Anna Julia Cooper School and new hymnals in the St. Philips Church pews.

**Mark Your Calendar! Women's Day**, Sunday, May 21, 2023 at the 10:30 am service. We are excited to welcome guest speaker Collette Wallace McEachin.

**Books are available for \$20!** *Footprints in Faith*, Written in Honor of the Parish's One-Hundred and Sixtieth Anniversary by Kenneth S. Anderson.