



**The Third Sunday in Lent  
March 23, 2025  
9:30 AM**

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church. Whoever you are, and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here, just as you are, to experience God's love.

St. John's is a compassionate Christian community of healing, hope, and hospitality at the heart of Centreville's Historic District. First consecrated on July 14, 1854, St. John's was partially burned in the Civil War, rebuilt, expanded, and is now home to many faith communities. To learn more about us, talk to one of our clergy, chat up a neighbor, join us after worship for coffee, and visit us at [stjohnscentreville.org](http://stjohnscentreville.org).

Today's service follows the red Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Responses are in bold. Music can be found in the blue hymnals in your pew. Participate as the Spirit moves you!

Services are live-streamed, so please be aware that you are being recorded. Cell phone use—sharing about the service via texting, pictures, video, social media—is encouraged, but please silence your devices and disable Wi-Fi during worship.

**Holy Eucharist: Rite I  
The Word of God**

**The Prelude**

**The Processional Hymn:** H 150, "Forty days and forty nights"

*Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*

**Penitential Order: Rite One**

BCP, p. 319

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins. **His mercy endureth forever.**

**The Decalogue**

BCP, p. 317

**Confession of Sin**

BCP, p. 320

**Absolution**

BCP, p. 321

**The Kyrie:** S 91, "Lord, have mercy upon us"

**The Collect of the Day: *Third Sunday in Lent***

BCP, p. 167

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Children's Story**

*Our youngest parishioners are invited to come forward for today's story. They'll adjourn to children's chapel, returning in time for Communion.*

### **The First Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Response: Psalm 63:1-8, Deus, Deus meus**

BCP, p. 670

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \* **my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.**

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \* **that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \* **my lips shall give you praise.**

So will I bless you as long as I live \* **and lift up my hands in your Name.**

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \* **and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,**

When I remember you upon my bed, \* **and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper, \* **and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.**

My soul clings to you; \* **your right hand holds me fast.**

### **The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel Hymn:** H 574, "Before thy throne, O God, we kneel

*St. Petersburg*

**The Gospel:** Luke 13:1-9

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**The Sermon:** The Rev. Kevin Laskowski

**The Nicene Creed**

BCP, p. 326

**The Prayers of the People**

BCP, p. 328

**The Peace**

BCP, p. 332

## Holy Communion

**The Offertory**

*At this time, the gifts of God in bread and wine and the gifts of the people are collected and brought forward in thanksgiving. Thanks to all who have pledged a portion of their time, talent, and treasure to God's mission here at St. John's.*



*As the Spirit moves you, please give generously by cash or check, use the QR code at right to donate online, or text STJOHNSCENTREVILLE to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Donations of food and other items for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and the Katharine K. Hanley Family Shelter can be given to the usher or to the church office.*

**The Presentation of Alms & Oblations:** H 380, v. 3 "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

BCP, p. 333

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I**

**Sanctus:** S 114, "Holy, holy, holy"

BCP, p. 336

**The Lord's Prayer**

BCP, p. 336

**Fraction Anthem:** S 158, "O Lamb of God"

*Agnus Dei*

**Invitation to Communion**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. To receive the wafer, extend one hand over the other. If you wish to receive the wine, take a sip of the wine by guiding the chalice to your lips. Dipping the wafer into the wine is not permitted. The bishop's customary requires the minister to do it for you. If you wish the minister to intinct, make a dipping motion or point to the minister when you approach. If you would like Communion brought to you, please let an usher know. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than Communion, please cross your arms over your chest as you approach.*

**Communion Hymn:** H 313, "Let thy Blood in mercy poured"

*Jesus, meine Zuversicht*

**Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP, p. 339

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Altar Arrangements** are given to the Glory of God.

**Today** we welcome Tatiana Andronikova as our guest organist.

**Holy Week and Easter Worship at St. John's**

- Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:30 PM
- Good Friday, April 18, 12:00 Noon and 7:30 PM
- Easter Sunday, April 20, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM followed by our Easter Egg Hunt!

**Easter Prep.** Help St. John's prepare for Easter!

- Please bring donations of Easter candy to worship or to the office during Lent. No plastic eggs please.
- Join us to make palm crosses and stuff Easter eggs on Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 AM.
- Volunteer to assist with the egg hunt on Easter morning. Please contact Fr. Kevin or a vestry member.

**Funeral, April 8, 10:00 AM.** Harriet Ritchie, a long-time parishioner among the founding families of St. John's, who, in the 1950s and 60s, made St. John's a parish, will be laid to rest April 8 at 10:00 AM here in the historic church.

**Creation Care Garden.** The committee is making preparations for the 2025 growing season. Last year, this ministry grew over 216 pounds of vegetables for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. Please consider donating to purchase seedlings and needed garden supplies.

**Bible Study.** Join us in the library Wednesday mornings at 11:00 AM and/or Thursday nights at 7:00 PM for a weekly Bible study on the Gospel of Luke.

**Coffee Hour.** Please join us in the hall after the service for coffee and refreshments.

**Adult Lectionary Forum.** If you'd like to discuss today's readings in greater depth, grab coffee and a snack, and join us in the library after the service.

**Visit Us!** For more information, visit [stjohnscentreville.org](http://stjohnscentreville.org) and subscribe to our E-notes.

**TODAY'S MINISTERS**

|                 |                          |                |                            |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Celebrant:      | The Rev. Kevin Laskowski | Usher:         | Jean Makurat               |
| Deacon:         | The Rev. Steve Busch     | Lector:        | Gail Weirich               |
| Music Director: | Mandy Hull               | Alms Counters: | Penny Parker, Marcia Evans |
| Acolyte:        | Monti Zimmerman          | Altar Guild:   | Meg Crossett               |
| Crucifer:       | Alex Walsh               |                |                            |

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF**

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Priest-in-Charge, [Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com](mailto:Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com)

The Rev. Steve Busch, Deacon, [Deacon@StJohnsCentreville.com](mailto:Deacon@StJohnsCentreville.com)

Lisa Heller, Senior Warden, [SeniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com](mailto:SeniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com)

Val Tucker, Junior Warden, [JuniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com](mailto:JuniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com)

Mandy Hull, Organist & Choir Director, [amandahull101@gmail.com](mailto:amandahull101@gmail.com)

Terri Katon, Parish Administrator, [ParishAdmin@StJohnsCentreville.com](mailto:ParishAdmin@StJohnsCentreville.com)

The Rev. Jason Lody, Ministry Partners Administrator, [mpadmin@stjohnscentreville.com](mailto:mpadmin@stjohnscentreville.com)

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

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