



# The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026 10:00am

## **St. Nicholas Episcopal Church**

*69 Mobley Road, PO Box 752, Hamilton, Georgia 31811  
(706) 628-7272 • [www.stnicholashamilton.org](http://www.stnicholashamilton.org)*

The Reverend Robert J. Farrow, AIA, MDiv, Priest in Charge  
Kevin Anderson, Organist

## Holy Eucharist Rite II

*Please be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is a house of prayer for all people. Before the service, speak to God; during the service, let God speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.*

### PRELUDE

*All stand as able and sing.*

PROCESSIONAL | *In Babilone* Hail, thou once despised Jesus!

Hymnal 495 (vv. 1-3)

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Bless the Lord, who forgives all sins

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

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.**

### THE DECALOGUE

*Contemporary*

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

## KYRIE

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**

*Please be seated for the reading of the lessons.*

---

---

## THE WORD OF GOD

---

---

THE OLD TESTAMENT | Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lector: A reading from the First 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, prophesy, 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.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM | Psalm 130 *De profundis*

*The Psalm will be chanted by Kevin Anderson.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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 EPISTLE | Romans 8:6-11

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

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.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL | John 11:1-45

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated for the sermon.*

THE SERMON

Rev. Bob Farrow

*All stand as able.*

THE 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.**

*Please kneel or stand as you are able. The Intercessor and People pray responsively.*

Let us pray to the Lord in all humility, yet filled with hope, saying, “We call to you, O God; hear our voice.”

Lord God, see to your people and your church; left up what is good, help us cast aside what is harmful; help us fulfill our call to be Christ in the world today. We call to you, O God;

**Hear our voice.**

Lord God, guide and grant wisdom to the leaders of the nations, that they might work cooperatively and for the benefit of all of humanity. We call to you, O God;

**Hear our voice.**

Lord God, infuse our towns and cities with a spirit of communal well-being, that we might always think first of those who live in the margins and forgotten places; and that where we live might be a place where everyone can thrive and live into their created purpose. We call to you, O God;

**Hear our voice.**

Lord God, we pray for your mercy on the members of our diocesan family currently held in immigration detention and their families. We pray also for the children held in detention across our nation. We pray for their release and for the restoration of humane and ethical immigration enforcement. We call to you, O God;

**Hear our voice.**

Lord God, heal what is hurting, mend what is broken, bring to wholeness all who suffer from any distress. Especially we lift up Stafford, Edward, Katherine, and Christine. We call to you, O God;

**Hear our voice.**

Lord God, help us to preserve the abundance of creation and ensure it sustainable use as you have envisioned for us. We call to you, O God;

**Hear our voice.**

Lord God, embrace the dead in your loving arms, hold the grieving in your strong hands, and grant us all the new life in your eternal kingdom. We call to you, O God;

**Hear our voice.**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

God of promise, send abundant life into your people, enliven our spirits and lift our hearts through the power of Christ’s example through whom we pray. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Together*

**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 you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
- 1 Timothy 1:15

If anyone sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. - 1 John 2:1-2

### THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

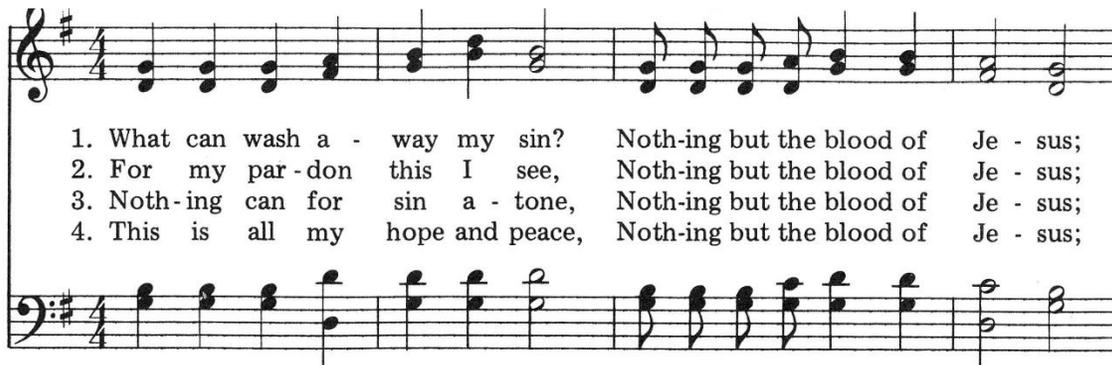
**People: And also with you.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

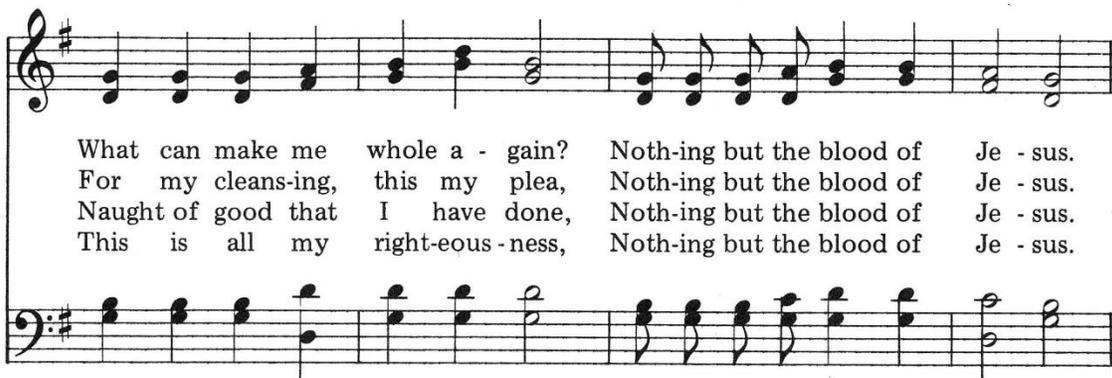
### THE OFFERTORY

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

### OFFERTORY HYMN | Nothing but the blood

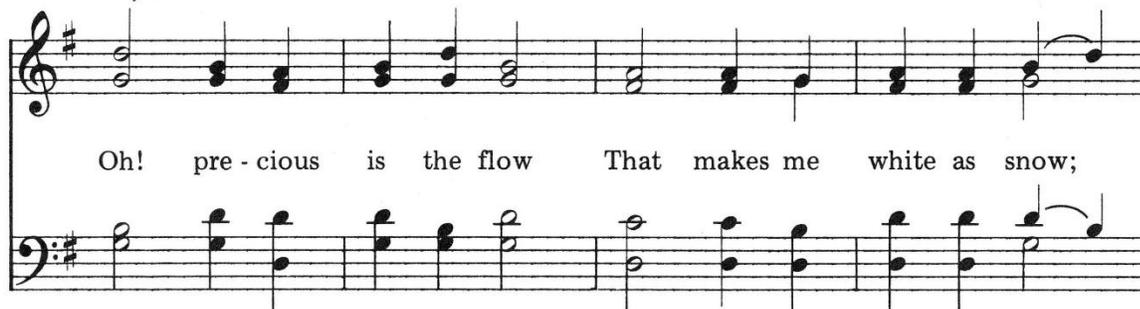


1. What can wash a - way my sin? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;  
2. For my par - don this I see, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;  
3. Noth-ing can for sin a - tone, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;  
4. This is all my hope and peace, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus;

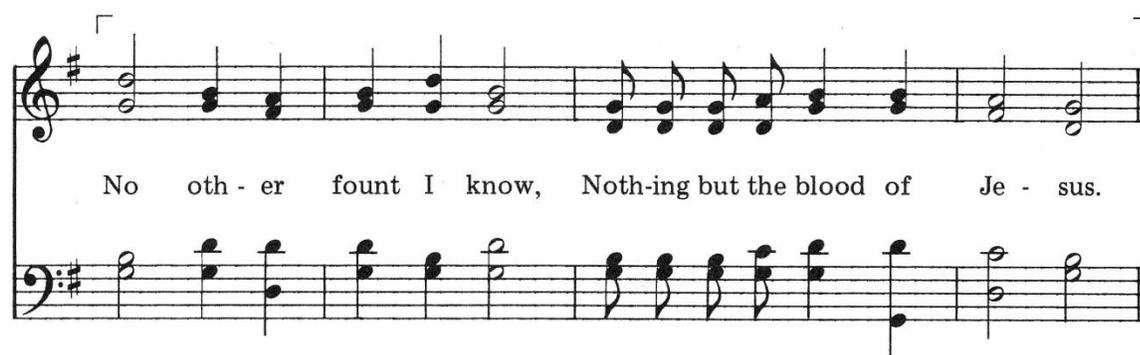


What can make me whole a - gain? Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.  
For my cleans-ing, this my plea, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.  
Naught of good that I have done, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.  
This is all my right-eous - ness, Noth-ing but the blood of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



Oh! pre - cious is the flow That makes me white as snow;



No oth - er fount I know, Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.

The end of "I KNOW A FOUNT - a medley"  
TEXT and MUSIC: Robert Lowry

PLAINFIELD  
7.8.7.8. with Refrain

THE DOXOLOGY | *Old 100<sup>th</sup>*

*Please stand as you are able for the presentation of the offering.*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

---

---

## HOLY COMMUNION

---

---

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 him 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.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:

SANCTUS | Holy, holy, holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. \* Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel as able.*

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:

*Together*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

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.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*All*

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.**

*Celebrant:*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## THE SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

*All people are invited to receive Communion. Extend two hands if you wish to receive the bread and the wine; one hand if you want bread only. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. The clergy will stand by the first pews and you can make your way to them to receive communion and then return to your pews.*

COMMUNION HYMN | I am the bread of life

Hymnal 335

## BLESSING

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

RECESSIONAL | When the roll is called up yonder

Booklet 89

## DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

---

---

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship in  
The Gathering Room – to the left as you exit the nave.**

*St. Nicholas' mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.*

*Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a caring and merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.*

---

---

#### IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Stafford Long, Edward Martin, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Risdon. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles : Mike Sawyer, Liz Dixon, April Moore, Hudson Garrett, and Kenny Hall and his family.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster.

#### VESTRY

Drucye Cox, *Senior Warden*  
Linda Pace, *Junior Warden*  
Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry,  
and Steve Morse  
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*  
Jim Gilliam, *Treasurer*

#### MINISTERS THIS WEEK

Lector: Chris Butzon  
Usher: Jim Gilliam & Alex Garrett  
Virtual Minister: William Morgan & Steve Morse  
Eucharistic Minister: Martha Dimon  
Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson  
Flowers: Barbara Bradley

#### UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

- TODAY:** Training after the service: **Eucharistic Visitors** and **Virtual Ministers**. All are welcome!
- MAR 24: Office closed
- MAR 27: Making palm crosses 10:00 a.m.
- MAR 29: Palm Sunday – the procession will begin in the Memory Garden, weather permitting  
Adult Forum: Holy Week – after the service.
- APR 1: Tenebrae: A Service of Shadows – 5:00 p.m.
- APR 2: Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m.
- APR 4: Easter Vigil – 7:30 p.m.
- APR 5: Easter Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m.

The **Easter Flowers and Music** contribution envelopes are out in the narthex and will remain until Palm Sunday. This is a lovely way to celebrate a loved one or special occasion, or to honor the memory of someone who has entered the communion of saints before us. The list will be published on Easter Sunday.

**St. Nicholas Book Club News: The April Meeting will be postponed until Wednesday, April 8 to avoid conflicts with Holy Week services.**

The Book Club has selected *Raising Hare*, a reflective memoir by Chloe Dalton. In February 2021, Dalton stumbles upon a newborn hare – a leveret – that had been chased by a dog. Fearing for its life, she brings it home, only to discover how difficult it is to rear a wild hare, most of whom perish in captivity from either shock or starvation. See your newsletter for more!

**Did you miss the 2026 Hunger Walk last week?** You missed a great time! Here's a pic of the people and pets from St. Nicholas Hamilton, Trinity Columbus, and St. Thomas Columbus who took part. We covered two states - walking the Chattahoochee River Walk on both the Georgia and Alabama sides. Thanks to Sheri Cody (St. Nicholas and the Chattahoochee Valley Convocation rep to ECF), Andy Blakement (Associate Rector at Trinity), and Courtney Reed (Children's Ministry Assistant at St. Thomas) for coordinating.



Get ALL the news – use this QR code to access the latest St. Nicholas weekly newsletter.

## HOLY WEEK at ST. NICHOLAS

Wednesday, April 1:	<b>Tenebrae</b>	5:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 2:	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 4:	<b>Easter Vigil</b>	7:30 p.m.