



## **The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 15, 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 | *Azmon* O for a thousand tongues to sing

Hymnal 493

### 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.

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.**

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

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## THE WORD OF GOD

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THE OLD TESTAMENT | 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Lector: A reading from the First Book of Samuel.

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.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM | Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

*The Psalm will be chanted by Kevin Anderson.*

*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.*

**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 | Ephesians 5:8-14

Lector: A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

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."

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE 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.**

*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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
for the 4th Sunday in Lent

From *Planning for Rites and Rituals: A Resource for Episcopal  
Worship (Year A)*

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

Beloved friends, live as children of the light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Light of the world, open our eyes.”

Lord our Shepherd, you have given your Church all that we need. Rain down on us mightily with your Spirit, that we may testify to the astonishing things you have done in our lives.

*You may speak your thanksgivings aloud if you feel so moved.*

Light of the world, **open our eyes.**

God, you are present in the valley of the shadow of death. Comfort all those around the world who know danger or violence or war. By your love, cast out all evil and fear.

Light of the world, **open our eyes.**

Lord, you make us to lie down in green pastures; you lead us by still waters. You have blessed us with a beautiful planet. May we work to preserve the holy gift of nature.

Light of the world, **open our eyes.**

Lord, spread a table for those who are hungry; where there is scarcity and need in our neighborhoods, fill empty hearts, lives, and cups with your abundance. By your light, expose all the unfruitful works of darkness.

Light of the world, **open our eyes.**

God of life, pursue the sick and sorrowful with your goodness and mercy. Reveal your works in those who are suffering. Make yourself known as Healer. We pray especially for Katherine, Stafford, Edward, Michelle, Kenny, April, and Christine.

Light of the world, **open our eyes.**

God of justice, 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.

Light of the world, **open our eyes.**

Reviver of Souls, give to the dying and the dead your promise of new and unending life. May we one day live with them forever in the light of Christ.

Light of the world, **open our eyes.**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

God of freedom, God of life, hear and answer our prayers as may be best for us and lead us into the place of your promise that we might know abundant life. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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 | Love lifted me

Booklet 47

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.

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## HOLY COMMUNION

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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.

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:

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 want to walk as the child of the light

Performed by Kevin Anderson

## 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 | *Lobe den Herren* Praise to Lord, the Almighty

Hymnal 390

## DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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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.*

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#### IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Stafford Long, Michelle Moody, 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: Sheri Cody  
Usher: Sheri Cody  
Virtual Minister: William Morgan & Steve Morse  
Eucharistic Minister: Drucye Cox  
Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson  
Flowers: Barbara Bradley

#### UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

TODAY: Atlanta Hunger Walk (see below)  
MAR 16: Office closed  
MAR 18: Cookies, Crafts, & Conversation 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.  
MAR 22: 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.