



The First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 10:00am

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

*69 Mobley Road, PO Box 752, Hamilton, Georgia 31811
(706) 628-7272 • 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 | Lift every voice and sing

Hymnal 688

Please be seated.

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

The people stand as able.

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, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son 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 | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Lector: A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM | Psalm 32 *Beati quorum*

The Psalm will be chanted by Kevin Anderson.

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

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 5:12-19

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

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

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.**

All stand as able and sing.

SEQUENCE HYMN | *Seek ye first* Seek ye first

Hymnal 711

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 4:1-11

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

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
for the 1st Sunday in Lent

From *Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People
for the Revised Common Lectionary*

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

God of Wisdom and Mercy, look upon us with compassion; hear and answer our prayers as may be best for us as we say, "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Call your church to repentance for the ways in which we stray from our Lord's example and give us strength to follow him fearlessly and without reservation. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let the way of Jesus be an inspiration for all who hold authority in our nation and around the world, that they might desire first the well-being of those they lead and work together to establish peace. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Grant us an awareness of the temptations that seek to lead us astray that we might amend our lives, and empower us to live into our faith with courage and commitment. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Strengthen us and give us the perseverance and wisdom to care for your creation that we might secure its abundance and diversity. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Grant your healing presence to all who suffer that they may find wholeness in Christ's love for them. Especially we pray for Edward, Michelle, Kellie, Katherine, April, Emmie, Christine, Hudson, and Kenny and his family. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Take the dead into your loving care, watch over the grieving with tenderness, and bring us, with all the saints in every generation, into your new age. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

You have promised to be with us when we gather; hear our prayers and be among us. Empower us to do your will and forgive and restore us in all our failings. All this we ask through our Lord and redeemer, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always.

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.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

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 | Farther along

1. Tempt - ed and tried we're oft made to won - der, Why it should
 2. When death has come and tak - en our loved ones, It leaves our
 3. Faith - ful till death said our lov - ing mas - ter, A few more
 4. When we see Je - sus com - ing in glo - ry, When He comes

1. be thus all the day long; — While there are oth - ers liv - ing a -
 2. home so lone - ly and drear; — Then do we won - der why oth - ers
 3. days to la - bor and wait; — Toils of the road will then seem as
 4. from His home in the sky; — Then we shall meet Him in that bright

1. bout us, Nev - er mo - lest - ed though in the wrong. —
 2. pros - per, Liv - ing so wick - ed year af - ter year. —
 3. noth - ing, As we sweep through the beau - ti - ful gate. —
 4. man - sion, We'll un - der - stand it all by and by. —

Far - ther a - long we'll know all a - bout it, Far - ther a -

Words: W. B. Stevens

Music: W. B. Stevens; arr. J. R. Baxter, Jr.

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Hymn continues on the next page.

long we'll un-der-stand why; — Cheerup, don't wor - ry, live in the

sun - -shine, We'll un - der - stand it all by and by. —

THE DOXOLOGY | *Old 100th*

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:

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

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

After taking communion, you are welcome to remain kneeling at the front of the church for special prayer and blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN | You who dwell in the house of the Lord

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 | We shall overcome

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn "We shall overcome". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics "We shall o - ver - come, _____ We shall o - ver come, _____" are written below the treble staff. The music features a simple, steady rhythm with a mix of quarter and eighth notes, and some rests.

we shall o - ver - come some - day; Oh, ___

deep in my heart, ___ I do be - lieve, ___ (Oh)

We shall o - ver - come some - day. ___ day.

- 2. We'll walk hand in hand, today.
- 3. God is on our side, today.

- 4. We are not afraid, today.
- 5. We shall live in peace, someday.

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*,
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DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.
Response: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Please join us for PANCAKES WITH THE PRIEST!

Go through the line in the kitchen and we'll eat in the Parish Hall.

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 Michelle Moody, Edward Martin, Katherine Johnson, April Moore, Kellie Dixon, Emmie Brand, Christine Risdon, Hudson Garrett, and Kenny Hall and his family. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for our beloved homebound congregants: Mike Sawyer and Liz Dixon.

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: Margaret Zachry
Usher: Sheri Cody
Virtual Minister: Katherine Johnson
Eucharistic Minister: Drucye Cox
Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson
Flowers: Margaret Zachry & Beth Brown

UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

TODAY: Pancakes with the Priest after the service

MAR 1: Wonder Church followed by 1st Sunday Brunch

MAR 4: St. Nicholas Book Club after Evening Prayer

MAR 8: Visit from the Bishop & Confirmations

9:00 a.m. Bishop's Forum with congregation and Vestry (not 9:30 as previously published)

Use this QR code to go to the current newsletter.



The 2026 Hunger Walk is Sunday, March 15th. The Episcopal Community Foundation is one of the five partners in this annual event; monies they receive are then distributed throughout our Diocese in the form of grants to be used for programs to alleviate hunger. Last year ECF gave BackSnacks a \$30,000 grant for capital improvements, so the money does come back to our area! Sheri Cody is willing to register you after church services in February, just like she did last year.

You do not have to walk. You can register or give a donation without walking. Those who would like to walk will take a walk in our area versus going to Atlanta for the walk. **Our goal is to raise \$500 to fight hunger.**

Our **Rector's Discretionary Fund** - one of the ways we share the love of Christ for all people by assisting our Harris County neighbors with rent and utilities – had a lot of demands on it after this last cold snap. If you feel moved to donate a bit, it would be put to good use!

St. Nicholas Book Club News: After an exciting February meeting with local author Allen Levi, the Club selected for their March read *Evening Class*, a 1996 novel by the Irish author Maeve Binchy. See your newsletter for more. The Book Club next meets on March 4 after Evening Prayer.

To all those who will be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church on March 8: The Parish Administrator has sent two emails asking for information that is required by the Diocese. One person has responded. Please get this information in to the church office by Friday, March 6. Contact Erin if you need assistance.





HCHS VISUAL ARTS

EMPTY BOWL

SATURDAY MARCH 7, 2026

1:00-3:00 PM

PURCHASE OF A
TICKET
INCLUDES
LUNCH AND A
SOUVENIR
BOWL-
PROCEEDS GO
TO FOCUS



<https://hcvisualarts.ludus.com/200517492>

COME CELEBRATE THE ARTS!

FREE CONCERT

CSU Schwob

FACULTY QUINTET



Sunday, March 1st at 4:00

Zion Episcopal Church, Talbotton, Georgia

Reception follows inside Zion

Contributions appreciated.