

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

YEAR A ✦ MARCH 22, 2026

VOLUNTARY

*Adagio*

Tomaso Albinoni, arr. McChesney

St. James Handbell Choir

ENTRANCE HYMN

“O God, our help in ages past”

Hymnal 680

TRADITIONAL COLLECT

BCP 167

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY COLLECT

BCP 219

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.**

THE FIRST LESSON

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*

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, “Prophesy 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, “Prophesy 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

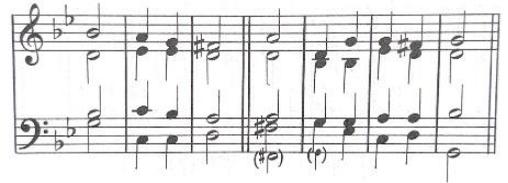
will act,” says the Lord.

THE PSALM

130

Music: Edwin George Monk (b. 1945)

- 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 |  
suppli- | cation.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is | done a- | miss, \*  
O | LÖRD, | who could | stand?
- 3 For there is for- | giveness • with | you; \*  
– | therefore • you | shall be | feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my | söul | waits for him; \*  
in his | wörd | 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 | LÖRD | there is | mercy;
- 7 With him there is | plenteous • re- | demption, \*  
and he shall redeem | Israel • from | all their | sins.



THE SECOND LESSON

*Romans 8:6-11*

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.

*During the hymn, children three years old to fifth grade are invited to follow the banner-bearer to Children's Church. They will return at the Peace.*

SEQUENCE HYMN

“Eternal Lord of love”

Hymnal 149

THE GOSPEL

*John 11:1-45*

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.

SERMON

The Rev. Clare Nesmith

OFFERTORY ANTHEM    *O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing*    Richard Shephard (1949–2021)  
Allison Boyle, *soprano*

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his name.  
Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,  
‘tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘tis life and health and peace.  
He speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken hearts revive, the humble poor believe.  
Hear him ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ.  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.  
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
and spread though all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

(Charles Wesley, 1707–88)

PRESENTATION HYMN

The Doxology

worship booklet p. 7

Hymn	“O Love of God, how strong and true”	Hymnal 455
Hymn	“Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life”	Hymnal 487
Hymn	“Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face”	Hymnal 318

CLOSING HYMN

“Now quit your care”

Hymnal 145

DISMISSAL

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People:*    **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

*Solemn Procession*

Rosalie Bonighton



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY at 9:30-10:15AM in the Parish Hall, the Lenten Forum Series concludes** with “The Liturgy of Death: Planning a Burial Office,” presented by our Rector, Mother Mariclaire Partee Carlsen, and our Music Director, Dr. Bryan Black.

**Flowers:** With Easter flower donations in any amount, you can dedicate flowers in thanksgiving or memory of friends and family members. Your dedications will be included in the Easter Vigil and Easter Day service bulletins. The process to give is quick and easy. Forms are provided in the narthex.

**Bring flowers from your yard:** The Flower Guild would love your help in flowering the church for Easter (no experience necessary). We'll be accepting yard greens on Thursday 4/2 from 2-4pm in the circle parking lot (we would especially like Lenten Roses, Solomon Seal, and Anise). We'll be arranging flowers on Friday 4/3 and Saturday 4/4 9am - 12 noon

**Children are invited to bring cut flowers** to decorate the Children's Cross on Easter Sunday.

**Adult confirmation class** begins Sunday April 19. Confirmation will be held at the Cathedral of St. Philip on May 31 at 4PM. Pre-register with Mother Mariclaire; QR code below.

**Ongoing Events** **Mondays** handbells and also Youth Confirmation Class 6PM, tower bells 7PM  
**Tuesdays** Bible study 12:30PM *special Lenten series on John's Gospel*; **Wednesdays** Knitting for Charity 10AM, Centering Prayer online 4PM; Wednesday evening program 5:30 youth group, 5:45 dinner, 6:30 evening prayer + cherub choir & choristers, 7:00 express adult formation, and 7:30 parish choir. *RSVP with QR code below.* **Saturdays** Tower Bells 10AM



← RSVP  
for  
Wednesday  
dinner  
March 25



← Pre-  
registration  
for Adult  
Confirmation  
Class  
starting  
April 19



← Subscribe to  
our newsletter  
*The Bells*

**Notice of live-streaming broadcast:** Our worship services are live-streamed and posted to social media. If you have concerns about being on camera, please ask one of the ushers to show you seating with limited exposure.

<b>St. James Episcopal Church</b> 161 Church St., Marietta GA 30060	<a href="http://www.stjamesmarietta.com">www.stjamesmarietta.com</a> 770-428-5841
<b>The Reverend Mariclaire Partee Carlsen, Rector</b> <i>emergency phone or text:</i> for an appointment, sign up online	<a href="mailto:rector@stjamesmarietta.com">rector@stjamesmarietta.com</a> 678-369-1775 <a href="https://calendly.com/rector-stjamesmarietta">https://calendly.com/rector-stjamesmarietta</a>
Dr. Bryan Black, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:music@stjamesmarietta.com">music@stjamesmarietta.com</a>
Natalie Fowler, Children's Ministry Coordinator	<a href="mailto:children@stjamesmarietta.com">children@stjamesmarietta.com</a>
Kelsey Andries, Interim Youth Director	<a href="mailto:youth@stjamesmarietta.com">youth@stjamesmarietta.com</a>
Scott Smoot, Communications Coordinator	<a href="mailto:communications@stjamesmarietta.com">communications@stjamesmarietta.com</a>
<b>Office hours Monday – Thursday, 9am-1pm</b>	

## SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK 2026

Mar 29-Palm Sunday

8AM Rite I Holy Eucharist

10:30AM Rite II Holy Eucharist with Palm Procession

Mar 30- Holy Monday

6:30PM Evening Prayer- led by our Lay Worship Leaders

Mar 31- Holy Tuesday

6:30PM Evening Prayer- led by our Lay Worship Leaders

Apr 1- Holy Wednesday

6:30PM Tenebrae

Apr 2- Maundy Thursday (Nursery 6PM-8PM)

6:30PM Rite II Holy Eucharist with optional foot washing.

Vigil at the Altar of Repose in the Parlor until midnight (please pre-register)

Apr 3- Good Friday (Nursery 6PM-7:30PM)

Noon- Good Friday Service with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

3PM- Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary

6:30PM- Good Friday Service without Communion

Apr 4- Holy Saturday

10AM Holy Saturday Service in Sanctuary- led by our Lay Worship Leaders

5PM Family Easter Vigil in Parish Hall

8PM The Great Vigil of Easter

Apr 5- Easter Day (Nursery 8:30AM-1PM)

7AM- Holy Eucharist

9AM- Holy Eucharist with Choir and Brass

11:15AM Holy Eucharist with Choir, Brass, and Incense  
(Easter Egg Hunt follows)