



# *First Sunday in Lent*

*Sunday, March 9, 2025*

8:00 AM & 10:15 AM (with music)

*Also Live Streaming at*

<https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>

## **VOLUNTARY**

## Have Mercy on Me, O Lord God

J.S. Bach

*During Lent, there is no Processional Hymn. Following the Prelude, chimes will be sounded to signal the beginning of the service. At the chime, please stand for the opening procession.*

*The liturgical ministers then enter in silence.*

## THE GREAT LITANY

Bill Eldon, cantor

*The Officiant at the Litany may be a lay cantor.*

*Officiant*

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

*People*  
preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

*Officiant*

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

devil; and from everlast - ing dam - na - tion,

*People*  
Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

*(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

*People*  
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

*(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)*

*Officiant* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.  
*People* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

*Officiant*  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.

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

*Officiant*  
O Christ, hear us.      *People*  
O Christ, hear us.

## THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

*Presider*      Bless the Lord ☥ who forgives all our sins.  
*People*      **His mercy endures for ever.**

### CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

*The Presider reads the following:*

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel:  
The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,  
with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as  
yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”                    *Mark 12:29-31*

*The Presider then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**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.**

*Presider*      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.**

### KYRIE (8:00 Service)

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.

## KYRIE (10:15 Service)

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*      **And also with you.**  
*Presider*      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.**

*(The people sit)*

## FIRST READING

## Deuteronomy 26.1-11

*Lector* A Reading from Deuteronomy

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying

display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

## PSALM 91.9-16

Setting: David York

*The choir sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats. The choir sings the Psalm verses. The choir and congregation then sing the antiphon following each section of verses.*

God will give his an-gels charge ov-er you, to keep you in all your ways.

Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation,  
There shall no evil happen to you,  
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling. **Antiphon**

For he shall give his angels charge over you,  
to keep you in all your ways.  
They shall bear you in their hands,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone. **Antiphon**

You shall tread upon the lion and adder;  
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.  
Because he is bound to me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him;  
I will protect him, because he knows my Name. **Antiphon**

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;  
I am with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.  
With long life will I satisfy him,  
and show him my salvation. **Antiphon**

## SECOND READING

Romans 10.8b-13

*Lector*      A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

"The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*(The people stand)*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

Forty Days and Forty Nights

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*(Congregation sings vv. 1, 2, & 3, the Gospel is read, then vv. 4 & 5 are sung)*

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4.1-13

*Presider*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke.

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

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

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

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

'He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

*Presider*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*(The people sit)*

## SERMON

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

*(Silent reflection)*

## 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**

In this season of repentance and renewal, let us pray for the concerns of the Church and the world, saying “Lord, in your mercy, Renew us.”

For the whole Church of God, and for all its members: May the church truly become the unified body of Christ, hearing and living out God’s call in the world. We pray for all baptized Christians in their ministries, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for John our bishop, and for all clergy and lay leaders.

God, in your mercy,  
**Renew us.**

For our nation and every nation: May all people learn to live together in peace, respecting one another’s differences and autonomy. May all leaders be ever mindful of their responsibilities to their own people and to others in the world. We pray for our President, Congress, Courts, state and local officials, and for all leaders around the world.

God, in your mercy,  
**Renew us.**

For this community and all communities: May we live together in love and harmony, striving for the building up of all members, for wholeness and justice, striving until none are left behind.

God, in your mercy,  
**Renew us.**

For the concerns of the whole world: May those who face natural disaster find grace and relief; may those who face conflict and war find a loving spirit; and may all of us come to treat our neighbors as ourselves so that we and all this world may come to be God’s new creation.

God, in your mercy,  
**Renew us.**

For all those who are in any pain or sorrow: May they come to know your love and care and be brought to wholeness; for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; for the poor, the persecuted, and those in prison; for those who are lonely, homeless, or hungry; and for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Pause)*

God, in your mercy,  
**Renew us.**

For all the blessings of this life: May we truly celebrate the life we have been given and our time with one another; for new beginnings, anniversaries, and birthdays, and for all the joys of this life; we thank you for all other thanksgivings we offer now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Pause)*

God, in your mercy,  
**Renew us.**

For all who have died: May those who now live in the joy of God's presence find their rest in God's peace. We pray especially for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Pause)*

God, in your mercy,  
**Renew us.**

*Presider* O God, whose desire it is for all people to turn to you and be renewed in your love, grant these prayers in your mercy and according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*(Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

***Birthday and Anniversary Prayer:*** Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

English Folk Tune, arr. Linda Cable Shute

Lord, who throughout these forty days,  
For us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins,  
And close by Thee to stay.

As Thou didst hunger bear and thirst,  
So teach us, gracious Lord,  
To die to self, and chiefly live  
By Thy most holy Word.

And through these days of penitence,  
And through Thy Passion-tide,  
Yea, evermore, in life and death,  
Jesus! with us abide.

(Claudia Frances Hernaman, 1838-1898)

### PRESENTATION HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

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### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*        **And also with you.**  
*Presider*      Lift up your hearts.  
*People*        **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Presider*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*        **It is right to offer 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:

*At the 8:00 Service:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*At the 10:15 Service:*

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

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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.

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:

**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 pray:

**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**

*(A period of silence is kept after the Celebrant breaks the host)*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Grant us your peace.**

## **AGNUS DEI (10:15 Service)**

O Lamb of God

*Communion Service in F*, Harold Darke

Jordan Tickner, soloist

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.

*The Presider says the following or a similar invitation*

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.

## **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion. **Gluten free wafers are available upon request.***

### **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*Those participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits as actually consuming the consecrated elements.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

Into the Woods

Peter Lutkin, arr. Philip Baker

Jordan Tickner, soloist

Into the woods my Master went, clean forspent.  
Into the woods my Master came, forspent with love and shame.  
But the olives, they were not blind to him; the little gray leaves were kind to him.  
The thorn tree had a mind to him when into the woods he came.  
  
Out of the woods my Master went; he was well content.  
Out of the woods my Master came, content with death and shame.  
When death and shame would woo him last, from under the trees they drew him last.  
'Twas on a tree they slew him last when out of the woods he came.

(Sidney Lanier)

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider*      Let us pray.

**Compassionate God,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:  
may our fasting be hunger for justice,  
our alms, a making of peace,  
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*Presider*   Bow down before the Lord.

*The people kneel or bow their heads and the Presider says the following prayer*

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## RECESSATIONAL HYMN

The Glory of These Forty Days

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## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider*      Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## VOLUNTARY

The Glory of These Forty Days

Dietrich Buxtehude

*If you choose to leave during the Postlude, please do so quietly,  
out of respect for the Organist and out of courtesy for those staying to listen.*

**Please join us in Francis Hall for refreshments and fellowship  
following the worship service**

(Francis Hall is out the main church doors and to the left)

## TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	<b>8:00 SERVICE</b>	<b>10:15 SERVICE</b>
Presider & Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Organist	—	David York
Crucifer	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Kris Brooks	Susan Mora
Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)	David Luebben-Morrill Holly Graham	Carol Bernstein Holly Graham

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SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 150

Forty Days and Forty Nights

*Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*

*(Congregation sings vv. 1, 2, & 3, the Gospel is read, then vv. 4 & 5 are sung)*

The musical score consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in G major (indicated by a G clef) and the bottom staff is in C major (indicated by a C clef). The music is in common time (indicated by a 'C'). The top staff has a bass line with quarter notes and eighth notes, and the bottom staff has a bass line with quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are written in a two-line format, with the first line of each verse on the top staff and the second line on the bottom staff. The lyrics are as follows:

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
 2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!  
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
 2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?  
 3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!  
 4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.  
 5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

PRESENTATION HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

*Sojourner*



1      I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2      In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;



1      I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2      in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,



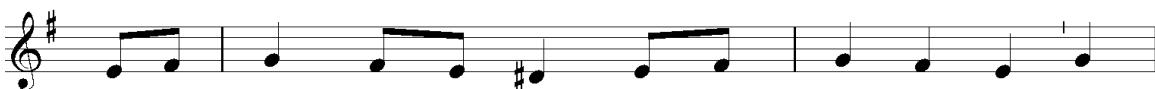
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

## RECESSATIONAL HYMN

*Hymnal 1982, Hymn 143*

The Glory of These Forty Days

*Erhalt uns, Herr*



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we  
2 A lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the  
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -  
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full  
\*5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en  
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.  
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S**

### **Tuesday, March 11**

**Centering Prayer at 6:30 PM** via Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

### **Thursday, March 13**

**Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at 10:00 AM** in the Chapel.

**Bible Study at 11:00 AM** in the Fireside Room.

**Lenten Soup Supper at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Hall.

**Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM** in the Choir Room. Contact David York for more information.

### **Sunday, March 16 – Second Sunday in Lent**

**Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 8:00 AM** in the Church.

#### **Sunday School**

**Grades 9 through 12 at 9:30 AM** in the Youth Room.

**Grades K through 8 at 10:15 AM** in the Youth Room.

**Holy Eucharist (with music) at 10:15 AM** in the Church and live streamed on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

***Nursery Care is available on Sundays, starting at 7:45 AM, in the Nursery (Room 3)***

### **Daily Offices (Monday through Friday)**

**Daily Morning Prayer:** Tuesday through Thursday at **9:00 AM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

**Daily Evening Prayer:** Tuesday through Thursday at **5:00 PM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

*For the Daily Offices, you will need either a Book of Common Prayer or you can download the Morning and Evening Prayer liturgies and the Psalms for the week from the St. Gregory's website ([www.stgregoryschurch.com](http://www.stgregoryschurch.com)).*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, April 6 – Music at Four

#### Gamelan Berwarna Warni presents Music from Bali

*Gamelan Berwarna Warni* is an ensemble dedicated to the mesmerizing and intricate sounds of traditional Balinese music. With a deep reverence for the island's rich cultural heritage, the group specializes in the vibrant and hypnotic rhythms of gamelan, a percussion-based orchestra that forms the heart of Balinese music. The ensemble brings together a range of instruments to create a soundscape that is both ethereal and dynamic. The concert begins at 4:00 PM, with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Possible Lenten Discipline—Bible Study:** Are you looking for a spiritual discipline for the upcoming season of Lent? One fun and easy discipline worth considering is to join our parish Bible Study on Thursdays at 11:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Not only do we learn a lot about the Bible, we also have a great time doing it.

**Feed My Lambs Needs a Few Strong Backs:** Feed My Lambs needs the help of some strong backs for the first Saturday of the month at 6:00 AM for loading Tamera's van to go down to St. Luke's. These strong backs don't need to go to St. Luke's as there is plenty of help to unload there. There will be sign-up sheets outside the Church on Sundays, or contact Tamera at 562-301-6800 or [tlbenedict4@gmail.com](mailto:tlbenedict4@gmail.com).

**Roamin' Gregorians March Outing:** The Roamin' Gregorians are planning an outing to the Reagan Library in Simi Valley scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> to see the Dead Sea Scrolls from 8:30 AM to approximately 4:30 PM. Ticket prices are \$29.95 for adults, \$26.95 for Seniors \$22.95 for Youth 11-17, and \$19.95 for children ages 3-10. Children ages 2 and under are free. We plan to carpool, so please respond to either Susan or John by March 6<sup>th</sup>. More information will be forthcoming. If you are interested or have questions, contact Susan Mora at (310) 894-0731 or John Mora at (562) 577-7562.

**Wildfire Relief:** Those wishing to help provide relief from the Los Angeles fires can make donations to one of the following:

Episcopal Relief and Development, the relief agency of the Episcopal Church, provides funds to help in disaster relief and recovery. They have established a "Wildfire Response Fund" to provide help with the Los Angeles fires. You can make a donation at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/give/donate-now/individual-donation/>

One Heart & One Spirit Annual Appeal is a relief fund established by the Diocese of Los Angeles. Currently, all money donated to the One Heart & One Spirit Annual Appeal will go

to help parishes and families affected by the fires. You can make a donation at <https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/>

If you are not comfortable making donations online, you can make a donation to the St. Gregory's Rector's Discretionary Fund and the money will be sent to one of the above causes. Make checks payable to "St. Gregory's Episcopal Church" and put "Rector's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line. Then give the check directly to Fr. Michael and he will take care of the rest.

Thank you for your generosity.

**Altar Flower Donations:** Need a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or friend? Make a flower donation. There is a flower donation chart located on the Narthex wall that you can use to sign up for special dates to donate altar flowers. Simply fill out a donation form attached to the bottom of the chart and return the form to the Parish Office. Payment for flowers can be made by check or online at <https://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2>. Make sure you specify your donation is for Altar Flowers. The Altar Guild thanks you.

**Episcopal News Updates:** The Diocese provides weekly email updates to help you keep informed about what's happening all over our six-county diocese. If you want to receive the Episcopal News, visit <https://diocesela.org/episcopal-news/contact/> and enter your email address in the box provided.

**Feed My Lambs and Food Bank:** THANK YOU for your generosity and your donations. Here's the latest news on our parish feeding programs.

- **Feed My Lambs PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE CHANGED THE EGG & COOKIE DROP OFF DAYS.**
  - Feed My Lambs relies on your financial support and appreciates all donations. **WE ARE IN NEED OF YOUR USED PLASTIC GROCERY SACKS.** We use them to pack the lunches, so they need to be clean and in good repair, please.
  - Every month we need: **120 HARDBOILED EGGS; 500 HOMEMADE COOKIES**
  - **Homemade cookies** can be brought to church on any Sunday, in ziplock freezer bags, labeled "Feed My Lambs" to the kitchen.
  - **Hard Boiled Eggs** can be brought to church on any Sunday, in a container labeled "Feed My Lambs" to the kitchen.
  - **Wednesday, April 2 from 9:00 AM to Noon** you can deliver to the office:
    - Hardboiled eggs
    - Homemade Cookies
  - **Friday, April 4 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM** you can deliver to the kitchen:
    - Hardboiled Eggs
  - **Our Guests always need white athletic socks and belts!** Which you can put in the Feed My Lambs bin outside the church on any Sunday.
  - **Volunteers** – If you are interested in helping out Feed My Lambs, contact Tamera Benedict at ([tlbenedict4@gmail.com](mailto:tlbenedict4@gmail.com), 562.301.6800).
- **Food Bank** The Food Bank relies on your financial support and appreciates all donations of funds or non-perishable food items. We also can use more volunteers at:

- bagging and distribution the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month from 8:30 to 11:00 AM
- any other time you may have available and could assist with assembling our bags (e.g. on Sunday before or after service, or any time the office is open for access)

Please contact Kevin in the Parish Office ([info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com), 562.420.1311) or Bill Eldon ([billedon@gmail.com](mailto:billedon@gmail.com), 562.234.9920) for more information about the Food Bank.

**Food Bank Business Cards!** Help get the word out about the Food Bank by giving a card to someone in need. You'll find a stack on the table in the Narthex. Please take a few to distribute and help advertise this valuable ministry.

Your continued support of our feeding ministries, through product and monetary contributions, is greatly appreciated!

**Gratitude for Your Support of the Parish:** We continue to be humbled and so incredibly grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish and its ministries! While you may not be able to drop your donation in a real offering plate, there are still ways you can make sure your donation gets to the parish:

- You can mail your check to the parish office.
- Make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at <http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/>.
- Scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

**Parish Directory:** Our online parish directory is at <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>. This is a secure site and can be accessed using the email address you had published in the parish directory. You can also download the "Instant Church Directory" on your smart phone. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, iPad, and Kindle.

**One Body & One Spirit Annual Appeal:** The Diocese has established an ongoing campaign focused on raising funds to assist congregations, schools, affiliated institutions, and their communities who are faced with unprecedented challenges. We are invited to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in our Diocese who may have unmet needs. More information is available at <https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/>.

**Forward Day By Day:** For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions and need the newest edition mailed, please contact Kevin at 562-420-1311 or [info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com).

**In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest!** In the event of a hospital stay, illness, death in the family, or other pastoral emergency, please call Father Michael on his cell phone (909-373-6478) any day except Monday, his Sabbath day. Mother Sharon (562-833-3393) covers emergencies on Mondays. And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother us. That's why we are here – for YOU!

## ***PRAYER LIST***

Lydia Gibbs, Suzan Laverty, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, Patrick McDonough, Mike Laverty, Michael S., Barbara Smuck, Mother Beryl, Eric Graham, Walt Gupton, Scott Morgan, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Harold Peacock, Heather Simundson, Rudy Revell, Jared Baker, Kimberly Bouzguenda, Shannon Romano, Ralph Tesla, Danny Kimball, Betty Lang, Anne Cantrell, Karen McDonough, Kathy Stein, Matt Burger, David Feit-Pretzer, Kathy Edwards, Darlene Feit-Pretzer, Keeley Gilmore, Betty Peacock, Maria White, Anita, Laura Mae Harper, Elizabeth Laursen, Dan Tyler, Eric Kela, Dodie Martin, Savannah Jimenez, Martha Wong, Joanne Paine, Jonah Culbert, Lois Woolverton, Carlos Cruz, Alexis Cattivera and Family, Sean Wood, Marina Tesla, Barbara Cleantis, Jim Perreten, Cheryl Rodi, Nancy Luebben, Diane Duacsek

*Note: Unless we are aware of on-going concerns, names only stay on the Parish Prayer List for a month. If names need to be re-added, please notify the Parish Office.*

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Texts of Sunday sermons are available on our parish website, at  
<http://stgregoryschurch.com/sermons-archive/>

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# ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815  
562-420-1311 [WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM](http://WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM)

## **WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!**

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions. Many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

## **ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT**

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

To worship and glorify God  
To transform faith into action  
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend John H. Taylor  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector  
[rector@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:rector@stgregoryschurch.com)

The Reverend Sharon K. Sheffield, Associate Priest  
[associate@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:associate@stgregoryschurch.com)

David York, Music Director & Organist  
[york1635@aol.com](mailto:york1635@aol.com)

Kevin Wood, Parish Administrator  
[info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com)

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Tuesday – Friday