

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

Grace Episcopal Church

March 15, 2026

## The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

*Ricercar*

Jan Sweelinck  
(1562-1621)

Opening Hymn 144 Lord Jesus, Sun of Righteousness

1 Lord Jesus, Sun of Righteousness,  
shin in our hearts, we pray;  
dispel the gloom that shades our minds  
and be to us as day.

2 Give guidance to our wandering ways,  
forgive us, Lord, our sin;  
restore us by your loving care  
to peace and joy within.

3 Lord, grant that we in penitence  
may offer you our praise,  
and through your saving sacrifice  
receive your gift of grace.

4 Now nearer draws the day of days  
when paradise shall bloom,  
when we shall be at one with you,  
Lord, risen from the tomb.

5 The universe your glory shows,  
blest Father, Spirit, Son;  
we shall acclaim your majesty,  
eternal Three in One.

### The Opening Acclamation

*Priest* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* God's mercy endures for ever.

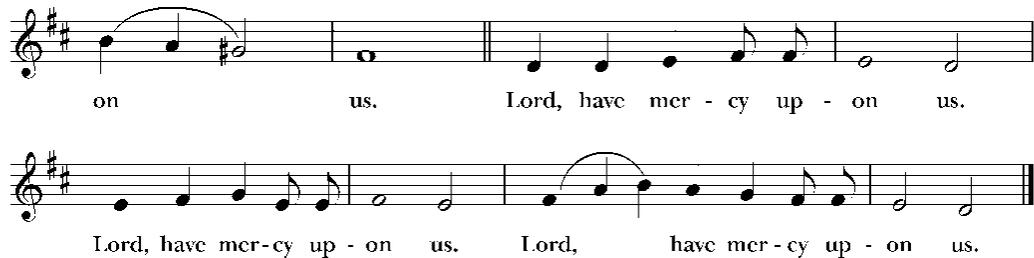
### The Collect for Purity

*An ancient prayer for centering ourselves at the beginning of the service.*

**All** 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.

### Kyrie eleison S 91:

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

## The Collect of the Day

*The prayer of each Sunday, which 'collects' or summarizes the theme of the liturgy this week.*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us pray.

*Priest* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Readings

*All may sit.*

### The First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*This reading is generally from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament), which were the Scriptures of Jesus' time. They remain sacred to us today.*

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.

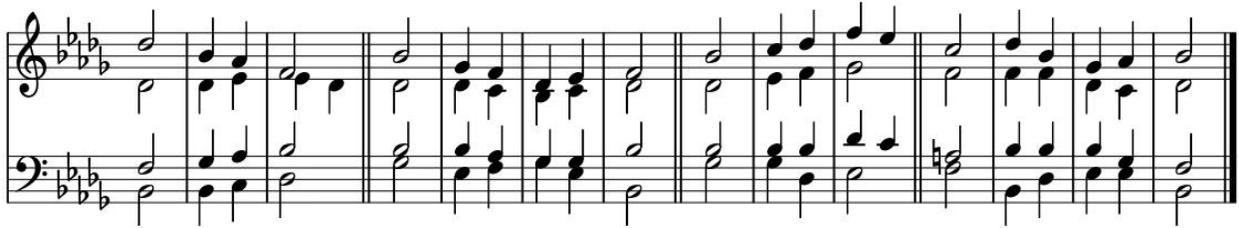
*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23***Dominus regit me*

*The psalms are a collection of poetic prayers that can be sung. They were likely used liturgically in ancient Israel, certainly in the time of Jesus.*

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)



- 1 The <sup>1</sup>LORD is my <sup>1</sup>shepherd; \*  
I <sup>1</sup>shall not <sup>1</sup>be in <sup>1</sup>want.
- 2 He makes me lie <sup>1</sup>down in green <sup>1</sup>pastures \*  
and <sup>1</sup>leads me be- <sup>1</sup>side still <sup>1</sup>waters.
- 3 He re- <sup>1</sup>vives my <sup>1</sup>soul \*  
and guides me along right <sup>1</sup>pathways <sup>1</sup>for his <sup>1</sup>Name's <sup>1</sup>sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall <sup>1</sup>fear no <sup>1</sup>evil; \*  
for you are with me; your <sup>1</sup>rod and your <sup>1</sup>staff, they <sup>1</sup>comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of <sup>1</sup>those who <sup>1</sup>trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my <sup>1</sup>cup is <sup>1</sup>running <sup>1</sup>over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the <sup>1</sup>days of my <sup>1</sup>life, \*  
and I will dwell in the <sup>1</sup>house of the <sup>1</sup>LORD for <sup>1</sup>ever.

**The Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-14**

*This reading is typically from the New Testament letters of the apostles.*

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.”

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*All may stand.*

**Sequence Hymn** 671 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

*A sequence is a chant or hymn sung or recited during the liturgy, often before the proclamation of the Gospel.*

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

4 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

### **The Gospel: John 9:1-41**

*This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John), which are biographies in the ancient tradition. They are not comprehensive accounts of Jesus' life, but rather describe moments, encounters, and events which support the Christian belief that Jesus is the Messiah. We stand for the Gospel reading as a sign of respect. Other readings are read from the lectern; the Gospel is proclaimed among the people.*

*Gospeler*    The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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.”

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

*All may sit.*

### **The Sermon**

*A message usually based on the readings and their relevancy to life today.*

*All may stand.*

### **The Nicene Creed**

*Creed comes from the Latin ‘Credo’, ‘I believe.’, The Nicene Creed was created in the formative years of the Church, to be a symbol of common faith. It pertains to the Holy Trinity – a core belief which distinguishes Christianity from other faith traditions.*

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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

## The Prayers of the People

Form VI (BCP, p.392)

*The community of the Church is called to pray in Christ's name for the needs of the world. Standing for the Prayers is a sign of our calling to be a corporate priestly community (the priesthood of all believers), praying for those needs.*

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work; *For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world; *For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation; *For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; *For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; *For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the truth.*

For *N.* our Presiding Bishop, *N. (N.)* our Bishop(s); for all clergy and people; *For all who serve God in God's church.*

For the special needs and concerns of our congregation.

*(Silence)*

Hear us, Lord;  
*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*(Silence)*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, . . . that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*(Silence)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*Who put their trust in you.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Leader and People*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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.*

## The Peace

*The Peace is meant as an encounter with Christ in others, and a reconciliation with one another and with ourselves in anticipation of the kingdom of God.*

*Priest*    The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*    **And also with you.**

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

*All may sit.*

### Greeting

## The Holy Communion

### Offertory Anthem

*The Lord is my shepherd*  
Grace Church Youth Choir  
Arianne Abela, conductor

Howard Goodall  
(b. 1959)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
For you are with me, you will comfort me.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### Offertory Hymn 309 O Food to pilgrims given

*At the Offertory, bread and wine are carried to the Altar, together with our gifts of money for the work of the Church. These gifts represent all God's gifts to us, as well as our gift to God.*

1. O Food to pilgrims given,  
O Bread of life from heaven,  
O Manna from on high!  
We hunger; Lord, supply us,  
nor thy delights deny us,  
whose hearts to thee draw nigh.

2. O stream of love past telling,  
O purest fountain, welling  
from out the Savior's side!  
We faint with thirst; revive us,  
of thine abundance give us,  
and all we need provide.

3. O Jesus, by thee bidden,  
we here adore thee, hidden  
in forms of bread and wine.  
Grant when the veil is riven,  
we may behold, in heaven,  
thy countenance divine.

### The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A (BCP, p.361)

*This is the prayer of blessing over the bread and wine, based on Jewish table prayers. It begins with the priest inviting the people to join giving thanks, since the whole congregation are together "celebrants."*

*The People remain standing.*

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with lyrics: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with lyrics: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff is for the People, with lyrics: "It is right to give him thanks and praise." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

*Priest* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. . . . 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 S 114**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of  
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -  
 - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

*The Celebrant continues*

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:

*Celebrant and People:*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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.

*People:* **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. This prayer is common to all Christians.*

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

*People and Priest*

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

*This is a sign that the bread is to be shared by all.*

*Priest:* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*People:* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

## Fraction Anthem S 158

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -  
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of God, that  
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have  
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of  
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

### **The Communion of the People**

*All who seek God, and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at his table. If you do not wish to receive Communion, but desire a blessing from the priest, simply cross your arms across your chest to indicate this, and the priest will say a prayer of blessing over you. If you require a gluten-free communion wafer, please go to one of the Communion stations at the front of the church. Wine may be consumed from the chalice. Intinction, the dipping of the bread into the wine, is NOT allowed.*

### **Communion Hymn 141** Wilt thou forgive that sin, where I begun

1. Wilt thou forgive that sin, where I begun,  
which is my sin, though it were done before?  
Wilt thou forgive those sins through which I run,  
and do run still, though still I do deplore?  
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,  
for I have more.

2. Wilt thou forgive that sin, by which I won  
others to sin, and made my sin their door?  
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun  
a year or two, but wallowed in a score?  
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,  
for I have more.

3. I have a sin of fear that when I've spun  
my last thread, I shall perish on the shore;  
swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son  
shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore.  
And having done that, thou hast done,  
I fear no more.

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

*This prayer gives thanks for the gift of Communion, that it may bear fruit in daily life.*

*All* 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.

### **The Blessing**

*The traditional ending of the service. We are reminded that God is with us and empowering us.*

### **Recessional Hymn 339** Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

1 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,  
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,  
come into the daylight's splendor,  
there with joy thy praises render  
unto him whose grace unbounded  
hath this wondrous banquet founded;  
high o'er all the heavens he reigneth,  
yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.

2 Sun, who all my life dost brighten;  
Light, who dost my soul enlighten;  
Joy, the best that any knoweth;

Fount, whence all my being floweth:  
at thy feet I cry, my Maker,  
let me be a fit partaker  
of this blessed food from heaven,  
for our good, thy glory, given.

3 Jesus, Bread of life, I pray thee,  
let me gladly here obey thee;  
never to my hurt invited,  
be thy love with love requited;  
from this banquet let me measure,  
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;  
through the gifts thou here dost give me,  
as thy guest in heaven receive me.

### **Dismissal**

*At the point of leaving, the Church sends us forth. In Christ's name we are sent out for mission and service in daily life.*

*Deacon*            Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

*Prelude in E minor*

J.S.Bach  
(1685- 1750)

### **Serving at the Altar Today**

|          |                       |                                 |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8:00 am  | Celebrant & Preacher  | The Rev. Thomas N. J. Synan     |
|          | Deacon                | The Rev. Rebecca Grant          |
|          | Lectors               | Eve Webster, Patrick Kelly      |
|          | Eucharistic Ministers | Kent Faerber                    |
|          | Ushers                | Carlton Pickron, Brenda Aldrich |
| 10:30 am | Celebrant             | The Rev. Susan Schaeffer        |
|          | Preacher              | The Rev. Thomas N. J. Synan     |
|          | Deacon                | The Rev. Rebecca Grant          |
|          | Lectors               | Marsha Hertel, Ed LeSage        |
|          | Eucharistic Ministers | Karen DeSantis, Sarah Boy       |
|          | Bell                  | Nancy Lowry                     |
|          | Ushers                | Lucy & John Robinson            |

### **Please remember in your prayers**

***For strength and healing:*** Jim Mead, Jane Kirkman-Smith, Laura Smith-Martin, Nancy Boyd, Don Allison, Chris O'Carroll, Michael Erard, Lisa, Emrys Bond, Leo, Mia, Trish Callard, Rick Read, Joan Dunn, Cherie Feeley, Gretchen Gerzina, Laura Klock, Meg Kelsey Wright, Robin, Scottie Faerber, Carl Miller, Lauren & Stephen, Greta, Sara Stelzner, Jon Zobel, Jona Hammer, Kay Gregory, Nancy Rose, Norah, Roberta Olsen, Ramona & Warren Hebert, Paul Pesenti, Carla Shanahan, Loy Harris, Mary Sidney Treyz, Wally Rodriguez, Roberta & Dennis Kirby, Anne Neely, Peter, Alan Musgrave, Penny Lane, Stephen Dogero, Doug Adler, Chris & Deanne Riddle, Patricia Tillona, Pam Wilkinson, Carmen Lee, Maida, Amy, Steve, Kenneth Page, Tim Callard, Castor Moss, Marion, Cyndee & Dennis Grader, Reynolds Winslow, Annmargret Wobst Wille, Joey Baker, Jane Pemberton, Michael Baker

***For the repose of the soul of*** Cara Crandall, Natalie Graves, Bob Moran, The Rt. Rev. Andrew Watson, Nancy Burns, Sophie Gergley

***For all those having birthdays this week including*** Amelia Mead, Donovan N. Smith, Hosanna Lillydahl-Schroeder, Fiona Lowry, Virginia Durnford, Marion Williams, Melanie Freitag, Nate Brown

***For*** Natalia Wobst for the work she is doing through St Jude's Hospital in Eastern Europe

***For peace with justice in Ukraine, Palestine and Israel.***

***For our partners in Haiti:*** St. Matthieu, Bayonnais—its priest, teachers, students and their families

***For our partners at the Episcopal Technical & Vocational Training Center in Ramallah, Palestine***

***According to the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:*** St. Luke's, Worcester; Chancellor of our Diocese, Donald Allison

***According to the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:*** The Anglican Church of Kenya

*Please note that names are removed from the prayer list after one month unless you specify otherwise*

## Parish Announcements March 15, 2026

### **Lenten Book Series: *The Rule of Saint Benedict* A Rule for all Christians**

Sundays at 9:15am February 22nd - March 22nd in the Fireplace Room

From the time it was first written in the sixth century, the Rule of St. Benedict has been one of the most influential, enduring documents of Western civilization. Composed for the guidance of his own monks at Monte Cassino, St. Benedict's Rule has become the basis for the rules of practically every Christian monastic community in the West. It is an excellent guide for living the spiritual life - through work, prayer, study, obedience, community life, and moderate asceticism. The spirit of the Rule is summed up in the motto of the Benedictine Confederation: pax (peace) and the traditional ora et labora (pray and work). It provides a moderate path between individual zeal and formulaic institutionalism; because of this middle ground, it has been very popular.

### **Adult Confirmation Class**

#### **Sundays & Wednesdays March 15th, 25th, April 8th, and April 12th**

Bishop Doug Fisher will visit Grace Church on Sunday, April 19th. In preparation for this occasion, there will be a 4 week course offered for anyone who is interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. Confirmation is for anyone who desires to make a mature affirmation of one's beliefs in the presence of a bishop. Reception is for anyone who has been confirmed in another tradition but who now desires to be received into the Episcopal Church.

Explore the mystery of God and discuss Episcopal Beliefs and Practices. This course is open to all. Share your beliefs, thoughts, concerns, and even doubts. There are no questions that cannot be asked. This course will be led by Tom and Rebecca. For further information, please call the church office at 413-256-6754 or email [tsynan@gracechurchamherst.org](mailto:tsynan@gracechurchamherst.org). Two sessions will be in-person on Sundays after the 10:30 service, and two will be via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm:

**Sunday, March 15th, following the 10:30 service in-person in the Fireplace Room; Wednesday, March 25th, at 6:30pm via Zoom; Wednesday, April 8th, at 6:30pm via Zoom; Sunday, April 12th, following the 10:30 service in-person.**

### **Garden Ministry**

The Grace Garden Ministry needs volunteers to load garden debris on **Saturday March 21st and 28th**.

We will meet at 9am by the re door on Spring St. We will finish at 11:AM. By doing this work ourselves, we are saving over \$900 from our budget. Please let Sara Liberty-Laylin know your availability . Contact her at: [p.laylin@comcast.net](mailto:p.laylin@comcast.net). We thank you!

### **Sign Up for the All-night Vigil**

It is a tradition at Grace that a vigil is kept in the chapel throughout the night, immediately following the Maundy Thursday 7pm service, April 2nd, which concludes at 9am the morning of Good Friday. Participants are asked to sign up for a one hour slot (ideally at least two people per time slot). The sign up sheet is in the back of the church next to the prayer request binder. *Could you not stay awake with me one hour? (Matthew 26:40b)*

### **Egg Hunt Hunts + Donations**

Once again, following our Easter Sunday services on April 5th, we will have egg hunts for children in the Garth (weather permitting). The week before Holy Week and during Holy Week, parishioners are welcome to drop off Easter eggs, plastic or dyed, at the church for this fun activity.

### **Knitters Unite**

People are making red knit hats with a tassel, which was a form of protest in Norway during World War II. If you would like to knit a hat, please contact Mary Ellen Shaughan [meshaughan@yahoo.com](mailto:meshaughan@yahoo.com).

### **Are you interested in being baptized, or know someone who is?**

Along with Holy Communion, Holy Baptism is one of the two great sacraments given by Christ to the Church. We acknowledge one Baptism, which means Baptism in the name of the Trinity is performed once in a person's life and is recognized regardless of where or how it took place. If you have not been baptized or you are not sure whether you were baptized, and would like to know more, please contact the church office or speak with the Rector. We would be happy to talk with you about this holy sacrament.

### **Gifts to Grace**

When making a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) gift to Grace Church, please ensure your fund provider includes your name and the intended purpose of the donation (e.g., Pledge, Haiti, Outreach) with the distribution. This helps us ensure your gift is properly acknowledged and applied. Thanks, Jaana

### **The Grace Church Stewardship campaign for 2026**

To date 144 pledges have come in totaling \$539,582 – most encouraging, we have 5 new pledges. We are off to a good start. To those who have pledged God bless, to those who have yet to pledge please pray and pledge so our Vestry can budget for 2026. If you need a pledge card, they are available as you enter the church or you can contact the office (413) 256-6754.

### **Publicity for your Event?**

Please let the Communications Committee know if you need help with your event. Please fill out this form:

<https://www.gracechurchamherst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Request-for-Event-Publicity-Form-2023.pdf>, also located on the "Outreach" page of the church website. The committee requests at least 6 weeks notice. Please forward questions to Patrick Kelly or Sarah Chadwick.

### **Coffee Hour**

The hospitality committee keeps a small supply of treats on hand but this often is not enough. Won't you please be so kind as to donate a baked good for all to enjoy? Coffee cakes, quick breads, muffins, or bagels are always appreciated as well as other baked goods. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. Please see Sarah Chadwick if you have questions or want to help out further.

### **You are welcome!**

We want you to know that you are welcome here. If you are new to Grace Church please reach out, because we are here to invite, embrace, and welcome you into our community. Whether you are:

- New to the area
- New to our church (and perhaps new to the Episcopal faith)
- A longtime resident in search of connection and community
- Part of the LGBTQ community and are looking for a spiritual home where you are welcomed and affirmed
- A New Student, looking for a place of safety and comfort during your time studying here
- A Mom or Dad of a student and want a place that will support your child while they live and study here

We are here for you. Please fill out a blue Card, and reach out to someone wearing a WELCOME badge and come back **AGAIN!**

**Ascentria Care Alliance** is putting together a list of volunteers should they need assistance regarding the immigrant community they serve and who we have supported with our clothing drives. If activated, supporters may help with things like:

- Supporting families with daily needs such as food delivery or transportation
- Helping reduce isolation and anxiety through check-ins and accompaniment

If you're interested in being part of this rapid-response supporter list, please sign up at [https://ascentriacarealliance.formstack.com/forms/crisis\\_volunteer\\_response](https://ascentriacarealliance.formstack.com/forms/crisis_volunteer_response)

### **Save the Date**

#### **Fourth Sunday, March 22**

Because Easter falls on the weekend after the fourth Sunday of March there will be no special fourth Sunday offering recipient this month. The next fourth Sunday offering recipient will be on April 25th.

#### **Joy of Living Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m., 2nd and 4th Mondays**

This group combines meditation, practices integrated in the flow of life, and discussion. **Next meeting, in the Connector: March 23, 2026**

#### **Visit Maryland with the Haiti Ministry**

Would you like to visit the DC area this spring? A few members of the Grace in Haiti committee are going to Indian Head, MD for 3 days with our partners at St James' Episcopal Church. We'll go down **Friday, May 15 and return Sunday or Monday, May 17 or 18**, for a weekend of fellowship as we work together to support St. Matthew's School in Bayonnais, Haiti. Our partners there will house and feed us, and a good time is always had by all. If you'd like to know more and/or get involved, please contact Laura Klock at 413 374-9397 or [laklock@music.umass.edu](mailto:laklock@music.umass.edu)

## **2026 Holy Week**

### **March 29--Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist (begin at the Parish Hall and process to the Church)

**March 30--Monday** 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist

**March 31--Tuesday** 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist

### **April 1--Wednesday**

12:10 pm Holy Eucharist (Rite I) with Healing;  
7:00 pm Tenebrae

### *The Paschal Triduum (the Sacred Three Days)*

#### **April 2--Maundy Thursday**

7:00 pm Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist of the Last Supper; Stripping of the Altar.  
All-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)

#### **April 3--Good Friday**

4:00 pm Children's Stations of the Cross (Church and Town Common)  
7:00 pm Liturgy of the Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ

#### **April 4--Holy Saturday/The Great Vigil of Easter**

9:00 am Liturgy of Holy Saturday  
8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter, Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and  
The Feast of the Resurrection (begins outside, in the Columbarium. All are welcome to bring bells to ring at the Gloria)

## April 5--Easter Sunday

8:00 am & 10:30 am The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
Easter egg hunt for children following both services

### **Ora et Labora: An Invitation this Lent to get more involved**

*Ora et Labora* – this centuries –old phrase, meaning “pray and work,” is rooted in Christian tradition. It originated from St. Benedict of Nursia (circa 480-547) as a guiding principle for monastic life, but it is applicable for all Christians. It challenges us to think about a life fully dedicated to inviting God into every aspect. St. Paul speaks to this kind of commitment in Colossians 3:17: “*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*”

The principle of *ora et labora* provides a guide:

- Sanctify work
- Sanctify time
- Balance work and prayer
- Live out love
- Be mindful of others
- Find rhythm in life

This Lent all are invited to take on this spiritual practice. To support one another, we will list opportunities and ways for you to get involved at Grace Church – simple tasks to help in the ministries of the parish. Please join us in sanctifying work and time and finding the blessed balance of *Ora et Labora*.

### **Outreach Ministries**

#### *Amherst Survival Center*

The Amherst Survival Center serves more than 10,000 people in our community every year, providing prepared meals, a food pantry, fresh food distribution, food deliveries, and a variety of other support services and programs. Volunteers are crucial to the Center’s operation. Here are some ways you can help:

- Volunteer to work at the Center: volunteers help to prepare and serve meals, unload deliveries of donations from area stores and set up fresh food distribution, stock pantry shelves and help participants with pantry shopping, prepare food packages for deliveries, and many other tasks. To learn more and to sign up for a volunteer orientation, please go to the web site <https://amherstsurvival.org/volunteer/>
- Become a Neighborhood Food Coordinator who recruits a group of “neighbors” to donate food, and collects the donations and delivers them to the Center every other month. To learn more about becoming a coordinator, please go to the web site <https://amherstsurvival.org/nfp/>
- Collect food donations gathered at Grace Church and deliver them to the Center.
- For more information please contact Patrick Kelly ([spellkelly@icloud.com](mailto:spellkelly@icloud.com)).

**Garden Ministry** is looking for help with various tasks including:

- The Garden Sale is May 9th but we are seeking items for the sale during Lent. Please bring garden decor and smallish patio items in good condition to the undercroft tables (There is a sign designating Garden Sale).
- Work Outdoors on March 21st and 28th in the Garth area loading up garden debris. Meet on the Spring Street pink door at 9:00 and wear work gloves.

Contact Sara Liberty-Laylin at [p.laylin@comcast.net](mailto:p.laylin@comcast.net).

**St. Nicholas Bazaar** could use a few people to take a box or two of bazaar leftovers to the Salvation Army or Goodwill. Contact Joan O’Brien at [jobrien82@gmail.com](mailto:jobrien82@gmail.com).

**Mutual Care Committee** is looking for of people willing to send cards and to check up on people.

Also a list of people to include in a Meal Train invitation when meals are requested. Meal Train is a self-scheduling way to sign up for meals. There's no pressure to sign up if invited. It's just a way to get the word out. Contact Gail Gnatek at [ggnatek@gmail.com](mailto:ggnatek@gmail.com).

### **Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee publicizes Grace Church happenings. We work with our Parish Administrator to arrange Church website content, post events on social media and online calendars, and create event flyers and signs. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Taking photos at Church events

- Designing graphics for flyers, signs, and social media posts

For more information please contact Sarah Chadwick ([snochadwick@verizon.net](mailto:schadwick@verizon.net)) or Patrick Kelly ([spellkelly@icloud.com](mailto:spellkelly@icloud.com)).