



THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 and 10:30 am • March 15, 2026

ABBREVIATIONS: **BCP** Book of Common Prayer | **CG** A Child's Guide to the Holy Eucharist | **LEVAS II** Lift Every Voice and Sing II | **WLP** Wonder, Love and Praise | **EOW** Enriching our Worship

THE PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele

Gerald Near

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

382. King of glory, King of peace

General Seminary

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

BCP 351

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures forever.**

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.

KYRIE ELEISON

8:30 Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

10:30 S 90, John Merbecke

THE WORD OF GOD

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S HOMILY (10:30)

After the Children's Moment, the children aged 3–11 are invited to process out for Christian Formation time in Curry Hall, Room 201. They will return at the Peace.

THE FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

Dominus regit me

We will recite the psalm responsively by half verse, breaking at the asterisk.

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN

671. Amazing Grace

New Britain

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glorify to you, Lord Christ.**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled

him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. George Black

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358 | CG 9

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant Caring and Loving Jesus, we offer our petitions to you during this Lenten season, that our spirits may know relief from stress and anguish. Help us to release our fears, our worries, our busy-ness so we can focus on you. Ease our tensions and replenish our bodies. Silence the voices of doubt so we can hear your words of truth. Remove the heaviness of our day so your love can pour out abundantly into our lives. Fill us with your peace, joy and love.

Create in us clean hearts, oh Lord, and put a right spirit in us.

God of the Wilderness and the Way, God of Egypt and the Promised Land, and God of the desert in between, here we are again on the Lenten Road. We trust we are not alone because you walk with us on this path. We long for your leadership, protection, provision, and strength.

Create in us clean hearts, oh Lord, and put a right spirit in us.

Loving God, we thank you for the beauty of our earth, your creation. Even as we

are in the midst of the darkness of winter, we know Light will come again. Guide us to act in ways that preserve and keep our Earthly home as a holy place for all living things. Let the wilderness teach us, and refine us so that we can open our eyes to the world as you see it.

Hear us, Dear Lord, as we know only you can guide us and restore us.

Gracious and Welcoming God, we live in a world where relationships are increasingly complicated. Help us to remember that all people, regardless of circumstance, are created in your image. We all have inherent worth and blessings to share. Give us grace to create welcoming spaces for all. Help us to remember that we, too, are worthy of your love, for we are one of your precious creations.

Hear us, Dear Lord, for we know only you can guide us and restore us.

We pray for first responders, law enforcement officers, doctors, government workers, health professionals, active military, including Will and Peter who are deployed in this time of conflict, and all who seek to serve your people and that they take action with compassion for the good of your people.

We pray for gig and hourly workers who must work despite dangerous conditions. Give them focus and strength to meet the challenges of their work.

We pray for the youth and young people of our community who carry anxieties about their academic pressure, their safety, their future, and the many expectations placed upon them. In a world where the threat of violence feels close and perpetual, grant them your protection and peace. Surround them with caring adults and faithful friends in this community. Bless especially those who are undertaking the preparation for Confirmation, and fill them with your Holy Spirit as they claim your promises as their own.

Hear us, Dear Lord, for we know your mercy can save us.

God of Steadfast Love, be with all who are troubled in any way in mind, body, and spirit. Help them to feel your presence and know that they are not alone in their time of need. In our church family, we pray especially for Alice, Betty, Bill, Brenda, Chuck, Diane, Eva, Jan, Jane, Liz, Maxine, Nancy, Nancy, Remmy, Rick, Shari, Tom, Barry, Alison, Peggy, Bear, and Mary. And our family and friends, especially Andrea, Barb, Caline, Danielle, Denise, Evonne, Gemma, Ginger, Allen, Caden, Crew, Hannah, Harold, Heather, Irina, Joelle, John, Joseph, Kate, Keili, Leeann, Lois, Lori, Moira, Peter, Renee, Rosalie, Roy, Sandy, Sandy, Sara, Sarah, Shannon, Shannon, Stephanie, Tim, Wendy, Will, and James.

Hear us, Dear Lord, for we know your mercy can save us.

Compassionate God, we pray for all loved ones who have died, especially Sarah Lou Kiser (sister of Peggy Wade), John Hanst, RosaLee Blake, and Paula Floyd. May light perpetual shine upon them and may they find eternal peace in your kingdom. Restore us all to wholeness through your Love.

Hear us, Dear Lord, for we know your mercy can save us.

Celebrant God of Truth and Mercy, give us strength to name what is broken; to confront injustice with unwavering love. Let our Lenten fasting be a fast from indifference so that our prayers rise not only in words, but in action, in solidarity and in love. Let us be Bearers of Hope, Sowers of Peace and Transformers of the World. Holy One, we trust in your promise that the wilderness of Lent leads to the Glory of Resurrection. In all things we give thanks to you and to your son Jesus.

Amen.

THE PEACE

THE HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

Chorale Prelude on St Columba

Healey Willan

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

380. Doxology (*vs 3 only*)

Old 100th

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

SANCTUS

8:30 BCP 362

10:30 S 114

Healey Willan

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Traditional Version

BCP 364 | CG 45

THE FRACTION

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

THE COMMUNION HYMN

337. And now, O Father

Untie et memores

THE SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body,
because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 366 | CG 27

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE FINAL HYMN

541. Come, Labor On

Ora Labora

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the People, and the People respond

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Fugue in F Minor (BWV 534)

Johann Sebastian Bach

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The art accompanying the Stations of the Cross has been graciously provided by the Inter-Latin American Artist Collective (ILAAC). They have selected art that reflects the immigrant experience in America in conversation with the Via Dolorosa, a path walked by Jesus Christ during his last days. You are invited to join us on Thursdays at noon to pray the stations or just reflect on the different pieces during our worship on Sunday mornings. The artists will join us for a reception on Easter where they will share a little about their art, their group, and also make some of their art available for sale for those who may be interested.

PRAYER TREE

Our Stand Up, Speak Out team is creating a prayer tree for our sanctuary this Lenten season. You may have noticed it this past Sunday. I invite you to write your own prayers, worries, and fears in this season of heightened anxiety and join them to our collective prayers for a better and calmer world, at home and abroad. There are pens and paper leaves in the sanctuary, and if you have a prayer you can't quite put into words, please join in and place a leaf on the tree anyway. God hears all our prayers, especially those we cannot say. We will collect these prayers through the Easter Vigil, when they will form part of that vigil liturgy and the lighting of the New Fire, symbolizing the rekindling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.





CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY VESTRY 2026

Wardens Hannah Harris (Senior), Sam Wesonga (Junior), and
Jim Ingram (Junior)

Members Emily Jividen, Yvette Smith, Robert Joines, Lillis Ward,
Scott Beaver, Randy R. Smith

Officers Bill Sena (Treasurer), Susan Kelley (Registrar)





QUICK LINKS

Scan this QR code to fill out
a welcome card, give online,
and more.

We thank the following people for their service today:

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Grey Maggiano
PREACHER	The Rev. George Black
Musicians (10:30)	Eddie Abernathy and the Nativity Choir
Lectors (8:30)	Dee Wallis, Cindy Schreiner
(10:30)	Becky Christian, Kyle West, Waltje Rasulala
Eucharistic Ministers (8:30)	Helen Armstrong
(10:30)	Ellen and David Nason
Crucifer (10:30)	David Nason
Torches (10:30)	Morgan Smith, Beatrice Tarry
Banner (10:30)	Owen McKimmon
Children's Formation (10:30)	Emily Jividen, Emily Gorman
Livestream Technician (10:30)	Alfred Christensen
Altar Guild	Robin Rhaney, Julia Cavalier, Marty Gilbert
Altar Greens	Ailsa Tessier
Vestry Representative	Scott Beaver

Church of the Nativity

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina
8849 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-846-8338

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Grey Maggiano	Rector
The Rev. George Black	Curate
The Rev. Ryan Parker	Priest Associate
Jeremy Clos	Lay Associate for Christian Formation
Christian Schoen	Organist and Choirmaster
Josh Anderson	Lay Associate for Communications and Administration
Monique Holmes	Business Manager
Eva Warren	Nursery Attendant
Robert Krahel	Sexton