

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence. To ensure newcomers feel welcomed, position prompts are provided throughout our bulletins. If standing or kneeling is uncomfortable for you, please know it is fine to remain seated.

Prelude **Herzliebster Jesu, was hast du verbrochen** **H. Walcha (1907-1991)**

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 148, standing **Creator of the earth and skies** **UFFINGHAM**

A Penitential Order: Rite Two, standing **BCP p. 351**

Presider Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Presider Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your 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 commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel as able. A moment of reflective silence is kept.

People **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.**

Please stand as you are able.

Kyrie eleison S-359

D. Beyer

Bells (or Organ) *Cantor* *People*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Cantor *People*

Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Cantor *People*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Collect of the Day, standing

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The First Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to

me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

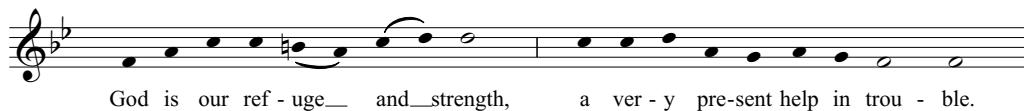
This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations."

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

Psalm 63:1-8 *Deus, Deus meus*

Plainchant Tone II.1

A cantor sings the antiphon at the beginning, then the congregation and choir immediately repeat it, singing it again where indicated; a cantor sings the verses to plainchant.



1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.

3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name. [ANTIPHON]

5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.

7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast. [ANTIPHON]

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

Hymn 488, standing **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart**

SLANE

The Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1-9, standing

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

A quiet time for reflection follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed, *standing*

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.

The Prayers of the People, *standing*

Intercessor: In this holy season of Lent let us turn to God in prayer.
Silence is observed.

Intercessor: For all the holy people of God, that we may heed the God who calls us to
repentance in the events of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

The People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: For this nation and all the nations of the world, that we may live in harmony and
peace, let us pray to the Lord.

The People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: For the enslaved in body, mind or spirit, that God may grant them freedom, let
us pray to the Lord.

The People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: For this community, that during this holy season God's grace may produce in us the fruit God seeks, let us pray to the Lord.

The People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: For our own needs and those of others, especially Jinny Buracchi, Brandon, Connie Cliffe, Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Sherley Fergusson, Jeff Going, Raymond Guarino, Nancy Gould, Erna Jensen, Ken Kezer, Astrid Pensa, Gianna Porcelli, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Janet Schuman-Andrew, Kathe Woodside and those we now name aloud and in the silence of our hearts....that God will not allow us to be tested beyond our strength, let us pray to the Lord.

The People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: For those who have died, that they may have an eternal home in the loving arms of God, let us pray to the Lord.

The People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

The People: **Amen.**

The Peace, *all standing*

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.

Welcome and Announcements, *you may be seated*

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received. Please be seated.

Anthem **Kyrie from Requiem**

G. Faure (1845-1924)

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Presentation, *standing*

The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP p. 369

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 give God thanks and praise.**

Presider God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Presider From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Presider Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Presider And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus S-124

D. Hurd

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel, as the Presider continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
People: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Ancestors: God of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob, Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy things for holy people.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, place your hands across your chest. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

Hymn 574 Before thy throne, O God

ST. PETERSBURG

Prayer after Communion, standing

Presider Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing, standing

Hymn 344, standing Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

As we go forth, we set aside the word "Alleluia" until Easter Day, embracing this season of reflection and renewal.

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Prelude & Fugue in G Minor, BWV 558

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Coffee Hour

You are warmly invited to join us in the Parish Hall for coffee right after the service.

Altar Arrangement

The altar arrangement is done by Lois Blood Bennett and given to the glory of God.

Preparing Our Funeral

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. — Parish Hall

Our interim Pastor Wilbert "Wilk" Miller will lead these classes as participants give thought to their funerals. We will look at how the church is involved when we die and how our funeral service is planned.

March 25

"Writing Our Eulogy"

April 1

Jesus Thinking about His Own Passion

April 8

Jesus Thinking about His Own Death

Thursday Evenings in Lent

(March 27, April 3, & 10)

A Simple Lenten Meal of Soup, Salad, & Bread

5:30 p.m. in the Undercroft

This Lent, step deeper into worship and fellowship! Join us every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the Undercroft for a simple meal of soup, salad, and bread — a time to connect, reflect, and share in community. Bring a friend, make new ones, and nourish both body and soul.

Evening Light: A Journey through Compline & Evensong

6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

March 27

Moonlight & Melody: Jazz Hymns for Nightfall
with featured musicians Phred Mileski and Scott Konrad

April 3

O Radiant Light: A Lenten Evensong
with the St. John's Choir

April 10

Simple Gifts: A Folk-Inspired Compline
with featured musicians Paul Loether

***Tuesday Morning Eucharist in Lent
"Keep Watch, Dear Lord"***

11:15 a.m. — (Immediately following Bible Study)

One of the most beloved evening prayers in the Book of Common Prayer is:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ;
give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for
your love's sake. Amen.

At the 1/2 hour Tuesday morning Eucharist in Lent, we will hear homilies on this prayer.

March 25

(3rd Week of Lent)... "Those Who Sleep"

April 1

(4th Week in Lent)... "Shield the Joyous"

April 8

(5th Sunday in Lent) "The Suffering, Afflicted, & Weary"

April 15

(Tuesday in Holy Week) "The Dying"

A Lenten Disciple of Giving

Bill's Blessing

This Lent, consider practicing generosity by supporting Bill's Blessings, a ministry that provides essential hygiene and household items to those in need. Everyday necessities—like soap, toothpaste, deodorant, and laundry detergent—can be purchased affordably at local dollar stores, Walmart, or Walgreens, where special deals make giving even easier. Larger items, such as paper towels and toilet paper, can be ordered in bulk from Costco or Amazon and shipped directly to St. John's. Your contributions throughout Lent will bring comfort and dignity to those facing hardship.

Donations for Bill's Blessings can be placed downstairs in the Undercroft for distribution to Soup Kitchen guests. For questions, please contact the office or speak with an Usher or connect with Mary Bowers. Thank you for your generosity!

Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries: Westbrook Food Pantry

Each week, St. John's delivers your generous donations to the local Westbrook pantry. Let's keep the momentum going by contributing to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries' current wish list.

They are in need of non-perishable food items like cereal, juice, soup, peanut butter, tuna, canned fruit, canned corn, pasta, pasta sauce, oatmeal, white rice, dried beans, protein bars, and breakfast items. Your generosity makes a difference. Donations for the Westbrook Food Pantry can be placed in the Cross Street hallway where the offices are located. For questions, please contact the office or speak with an Usher at the back of the church. Thank you for your support!

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Wilbert "Wilk" Miller, *Interim Pastor*
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Manuel Matute, *Sexton*
Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS

Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*
Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*
Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*
Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*
Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*
Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*
Nat Eddy, *Outreach Committee*
Jan Perruccio, *Newcomers Committee*

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*
Greg Perruccio, *Stewardship Chair*
John Rogers, *Treasurer*
Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*
Shawn Honan, *Investment Oversight Committee*

VESTRY Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Sandy Loether, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*;
John Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Lois Blood Bennett, Tony Custodio, Nat Eddy,
Wesley Henry, Stephanie Patterson, Patti Pickering, Rob van der Horst, Kevin Walsh

**WORSHIP**

SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

TUESDAYS | Bible Study — 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS | Midweek Holy Eucharist — 12:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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