

*Second Sunday in Lent*  
*Service of Reception in the Episcopal Church*

March 16, 2025

10:00 a.m.



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas J. Fisher, Preaching and Presiding

## ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



**Welcome** in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.*

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection.

*All baptized persons – regardless of denomination or age – are invited to receive the sacrament with us. All are welcome to the Table; even if you choose to not receive, you may wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free bread is provided for those who request it (before the service begins); please be in touch with one of the clergy or ushers to make this request.*

### **ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:**

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**) found in the book racks in the pews. Beginning portions of the liturgy are printed in the bulletin. **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

**HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

**Hymnal 383**

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

**BCP 413**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures for ever.**

There is one Body and one Spirit;

**There is one hope in God's call to us;**

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

**One God and Father of all.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**FIRST READING:** *Genesis 15:1-12,17-18*

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a

smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 27**

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, LORD, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

17 What if I had not believed  
that I should see the goodness of  
the LORD in the land of the living!

18 O tarry and await the LORD's  
pleasure; be strong, and he shall  
comfort your heart;  
wait patiently for the LORD.

**SECOND READING:** *Philippians 3:17-4:1*

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN:**

*The God of Abraham praise*

**Hymnal 401**

**GOSPEL:** *Luke 13:31-35*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**SERMON:**

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher

## PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

BCP 415

Bishop           The Candidates will now be presented.

Sponsor          I present Joy and Steven to be received into this Communion.

Bishop           Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

**Candidates     I do.**

Bishop           Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

**Candidates     I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.**

Bishop           Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

**People          We will.**

Bishop           Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Bishop           Do you believe in God the Father?

**People          I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop           Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People          I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop           Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People          I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Bishop           Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**People          I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?

**People I will, with God's help.**

## **PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES**

Bishop Let us now pray for these persons, who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**People Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

**People Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**People Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

**People Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**People Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

**People Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**People Lord, hear our prayer.**

*A period of silence follows*

Bishop     Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## RECEPTION OF THE CANDIDATES

*For Reception*

*N.*, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer:*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

**BCP 360**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

## OFFERTORY HYMN:

*Forty days and forty nights*

**Hymnal 150**

## OFFERTORY PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY

Tune: Hymnal 380

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;***



**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A**

**BCP 361**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God 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.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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**

**Hymnal S-124**

***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.***

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,

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BCP 364**

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.

**FRACTION ANTHEM:**

Agnus Dei

**Hymnal S-161**

**COMMUNION HYMN:**

*And now, O Father, mindful of the love*

**Hymnal 337**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**BCP 365**

Let us pray.

**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**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN:**

*O love, how deep, how broad, how high*

**Hymnal 448**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

**BCP 366**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Participants in the service:**

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Doug Fisher

Clergy: The Rev. Patrick Perkins

Acolyte: Shirley Blehar

### **Received:**

Joy Head

Steven Cook

### **SERVERS THIS WEEKEND:**

Altar Guild: Roz Glanville, Julie Russell, Carol Perkins, Kari Currie

Nursing Home: Chris Berglund

Usher: Ted Kremer

Reader: Linda Shelton

LEM: Christina Melzar

Coffee Hour: The Surabian Family

# St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness  
to  
Christ's Love

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