

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025



*We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.*

## 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; 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**). **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

At 10:00 a.m. our hymns and service music is from the blue Hymnal found in the book racks in the pews. Numbers that begin with an S- are in the front of the Hymnal.

We occasionally use supplemental hymn books called *Wonder, Love & Praise* and *Come Celebrate* which will be given to you with your bulletin. These will be listed as WLP or CC followed by the hymn number.

## THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

### SILENT PROCESSION

#### OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

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

*Please kneel or sit, as you are able*

#### CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 352

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

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
*1 John 1:8,9*

*The Celebrant then says:*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant 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.

#### KYRIE ELEISON

8:00 a.m. Lord have mercy upon us.  
**Christ have mercy upon us.**  
Lord have mercy upon us.

10:00 a.m.

Hymnal S-86

## THE WORD OF GOD

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

### **FIRST READING:** *Joshua 5:9-12*

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 32**

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**SECOND READING:** *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN:** 10:00 a.m.

*Wilt thou forgive that sin, where I begun*

**Hymnal 141**

**GOSPEL:** *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am

no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**SERMON:**

The Rev. Patrick Perkins

**THE NICENE CREED**

**BCP 358**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM II**

**BCP 385**

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;  
...for Doug, our Bishop, for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for the community of St. Francis; and for all ministers and people.  
...for the Province of the Anglican Church of Congo; for the parish of St. Francis, Holden; for the mission of Dismas House and Dismas Farm;  
...for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Beverly and Mark Stewart; Sara Studley; Philip and Nancy Styffe; Marjorie Sullivan;  
Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well being of all people.  
...for all Federal and State employees, for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, especially J. Pigsley, Gregory Smith, Jason Haynes, Mark Williams, Jacob Pezzini, Tyler Jeck, David Lane, Riley Smith, James Cimochofski;  
...for Donald, our President; Maura, our Governor; and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

...for peace throughout the world; for the victims of war and terrorism, for the people of Ukraine and Afghanistan, for peace in Sudan, Yemen, and the region of the Middle East; and for those facing famine and drought in Somalia and the Horn of Africa;  
Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.  
Rich, Eric Warner, Kathleen Lloyd Jones, Jack, Jonathan Seale, Ann Murphy, John Dougherty, Paul Stanovich, Charles Delisle, Matteo Padilla, Tom, Joanne, Elizabeth Heath, Bev, Sheri Dumas, Judy Crosby, Brenda, Dave and Diane, Hilda Schinsing, Paul Hurley, Brad, Steve Henning, Josh McCrillis, Andy, Judy Capone; those suffering from homelessness and all types of addiction and mental illness; the residents and staff of Holden Nursing Home; and those who mourn;

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.  
...especially for all who are preparing for baptism, confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church, and all people as we seek God's Word during this season of Lent. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers of thanksgiving or petition, either silently or aloud.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored, especially Francis and Clare; Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*Celebrant add a concluding collect.*

**THE PEACE**

**BCP 360**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN: 10:00 a.m.

*Sing, my soul, his wondrous love*

Hymnal 467

### OFFERTORY PRESENTATION:

8:00 a.m. *All things come of thee, O Lord. **And of Thine own have we given thee.***

10:00 a.m.

Tune: Hymnal 380 v.3

***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. Amen.***

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: *Eucharistic Prayer C*

BCP 369

*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.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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:

**8:00 a.m. (*spoken*)**

**10:00 a.m. (*sung*)**

**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.***

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,  
**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; 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.

**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

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:

8:00 a.m. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

10:00 a.m. Agnus Dei **Hymnal S-161**

**COMMUNION HYMN:** 10:00 a.m. *The great creator of the worlds* **Hymnal 489**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP 366

Let us pray.

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 forever. Amen.

## LENTEN BLESSING

**RECESSIONAL HYMNS:** 10:00 a.m. *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah* **Hymnal 690**

## THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Go in peace and walk in the Way of Love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERVERS THIS WEEKEND:**

Altar Guild: Sharlene O'Connor, Marje Sullivan, Jenny Sanders, Peggy Webb

Nursing Home: Tina Chen

8:00 a.m.

Reader/LEM: Rich Farrell

10:00 a.m.

Usher: Kari Currie

Readers/LEMs: Laura Caswell, Mary Cook

# St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness  
to  
Christ's Love

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