



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*“A welcoming, compassionate and
healing community in Christ”*

Sunday March 30, 2025

Rite 1

10:30am

Large Print

Christ Episcopal Church
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[Website: www.christchurchstroudsburg.org](http://www.christchurchstroudsburg.org)

Rector
Assisting Priest
Music Director
Church Admin
Senior Warden

The Rev. Bruce E Gowe
The Rev. Dr. Sidnie Crawford
Bethann Kratzer
Joyce Onsted
Carl Ausfahl

Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols, *Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem*

VESTRY

Jr. Warden – Cheryl Cloke
Clerk of Vestry – Chris Searles
Myra Bailey, Debby Campbell, Kevin Furst,
Rob Ceci, Marcos Gonzalez, Katina Williams, Sharon Potter

Mission Statement: “A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”

Liturgy Participants

Preacher & Celebrant: The Rev. Bruce Gowe
Lectors: Patti A | Tom V
Counters: Bob N | Jill T
Chalice Bearer: Bonnie K
Altar Server: Adrian | Lorelai
Altar Assistant: Anthony P
Music Director: Bethann K

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 319)

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People His mercy endureth for ever.

DECALOGUE (BCP p. 317)

God spake these words, and said:

I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

Lord, have mercy upon us,

and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

Lord, have mercy upon us,

and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Lord, have mercy upon us,

and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

Lord, have mercy upon us,

and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Lord, have mercy upon us,

and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt do no murder.

Lord, have mercy upon us,

and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Lord, have mercy upon us,

and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not steal.

Lord, have mercy upon us,

and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Lord, have mercy upon us,

and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not covet.

Lord, have mercy upon us,

and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 319)

All kneel.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

TRISAGION EOM1 55 *sung 3 times*

Ho - ly God, — Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 325)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A Reading from the book of Joshua.

⁹The 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.

¹⁰While 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. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

⁶I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁸You 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.

¹⁰Do 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.”

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

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

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A Reading from Paul's Second letter to the Church in Corinth.

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Now let us all with one accord*

H 147 v. 1-3



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|------------|---------|--------|-----------|-------------|-------------|----|
| 1 | Now | let | us | all | with | one | ac - cord, | in |
| 2 | The | cov - e - | nant, | so | long | re - vealed | to | |
| 3 | Your | love, | O Lord, | our | sin - ful | race | has | |
| 4 | Re - | mem - ber, | Lord, | though | frail | we be, | in | |
| 5 | There - | fore, | we | pray | you, | Lord, | for - give; | so |



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------|------------------|--------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | com - pa - ny | with | a - ges | past, | keep | vi - gil | with | our |
| 2 | those | of faith | in | for - mer | time, | Christ | by his | own ex - |
| 3 | not | re - turned, | but | fal - si - fied; | au - | thor of | mer - cy, | |
| 4 | your | own i - | mage | were | we made; | help | us, | lest in anx - |
| 5 | when | our wan - | derings | here | shall cease, | we | may | with you for |



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---------|------|-------|-------------|-------------|------|-----------------|
| 1 | heaven - ly | Lord | in | his | temp - ta - | tion | and | his fast. |
| 2 | am - ple | sealed, | the | Lord | of love, | in | love | sub - lime. |
| 3 | turn | your | face | and | grant | re - pent - | ance | for our pride. |
| 4 | i - e - | ty, | we | cause | your | Name | to | be be - trayed. |
| 5 | ev - er | live, | in | love | and | u - ni - | ty | and peace. |

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

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The 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. ¹³A 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. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But 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! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So 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. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But 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. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But 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.’”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN H 147 *Now let us all with one accord* [verses 4-5]

THE HOMILY (BCP p. 326)

THE CREED (BCP p. 326)

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

Presider

Let us offer our prayers on behalf of all, saying “God of mercy, Grant us peace.”

Intercessor

For your Church everywhere; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for this Diocese of Bethlehem and our Bishop Kevin, for Bruce our Priest, Sidnie our Assisting Priest, Wil our Postulant for the Diaconate, and Barbara our Canon Missioner; that we may pray honestly, serve humbly, and gently proclaim Christ to our broken world;

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

For our nation, for Donald, our President, Josh our Governor and Michael our Mayor, for all in authority, for all who seek elected office, that we may use our power for good throughout our world;

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

For all nations, for all peoples and rulers, that your wisdom and truth may prevail over cruelty and oppression of every kind;

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

For this city in which we live, that your justice may shine through every home, business, and institution; especially we pray for those commissioned to enforce the law; In our congregation for Carolyn Cabell, Debbie and Eugene Campbell and family, Michael Casey, Leticia DiPipi and family, Barbara and Simone Cato, and Rob and Loretta Ceci and family; in the Diocese of Bethlehem, for St. James', Drifton and in Kajo Keji for Kajo Keji Christian College and St. James Wudu Parish; In the Anglican Cycle of prayer for Province de l'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo.

**God of mercy,
Grant us peace.**

For those who suffer, especially Anthony, Oliver, Lorelai, Marshall, Richard, Antonia, Rebecca, June, Margaret, Kelly Ann, Berni, Ed, Julian, Noel, Mike, Chris, Frank, Zach, Tom, Laura, Jo, Rob, Loretta, Brianna, Renee, Mary and Jim E, Jodi, David and Denise; for those who are imprisoned, and especially those condemned to die; for those who are mentally ill; for those who are homeless; for all victims of violent crime; for all who endure long and life-threatening illness, particularly cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's disease; and for all others for whom we pray now:

Silence

**God of mercy,
Grant us peace.**

For grateful hearts that we may know that we depend always upon your loving providence; [for Blessed _____ and all your saints,] and for those thanksgivings we now name:

Silence

**God of mercy,
Grant us peace.**

For those who have died, for those we now name

Silence

that we may give thanks for your gift of eternal life in Christ;

**God of mercy,
Grant us peace.**

Presider

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. Amen.

THE PEACE (BCP p. 332)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 343)

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. Psalm 50:14

OFFERTORY HYMN (Taize 47 sung 3 times)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -
joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
voice - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voice - es, the Lord is near. In the

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 333)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is meet and right so to do.

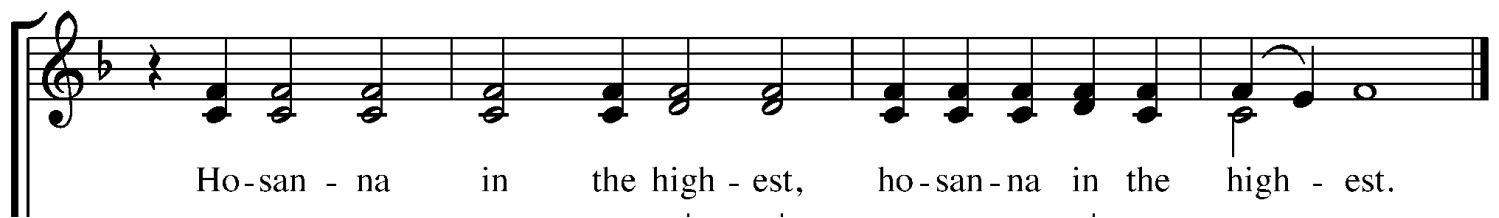
PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 333)

It is very meet, right...

...Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS *EOM1 56* *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, —
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. —

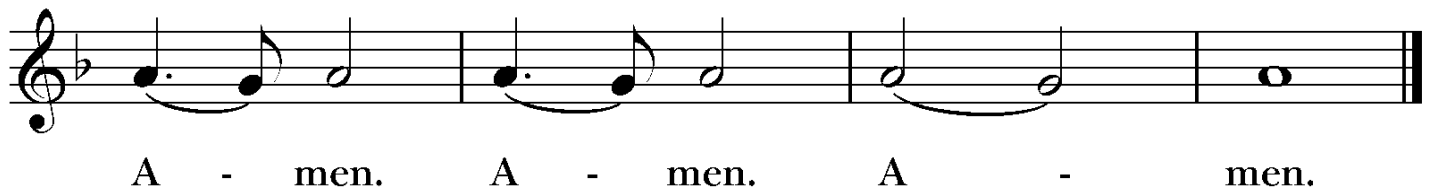


WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 334)

All glory be to thee, Almighty God...

...By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

GREAT AMEN *S 147*



THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 336)

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

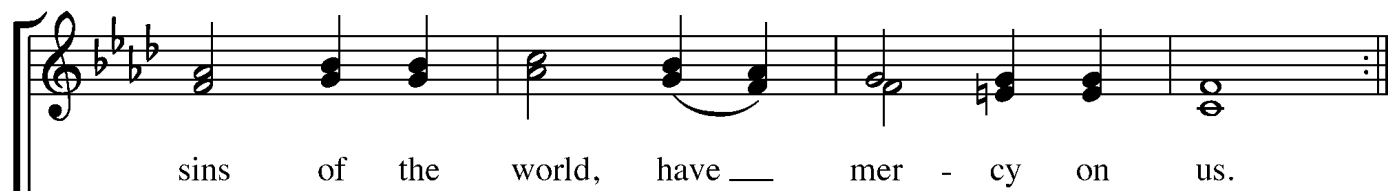
And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

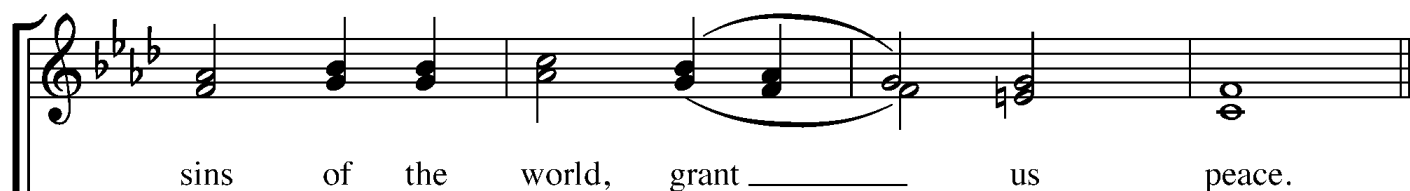
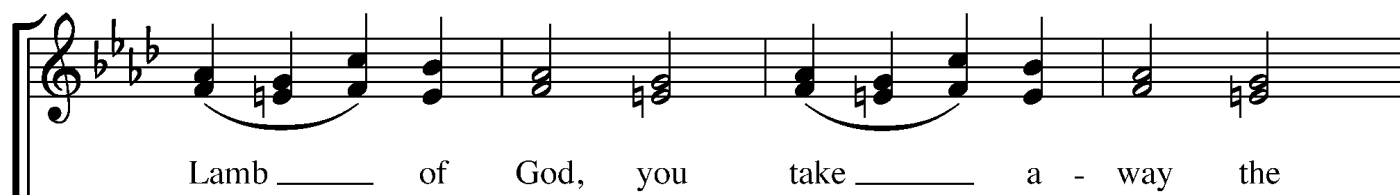
The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM *EOM1 57 Lamb of God Agnus Dei*





[VERSE REPEATS]



PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS (BCP p. 337)

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

INVITATION (BCP p. 338)

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

You may be seated until you come forward to receive. When you receive the consecrated bread, you consume it and then move to the cup of consecrated wine. The cup is for drinking, and for those who choose to “intinct” or touch the tip of their bread to the wine. You may also choose to receive Communion in only one kind. If you would like a blessing, come forward and cross your hands over your heart to indicate you would like to be blessed. Gluten free wafers are available. Please let the priest know as you come forward. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE LORD’S TABLE.

Lay leaders in the Lady Chapel are offering a healing anointing, after receiving communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

What Wondrous Love is This

H 439

Unison



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll

caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 339)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BLESSINGS

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

It's Sunday morning. Last week, with all its demands, is over. The coming week, with yet another round of challenges and demands, is not quite here. I invite you to close your eyes

and be in the moment. No matter where you are in your thoughts and feelings—relieved about what you have accomplished, anxious about what’s left undone, concerned about people or projects—no matter where you are in your journey this day—I encourage you to set all that aside and consider where you are right now. Whatever is true for you right now, in this moment, whether it be joy or sadness, gratitude or anxiety, let it come forward. When it is fully present, then listen . . . for God is present in these moments, too. God meets you where you are and calls you forward, moment by moment, guiding you slowly but surely toward transformation.

(Silent time.)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain caused by the lack of basic needs—lack of food, of shelter, of education, of healthcare, of love.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Song: Jesus Remember Me (3x's)

The image shows a musical score for the song "Jesus Remember Me" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in - to your king-dom." The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system repeats the same melody and accompaniment.

Let us pray:

All: Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are, or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise—that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING (BCP p. 339)

The Lord bless you and keep you. *Amen.*

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you. *Amen.*

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. *Amen.*

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 340)
Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**