

Grace Episcopal Church
Holy Eucharist with Baptism
Sunday, March 15, 2026
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Processional

I want to walk as a child of the light

Blue Hymnal #490

The Liturgy

Presider Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed.

The Presider then continues

There is one Body and one Spirit;

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

Presider One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People One God and Father of all.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider 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.**

All sit

The Lessons

First Reading: 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

- 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.

Second Reading: 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John 9:1-41**

People Glory 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."

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

Sermon

The Reverend J. Jeffrey Baker

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

BCP 301

Then the candidates unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

Parents and Godparents

I present *Asher Jameson Weichsel* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

When all have been presented the Priest asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Priest

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Then the Priest asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer **I do.**

After all have been presented, the Priest addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *Asher* in his life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Priest then says these or similar words

Let us join with *Asher*, his *parents and godparents* who are committing *him* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

BCP 304

Priest Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.***

Priest 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

Priest Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People I will, with God's help.

Priest Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People I will, with God's help.

Priest 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.

Prayers for the Candidates

BCP 305

The Priest then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for Asher who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

The Priest says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving over the Water

BCP 306

The Priest blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Priest

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Priest touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Baptism

BCP 307

Each candidate is presented by name to the Priest, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying

Asher Jameson Weichsel, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon Asher your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *him* to the new life of grace. Sustain *him*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *him* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying to each one

Asher, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. Amen.

When all have been baptized, the Priest says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Priest and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

A candle lit from the Pascal candle is presented to the family as the Priest says:

Asher, receive the light of Christ, a sign of the new life enkindled within you

The Priest blesses the family saying:

Priest **The peace of the Lord be always with you.**

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Holy Communion

The Priest says the offertory sentence

Offertory Anthem

Grace Notes Choir

Doxology

Members of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Priest.

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharist Prayer C

BCP 369

The people remain standing.

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 him thanks and praise.***

The Presider proceeds

God of 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, 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:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord

Front of Praise Book#S130

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.

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 generations to generation. ***Amen.***

Memorial Acclamation

The Presider continues

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.

Great Amen

Front of Praise Book

The Presider then continues

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

People and Presider

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Jesus, Lamb of God

Front of Praise Book S-164

The Presider says

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.

*All are welcome at God's table to receive the bread and wine or a blessing.
To receive a blessing in place of communion, please fold your arms across your chest.*

Communion Hymn

Spirit Song

Praise Book #48

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Priest and 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.

Blessing

The Presider blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you

for ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Hymnal #690

Dismissal

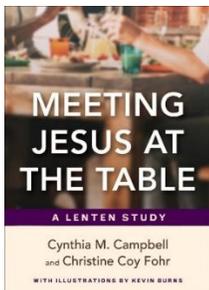
Presider Let us bless the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God,*

Announcements



Our beautiful future of Grace Sunday School assisting Greg.
We will not have Sunday School on Easter Sunday.
We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt, on Sunday April 12. If you would like to donate a bag of wrapped candy, please leave in the office. Thankyou.
Lynn, Bobbin and Debbie

Soup and Study on Wednesday evenings at 5pm



March 18, and 25th

Sign-up sheet in lobby on bulletin board.

We are having Pancakes!!!!

After the Palm Sunday Service!

Today!!! April 13th

Cost: Donation

Cook: Walt and Friends

Pancakes will be served to the public from 8:30am-12noon



A Sourton Welcome

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, very rich, comfortable, or very poor.

We extend a particular welcome to wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woke up, or just out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been to church since Jack's christening.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artist, tree-huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians, vegans, junk food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps, or don't like 'organized religion'. (We're not that keen on it either!)

We offer a welcome to those that think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to church.

We welcome those who are tattooed, pierced or both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as children, or got lost on the road and wound up here by mistake.

We are here **to welcome** pilgrims, holiday makers, seekers, doubters.....and **YOU!**

