

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
MARCH 30, 2025 AT 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the Parish Hall. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the restrooms. Thank you for being here!

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

	<h2>St. John's Food Pantry and Blessings Box Ministries</h2> <h1>Preparing with Hope</h1>	
<p>Week 5 Sunday, April 6 Collection</p>	<p>Food Pantry Canned Fruit 15 oz Size</p> 	<p>Blessings Box Mac and Cheese Individual Cans or Cups</p> 

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share,
please fill out the form on our website or let the office know no later than Thursday.*

PRELUDE *The Servant King* Alan Bullard

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* **HYMNAL 686**

OPENING ACCLAMATION *(please remain standing as you are able)*

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

THE DECALOGUE *(please kneel as you are able)* **BCP 350**

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

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.

Celebrant 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.*

THE KYRIE

HYMNAL S-89

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant 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.

THE FIRST LESSON: Joshua 5:9-12 (*please be seated*)

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.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32 (*Chanted by the choir*)



- 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.

THE EPISTLE: 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.

People

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

HYMNAL 470

vs. 1&2 before the Gospel Reading, vs. 3 after the Gospel Reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3,11b-32 (*please remain standing as you are able*)

Celebrant

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

People

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.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE

THE NICENE CREED (*please rise in body or spirit*)

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. (*pause*)
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 (*please kneel as you are able*)

BCP 389

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the holy Church of God, especially St. Thomas, Lancaster and The Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey, our own Bishop; Amanda, our priest; Emma, our seminarian, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust especially Donald, our President; Josh, our Governor; and Danene, our Mayor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, especially Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Darlene Bentley, and Peggy Zuke, that we may show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; especially Pat Pankey, Nancy Strasburg, Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Richard Anderson, Collin, Eileen Waite, Andrew, Denise Chandler, Carol, Sandy, Marshall, Virginia, Garth, Kim, and Maria, that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

Cast Me Not Away

Robert J. Powell

PRESENTATION HYMN *As thou didst hunger bear and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live
by thy most holy word.*

HYMN 142 (st. 3)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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:

*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.

(During Lent, it is customary to kneel during the Eucharistic Prayer)

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 365

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

THE INVITATION

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.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. The wine is administered in two chalices: the common cup for drinking and the intinction cup for dipping your wafer into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are also available. If you are unable to come to the altar, please let an usher know and we would be happy to bring communion to you!

COMMUNION MUSIC

Bist du bei mir

Gottfried H. Stöelzel

Originally, an aria from a 1718 opera by Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel, "Bist Du Bei Mir" is frequently presented as a romantic art song and equally meaningful in a sacred setting. I first attempted singing it when I began taking vocal lessons in college.

*Bist du bei mir, geh ich mit Freuden zum Sterben und zu meiner Ruh.
If you are with me, then I will go gladly unto [my] death and to my rest.*

*Ach, wie vergnügt wär so mein Ende,
es drückten deine schönen Hände
mir die getreuen Augen zu.*

Ah, how pleasing would my end be, if your dear hands then shut my faithful eyes!

For me today, the song is less of a vocal challenge and more of a glorious statement of assurance that each of us will find rest and peace in the open arms of our Savior. I hope that you will hear both joy and love from above as we commune together.

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People *We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we journey through these forty days. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

HYMN 690

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Paul Manz

St. John's Traveler Letter:

Did you know St. John's has pilgrims who travel to the places we pray for in the Anglican communion each week? Follow John as he shares about the church and places he visits:

Dear Pastor Amanda,

Kiambote from the Republic of the Congo! This week I'm writing to you from a hammock in Odzala-Kokoua National Park, a beautiful park located deep in the rainforest almost in the exact center of Africa. It's hot and humid and sticky, but the sunrise I'm witnessing as I write this more than makes up for it. It's as if someone took a brush and found the brightest reds, yellows, and purples to paint the sky. Someone once told me it's the dust from the Sahara Desert that allows for such magnificent sunsets. Others say it's because we're near the equator. Whatever it is, it's breathtaking.

Odzala-Kokoua National Park only opened to the public about 15 years ago, and there's a good reason why. The Park is home to one of the world's most diverse primate populations – just this morning I saw gorillas and chimpanzees, monkeys and a rare primate called mangabeys. In the past, many of these species were at risk of going extinct due to poaching or diseases like Ebola, but thanks to the work of some very hardworking organizations, the Park has one of the highest populations of gorillas and chimpanzees in the world.

Earlier this week I was wondering what made the Park so successful in saving these primates. It turns out there's a pretty simple reason – many of the poachers that might have threatened the primates here now work as park rangers. They agreed to give up their old ways and share information with the Park in exchange for a steady job protecting the animals they used to poach. Talk about the power of forgiveness!

It's that spirit of forgiveness that I hope drives you every day as we move closer to the season of Easter, now just under a month away. And I wish you many beautiful sunrises between now and then and always.

Blessings always,
John Traveler

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM	Sunday School
10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist: Rite II
1:00 PM	Education for Ministry

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

1:30 PM	Martha's Ministry
2:30 PM	Food Pantry
5:00 PM	Immigration Clinic

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

12:00 PM	HEII with Healing
2:00 PM	Men's Bible Study
5:30 PM	Lenten Program
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

9:00 AM	Morning Prayer
2:30 PM	Food Pantry
7:00 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

5:00 PM	Lenten Event
---------	--------------

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

9:00 AM	Lenten Event
---------	--------------

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM	Sunday School
10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist: Rite II
1:00 PM	Education for Ministry

STREAM TEAM MINISTRY

Each week, we stream the 10:15 a.m. service. This ministry is vital for folks who are homebound, those traveling, and for newcomers who are looking for a church home. To continue this ministry, we need a few volunteers to help set up the streams and run the camera. Currently, John and Amanda+ are running this ministry. Please see either of them if you'd like to assist!

LENTEN WEEKEND – APRIL 4&5

Please join us for our annual Lenten Weekend. This year, we will discuss cruciform spirituality. We'll enjoy small group discussion, worship, breaking bread with one another, and a new version of the stations of the cross! *"It takes courage to see the world as it is and still move forward in love."*

LOOKING FOR SOME DVDS

Our friend, Andrew Wright, is laid up recuperating from some health issues and could use some entertainment! He has a DVD player but no movies to play. If you happen to have some old DVDs lying around that could provide a little entertainment, please drop them off in the box in the parish hall. Thank you!

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*), Ted Loose (*Jr. Warden*), Molly Moyer (*Secretary*), Liz West, Kathy Kyper, Gretchen Walden, Penn Glazier, Mary Huber, Bruce Waskowicz, Sarah Jones

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Pam Loose, Br. David Rutledge, Joe Way, Drew Dorgan

STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (*music@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (*finance@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
John Knouse, Property Manager (*property@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE
WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG / 717.299.1188