

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026 • 10 am • Holy Eucharist, Rite II



St. Michael's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

www.stmichaelschurch.org



Welcome to St. Michael's Episcopal Church!

We are an open, affirming and inclusive parish, worshipping in the Episcopal tradition. No matter where you're from, or what you believe, you are welcome to gather with us, sing with us, pray with us, learn with us, and receive communion with us. We do our best to make our customs accessible to all people, but if anything seems confusing, feel free ask someone for help, or simply sit and observe.

Welcome, Visitors! Tell us about yourself.

If you are visiting today, we invite you to sign the Guest Book. We would love to get to know each other! And if you're seeking baptism, confirmation, or simply a community of healing and hope to belong to, we would be delighted to join you on your journey.



Online Giving

If you wish to make a one-time or recurring donation to St. Michael's, scan the QR code, or visit stmichaelschurch.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!

Service Notes

An asterisk (*) denotes moments when the congregation is invited to stand (as able)
"Hymnal" refers to the Hymnal 1982 located throughout the Nave.
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"**Only By Grace**" Words & Music: Gerrit Gustafson; © 1990 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, admin by Capitol CMB Publishing CCLI

"**Lord, Have Mercy**" Setting: Kevin R Hackett from *Hymn Tunes Mass*; based on *Herzliebster Jesu*, Johan Crüger; © 1991 Celebration

"**Jesus, Lamb of God**". Words: International Consultation on English Texts; Music: *Bey*, Betty

The Word of God

Call to Worship

Only By Grace

* Procession & Penitential Order

Silence

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

Celebrant 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 Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Silence*)

All: 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.**

* Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord have mer - cy.

* Collect of the Day

Lent 1

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.**

First Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel:

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

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.

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.

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 Lesson

Ephesians 5:8-14

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians:

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.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* **Sequence Song**

“Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart”

Hymnal # 465

* **Holy Gospel**

John 9:1-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon & Reflection

The Rev. Ryan Wiksell, with Heather Rhoads

*** Nicene Creed**

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

Daughters of the King *Service for Peace* (adapted)

DOK Intercessor: Almighty and merciful God, whose only Son came to preach peace to the nations: Hear us, we beseech you, and comfort us with your steady hand. Because we trust in you, we dare to believe:

People: Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate; Light is stronger than darkness; Hope is stronger than despair.

Although often lost in grief and overwhelmed by fear and anger, we hear your call to firmer faith and deeper trust. In the midst of doubt and fear you call us to be a people of prayer. Help us, O Lord, to place our confidence in you as we pray for all who have lost loved ones ... to those traumatized by memories and images they cannot forget ... to those who are paralyzed by fear ... to those who seek to do us harm.

Hear us, O Lord, and teach us to pray, for you alone are our refuge and strength.

O God, true source of wholeness and peace, in a world bearing the wounds of suffering and grief, you call us to be a people of healing. Help us to reach out to neighbors in need, to bear one another's burdens, to weep with those who weep. Give us the grace to share the comfort of Christ with all those who long for his healing touch. Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love.

Hear us, O Lord, and help us to heal, for you alone are our refuge and strength.

Strong God of love, in a world torn by violence and threatened by revenge and hatred, you call us to be a people of love. Give us strength to love even when love is most difficult. Save us from the desire for vengeance, and from the temptation to rejoice in wrongdoing. So fill us with the love of Christ that we might seek the good for all people. Do not let us be overcome by evil, but help us overcome evil with good.

Hear us, O Lord, and show us how to love, for you alone are our refuge and strength.

God of truth and light, in a world of darkness you call us to bear witness to your light. Guide us by your Spirit, that we might reflect the glory of your Son in his courage in speaking the truth, in his compassion for others, in his willingness to bear suffering, and in his refusal to return evil for evil.

Hear us, O Lord, and guide our witness, for you alone are our refuge and strength.

Almighty and ever-faithful God, in a world of despair you call us to be a people of hope. When we are cast down or dismayed, keep your Spirit alive in us. Grant us faith to look forward with confidence to that day when the whole world will be drawn into willing obedience to your reign and people will come from east and west, from north and south, to sit at one table in your kingdom.

Hear us, O Lord, and fill us with hope, for you alone are our refuge and strength.

You, O Lord, are our refuge and strength, our help in time of trouble. Forgive us, your Church, for the times we have failed in our actions or our inactions, in our words or our silence.

I invite you to add names for remembrance, spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Help us to hold in our hearts and show in our lives what we proclaim with our lips:

Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate; Light is stronger than darkness; Hope is stronger than despair.

(The people are invited to stand, as able)

Celebrant: Let every heart be filled with a bright reflection of everlasting love, gratefulness, and belonging. Let every heart that offers this prayer, or holds thoughts of hope and love toward all, be filled today with peace and abundance.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

- Third Thursday: March 19 – Art Activity with Victoria Cordova
- Parish Retreat
- “Lunch Break” Wednesdays



The Holy Communion

Offertory

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Hymnal # 692/480



1. I__ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come
2. I__ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
3. I__ heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I__



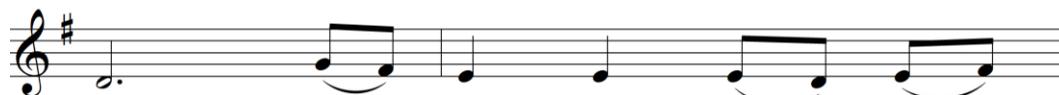
un - to me__ and rest; and in your wea - ri -
hold, I free - ly give the liv - ing wa - ter;
am this dark world's light; look un - to me, your



ness lay down your head up - on__ my breast." I__
thirst - y one, stoop down and drink, and live." I__
morn shall rise, and__ all your day be bright." I__



came to Je - sus as I was, so__ wea - ry,__ worn, and
came to Je - sus, and I drank of__ that life - giv - ing
looked to Je - sus, and I found in__ him my__ Star, my



sad; I__ found in him__ a__
stream; my__ thirst was quench - ed, my
Sun; and__ in that light__ of__

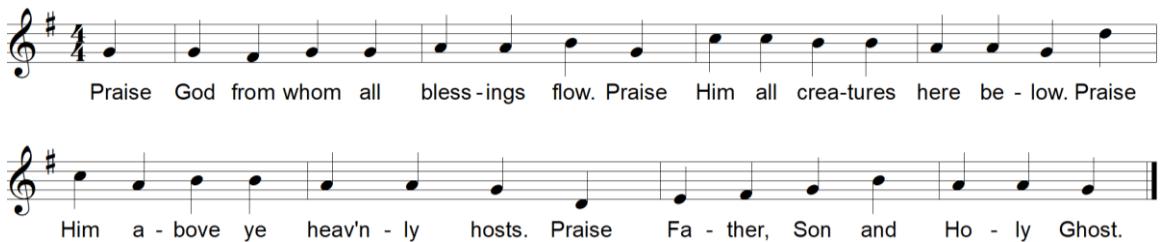


rest - ing place, and__ he has made me glad.
soul re - lived, and__ now I live__ in him.
life I'll walk till__ pil - grim days are done.

The Presentation

“Doxology”

Hymnal #380 v4



Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here be - low. Praise Him a - bove ye heav'n - ly hosts. Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

* The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

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

All: 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:

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

Hymnal # S-127

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Pow-er and
might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Celebrant: 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.

[Spanish]¹ En la noche que fue traicionaron, tomó pan, la bendición, partió el pan y lo dio a sus amigos y dijo: “Tomen y coman: Estes es mi Cuerpo, entregado por ustedes. Hagan esto como memorial mío”.

[English] 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."

[Spanish] Después de la cena tomó el cáliz, dio gracias, y dijo: “Beban todos de él. Esta es mi Sangre del nuevo Pacto, sangre derramada por ustedes y por muchos para el perdón de los pecados. Siempre que lo beban, háganlo como memorial mío”.

[English] 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.

¹ During the Season of Lent, we are standing in solidarity with our Spanish-speaking neighbors by including a few words of Spanish in our Eucharistic Prayers. We will be seeking additional ways to bless and minister to this community in the weeks and months to come.

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**

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

All: 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



Celebrant: 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.



Communion Notes: Communion is offered in two kinds: bread and wine. One may receive the bread alone, dip it into the wine, or drink from the chalice after consuming the bread. Sealed, pre-packaged containers of bread and wine are available. Gluten-free bread may be requested by crossing one's hands palms-down. All manners of reception are valid, and all are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing.

*** Postcommunion Prayer & Blessing**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: 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 for ever. Amen.

*** Recess in Silence**

*** Dismissal**

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ

People Thanks be to God.

