



Grace Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

10:30 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Chorale Prelude on "Kingsfold"*

James Biery

At the tolling of the tower bell, the congregation is asked to stand.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

People **God's mercy endures forever.**

OPENING HYMN: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

470

THE DECALOGUE

BCP 350

Celebrant

Hear the commandments of God to God's 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.

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

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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

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

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 219

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 WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING: JOSHUA 5:9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32 (*Chanted*)

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

Happy are they to whom the Lord im-**putes no guilt,**
and in whose spirit there / **is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones wi-**thered away,**
because of my groaning / **all day long.**
For your hand was heavy upon me / **day and night;**
my moisture was dried up as in the / **heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my / **sin to you,**
and did not con-**ceal my guilt.**
I said, "I will confess my transgressions / **to the Lord."**
Then you forgave me the guilt / **of my sin.**

The faithful will make their prayers to you in / **time of trouble;**
when the great waters overflow, they / **shall not reach them.**
You are my hiding-place; you preserve / **me from trouble;**
you surround me with shouts / **of deliverance.**

"I will instruct and teach you in the way that / **you should go;**
I will guide you / **with my eye.**
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."**

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

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL HYMN: *Sing, My Soul, His Wondrous Love*

467

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

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

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

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.'"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend John Rice

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM 1

BCP 383

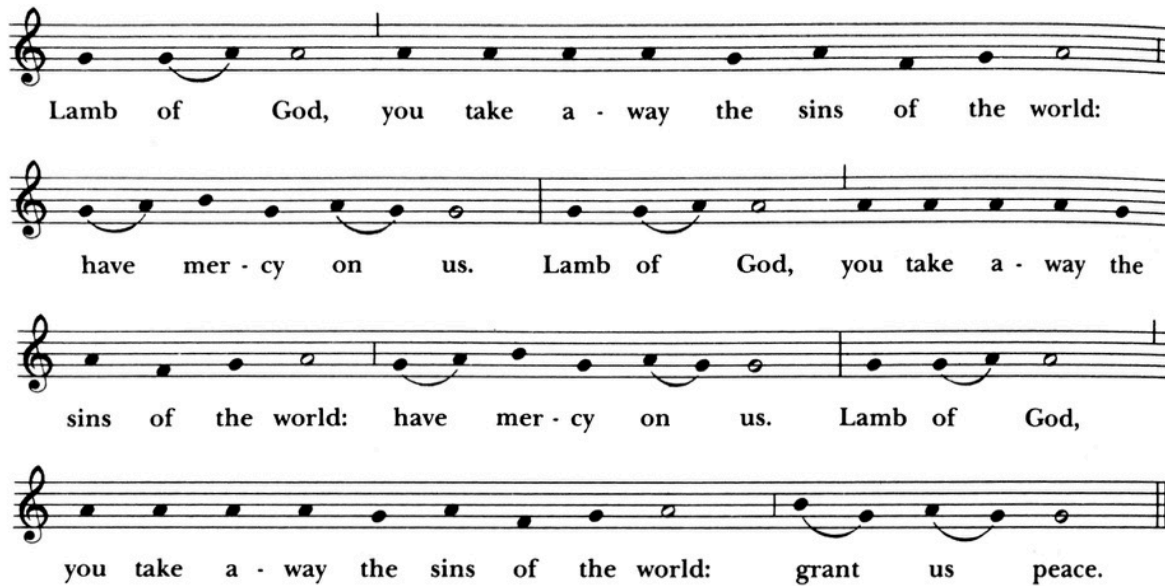
The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: Anaphora chant; Mass 18; adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (*gluten free wafers available upon request*)

THE COMMUNION HYMN *My God, Thy Table Now is Spread*

321

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (*standing*)

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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.**

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Ashley Grote



OUR PRAYER LIST

For Parishioners: **Tim Collins; Suana Gentry; Ashley Israel; Anne Jarema; Geoff Kirsch; Bob Kistler; Bill Mooney; Wayne and Laura Parton; Guy Sayles; Al Seale; Becky & Bill Smith; Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen) and Roger Snyder; Tom Wolff.**

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: **Ed Denison; Nancy Sink; Rita Spragg.**

For Others: (Names will remain on the list for six weeks unless we hear otherwise.)
Geraldine Allen (aunt of Carole McClellan); **Allen** (brother of Cheryl Aull); **Bob Brennan** (relative of Anne Jarema); **Christa Bridgman** (friend of Ginny Moser); **Gabriel & Lara Brongel & family** (grandson and daughter of Jackie Schauer); **Cherie Brown** (daughter of Ed & Marla Woeckener); **Marcie Coleman** (friend of Lynda McCredie); **Winnie Gaffney** (cousin of Lorie Tola); **Cherry Howe** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Tom Hunnicutt** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Bunky Manship** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Chuck McDonald** (brother of Susan Robinson); **Barbara McRee** (mother of Fr. Tim McRee); **Daniel McRee** (son of Fr. Timothy McRee) and **David** (partner of Daniel McRee); **Megan** (friend of George and Pat Davis); **Peggy, Mac, and Chris** (friends of Lucy & Larry Bowen); **Barney Noble** (son of Joyce and Walt Noble); **Kathleen Peacock** (friend of Pat & George Davis); **Meredith Peppers** (cousin of Carole McClellan); **Kip & Val Pritchard** (friends of Cliff); **Peter John Rouse, Sr.** (grandfather of Mike Vines); **Anne Spruance; Janet Thomas** (mother of Jenny Thomas); **Wiley Thornton** (cousin of Carol McClellan); **Tomlinson Family; Mike Wilson** (friend of Jeff Russell); **Sara** (Joe Aull's cousin).

*For those celebrating birthdays: **Butch Allen, Brett Young, Sarah Wood, Tessa Path, Lorraine Chambers, Nancy Clark, Ben Scales.***

*For Those celebrating anniversaries: **Kristen & Howard Dusenbery.***

*For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy Brown** (grandsons of Ed & Marla Woeckener); **Matt & Martha Cardenas** (daughter and son in law of Hannah Buckner); **Matthew George** (son of Zoe Davis); **Jason Marino** (son of Lynda McCredie); **Brady Paschall** (granddaughter of Gael Paschall); **Sarah Jane Wilkey** (daughter of Diane & Tony Wilkey).*

*For Those in the Episcopal Church: **Sean** (our presiding Bishop); **José** (our Bishop); **the clergy, vestry, staff, ministries, and people of this parish;** in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **Province de L'eglise Anglicane Du Conge**, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, **Church of the Advocate and St. Mark's Gastonia.***

For our President, Donald Trump, his Cabinet, Congress & our country; for victims of violence across the world; for local agencies & those who work for relief of the poor; for beer stewardship of the environment; for resolution of crises throughout our world.



The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by Jennifer Witt in Thanksgiving for her four wonderful grandsons: Jude, Hayden, Hunter and Holden.

The greenery is given to the Glory of God by Kristen Dusenbery in memory of her mother Rhoda Larsen, and by Laura & Roger Snyder in memory of Corey & Hannah Snyder.

LAY MINISTERS

Acolyte: Lorie Tola Chalicerist: Steve Birkhofer
Lectors: Hannah Buckner, Kristen Dusenbery Intercessor: Nancy Lewis
Ushers: Paul and Vicki Vest Greeters: Jennifer Witt
Vestry Member of the Day: Kim Hayes Coffee Hour Host: Potluck Lunch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gifts and Notes for Milly

There is a basket marked "For Milly" in the Parish Hall. Please leave your notes and gifts for Milly there.

Annual Meeting and Potluck is TODAY!

Join us after worship today for a pot luck lunch, fellowship, and Grace's Annual Meeting. Let's catch up on pending issues and exciting happenings around the church.

Adult Formation Class

Loving the Questions: Join us at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall, to explore the Nicene Creed with Fr. Tim, using the book, *Loving the Questions*, by Marianne H. Micks. The book is available for \$11.00 in the Parish Hall. If you need financial assistance, just call the office and let us know. All are welcome.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

We offer the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for our children here at Grace on *Sundays between 9:00 and 10:15 a.m.* and there is an additional *Monday afternoon class now offered from 3:30-4:30 p.m.* Children may attend either one or both at any time. Contact Shannon Townsend for a tour, or further information at gstownsend@a.net or 828-713-5081.

Lenten Series

Our Lenten series is, *Does Jesus Still Heal Today?* which continues this Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. (supper at 5:30). The teaching topic will be, "Forgiveness - Setting the Captives Free." All are welcome to come and listen and participate in the important topic of forgiveness, especially in how it impacts our health and wellbeing.

We Did Something Great in Lent!

Many thanks to each of you who donated food to ABCCM in our quarterly food drive. Together, we donated 49 sacks and boxes of food items, weighing 547 lbs. Every can and box of food you donated will help marginalized individuals and families have peace instead of hunger this Easter season.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

- April 13 Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
- April 17 Maundy Thursday
Foot Washing & Stripping of the Altar, 7:00p.m.
- April 18 Good Friday Liturgy, Noon and 7:00 p.m.
- April 19 Holy Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Urban Garden
- April 20 Easter Day Eucharist, 10:30 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt & Fellowship, following the service

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held following the service on Easter Day, April 20. Please join us for donuts and fellowship after the service. Children will gather in the parish hall, and then go out to the Urban Garden area.

The Pastoral Care Team at Grace

Reach out to us with any pastoral care needs you, or your family, may have, by emailing the team at FrJohn@graceavl.com. You can also email, text or call Rev. John Rice at 828-371-7281.

Help Wanted!

Are you or is someone you know interested in the following openings? Call the office, 828-254-2086, for details.

- **Sunday Nursery Caregiver:** Nursery Caregivers at Grace provide a safe, loving, and nurturing environment for young children during church services on Sundays. This position ensures children are cared for, engaged in age-appropriate activities, and comfortable during their time in the nursery.

- **Sunday Tech Director:** The Tech Director directs weekly service livestreams, including: operation of remote camera, maintaining knowledge of all hardware and software associated with livestreams, regular updating of introduction slides with church announcements, completion of regular "hygiene" on all devices used to stream or record. This person also communicates with and advises Rector and Office Manager on Tech needs and collaborates with parishioners to make videos and slideshows for various church activities and services (eg. celebration of life services, stewardship advocacy).

Flower Guild Volunteers

If you love flowers (and who doesn't!), there is a place for you in the Flower Guild. Please contact Pat Davis at patdavis.avl@gmail.com or 828.230.3640.

Request for Office Volunteers

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Please continue to support this ministry of Grace hospitality by signing up and encouraging your friends to do the same. Call the office for details.

Coffee Hour Help Needed

Sunday morning coffee hour is such an important ministry to the life of our Grace Church. Yes, it is about coffee and tea and tasty snacks, but more importantly, it is a time of fellowship and welcoming our visitors. It is a time of deepening relationships with one another. It is also a first step towards Grace Church becoming a church home for our newcomers. If God has blessed you with the gifts of hospitality and helpfulness, won't you please consider sharing those gifts with us as a Coffee Hour Host?

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Monday Morning Bible Study: *Mondays at 10:30 a.m.*

We study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday service. Please join us virtually by clicking on the button at graceavl.com/.

Taizé: *Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.*

Weekly Taizé services are held in the sanctuary. Healing prayer is offered throughout the service for oneself or on behalf of someone else. For more information on Taizé at Grace visit: www.graceavl.com/taize-grace

Women Walking the Way: *Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.*

Meet at the Bird Sanctuary parking lot by Beaver Lake.

This Week's Services and Meetings

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Service or Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sundays 9:15 am	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Atrium
Sundays 9:15 am	Adult Formation	Parish Hall
Sundays 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Service *	Sanctuary
Mondays 10:30 am	Monday Morning Bible Study	Zoom
Mondays 1:00 pm	Chair Aerobics	Parish Hall
Mondays 3:30 pm	Chatechesis of the Good Shepherd	Atrium
Tuesdays 6:00 pm	Taizè	Sanctuary
Wednesdays 9:30 am	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	Library
Wednesdays 1 & 2 pm	Tai Chi Classes	Parish Hall
Wednesdays 5:30 pm	Centering Prayer	Zoom
Thursdays 8:00 am	Women Walking the Way	Beaver Lake

Grace Members: Have You Checked Out Our Directory?

An online directory is available to all our members. If you want to learn how to become a member of Grace, please contact Rev. John Rice at Frjohn@graceavl.com

Grace Episcopal Church

871 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, NC 28804

828-254-1086

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

office@graceavl.com

The Right Reverend José McLoughlin, *Bishop*

The Reverend Timothy McRee, The Reverend John Rice, *Clergy*

James Cassarino, *Director of Music*

Cathy Adkins, *Organist*

Anne Spruance, *Office Administrator*

Katie Douglas, *Finance Manager*

Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*

Archie Clarkson, *Tech Director*

Katherine Johnson, *Wedding Coordinator*



EASTER FLOWER DONORS INVITED

Memorialize loved ones and give thanks by making an Easter Flower donation. Envelopes can be found in the pews, or complete the information below and include it with your payment. Please state who this donation is “in memory of” or “in thanksgiving for” and note Easter Flowers with a note on your check or online donation.

For the Beauty of our Church

I would like to:

- Make a donation for the flowers*
- Make a donation for the Aumbry candles*
- In honor of* _____
- In memory of* _____
- In Thanksgiving for* _____
- Name and contact information* _____