



Grace Episcopal Church

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

*We begin our service on **page 355 of the red Book of Common Prayer**; you can find that in your pew rack. Please feel free to ask your neighbor if you have any questions about how to follow along in our common worship. Welcome to Grace!*

10:30 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O Man, Bewail Thy Sin So Great*

J.S. Bach

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: *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

150

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 218

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING: EXODUS 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations."

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

PSALM 63 (*Chanted*)

O God, you are my God / **whom I seek;**
For you my flesh pines and / **my soul thirsts.**
Like / **the earth parched,**
Lifeless and / **with-out water.**

Thus I have gazed upon you in your / **holy place;**
To see your power / **and your glory.**
For your loving-kindness is better than / **life itself;**
my lips shall / **give you praise.**

So will I bless you as long / **as I live;**
and lift up my hands / **in your Name.**
As with riches shall my soul be / **satisfied,**
and my mouth praises you with / **joyful lips.**

For you have / **been my helper,**
and under the shadow of your wings I / **will rejoice.**
My soul clings / **fast to you;**
your right hand / **holds me fast.**

THE EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in

sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL HYMN: *Rock of Ages*

685

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

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

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 13: 1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Canon Augusta Anderson

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 Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Trust My Soul*

William Billings

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer **B** (*standing*)

BCP 367

SANCTUS



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



heaven 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 -

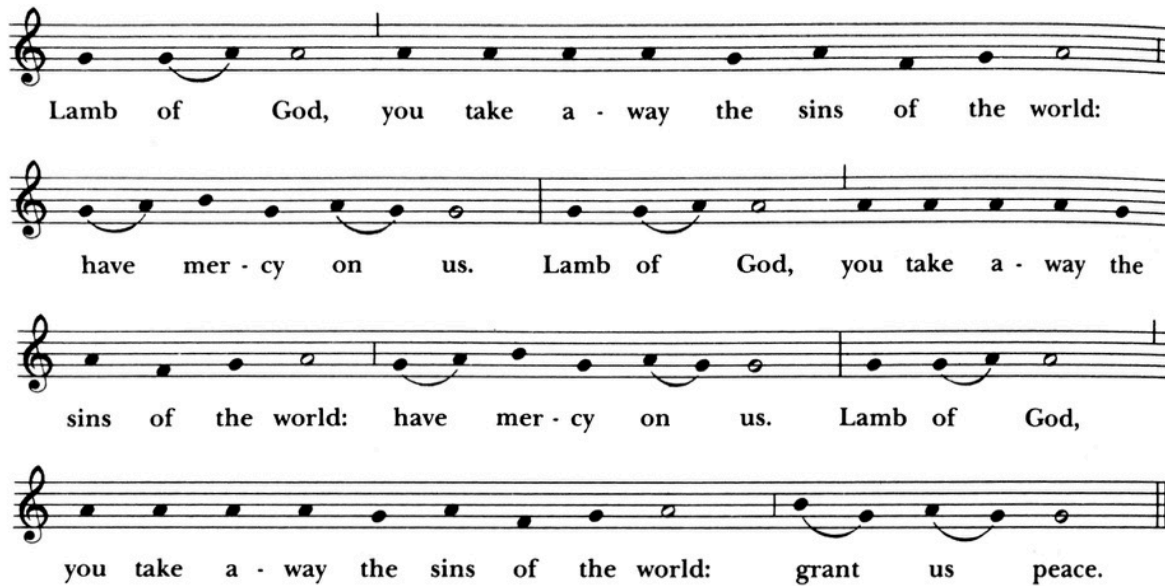


san-na in the high - est. Ho - san na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional Version)*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

All who seek God or a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Eucharist. To receive the bread, extend your hands towards the priest. Gluten free wafers are available. To receive the wine, guide the bottom of the chalice with both hands. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, simply cross your arms across your chest.

THE COMMUNION HYMN *Food to Pilgrims Given*

309

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.

CLOSING HYMN: *The Glory of These Forty Days*

143

THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: *Glory Be to Jesus*

Robert Hobby



OUR PRAYER LIST

For Parishioners: **Tim Collins; Suana Gentry** (wife of David Gentry); **Ashley Israel; Anne Jarema; Geoff Kirsch; Bob Kistler; Nancy Lewis; Wayne and Laura Parton; Guy Sayles; Al Seale; Becky & Bill Smith; Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen), 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 and Marla Woeckener); **Marcie Coleman** (friend of Lynda McCredie); **Winnie Gaffney** (cousin of Lorie Tola); **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); **David** (partner of Daniel McRee); **Megan; Peggy, Mac, and Chris** (friends of Lucy and 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; Sylvia & Bob** (friends of Kim Hayes); **Mike Wilson** (friend of Jeff Russell); **Sara** (Joe Aull's cousin).

For those celebrating birthdays: Cynthia B. Garland; Kimberly Kneier; Becky Smith; Mark Wall; Terri Frue; Walker Wrenn.

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; Church of the Advocate.**

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.

Get permission from anyone you would like to add to this list and contact our Pastoral Care Ministry at office@graceavl.com or contact the church.



The Aumbry Cable 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 Diane & Tony Wilkey in loving memory of her mother, Marguerite Motney for her birthday.

LAY MINISTERS

Acolyte: Sally Withers Chalicerist: Elaine Potter

Lectors: John Woodson, Elaine Potter Intercessor: Elise Cassarino

Ushers: Todd & Katherine Kaderabek Greeters: Diane Wilkey, Carole Lentz

Vestry Member of the Day: Leslie Schoof Coffee Hour Host: Carole Lentz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome this morning The Reverend Canon Augusta Anderson as our guest presider and preacher. Please join us after the service at Coffee Hour to welcome her to Grace.

Your 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.

Lenten Series

Our Lenten series this year will be, "Does Jesus Still Heal Today?" which is centered around Healing Prayer. It will run through *Wednesday, April 9 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.* Teaching topics include "Overview of the Four Kinds of Healing Prayer," "Listen! My Sheep Will Hear My Voice," "Healing Hurts of the Past," "Forgiveness - Setting the Captives Free," and "Praying with Jesus' Power and Authority." Each study session will conclude with a time of quiet prayer. The study will be led by Fr. John. He has been teaching and equipping God's people on Jesus' healing ministry for the past thirty-five years. Dinner will be several kinds of soup, bread and dessert. *Please consider bringing soup, salad, bread, or dessert.* Sign-up sheets will be provided so attendees can choose a day and a portion of the meal to bring.

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.

Our Lenten Food Drive Ends this Sunday the 23rd

Great thanks to everyone of you who have brought food donations for our quarterly food drive for ABCCM! When we started our drive on March 9, we wanted to do something great in Lent by gathering a mountain of food to help ABCCM take care of the women, children, and men surviving day-to-day in our community.

And with our final food donations this Sunday, we can fill up our tables in

the lobby at Grace, get all the food to ABCCM ASAP, and give thanks to our Lord for being with us, every step of the way.

ANNUAL MEETING & potluck

Annual Meeting and Potluck, Sunday, March 30

Join us after worship on March 30 for a pot luck lunch, fellowship, and Grace's Annual Meeting. Vestry members will be providing fried chicken. Please bring other entrees and your favorite side dishes to share. Let's catch-up on pending issues and exciting happenings around the church.

Young Adult Retreat, For 20's & 30's, April 4 - 6

Episcopal Diocese of WNC Young Adult Ministries is hosting a Young Adult Retreat (for folks in their 20's and 30's). It will be a time of focusing on community and spiritual rejuvenation. \$40 cost. Email elewis@diocesewnc.org with any questions.

April 4-6 at Montreat Conference Center Register at bit.ly/3X6LnhB



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

- **April 13** **Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, 10:30am**
- **April 17** **Maundy Thursday**
 Foot Washing & Stripping of the Altar, 7:00pm
- **April 18** **Good Friday Liturgy, Noon and 7:00pm**
- **April 19** **Holy Saturday, 10:30am, Urban Garden**
- **April 20** **Easter Day Eucharist, 10:30am**
 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 Sunday, 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.

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.



Aumbry Candle Dedication

Please consider making a dedication to the Glory of God and your loved one by sponsoring the Aumbry Candle for the month of April. The cost is \$20. Please contact Jennifer Witt at jmwitt5384@gmail.com.

Flower Guild

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.

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.

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? *A signup sheet will be located in the breezeway and parish hall following Sunday services March 23. Thank you!*

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.

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 - 1:30

Wednesday 9:30 - 3:30

office@graceavl.com | www.graceavl.com

The Right Reverend José McLoughlin, *Bishop*

The Reverend John Rice, *Clergy*

The Reverend Timothy McRee, *Clergy*

James Cassarino, *Director of Music*

Cathy Adkins, *Organist*

Esta Levine, *Nursery Minister*

Katie Douglas, *Finance Officer*

Anne Spruance, *Office Manager*

Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*

Archie Clarkson, *Tech Director*

Katherine Johnson, *Wedding Coordinator*

Grace Church is a place where we hope you experience the empowering presence of the living God and where we collaborate with God in building the Kingdom of Heaven, here on earth. We are grateful you are among us today.

EASTER FLOWER DONORS INVITED!



Memorialize loved ones and give thanks by making an Easter Flower donation. Envelopes are 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 your 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* _____