



St. John's Episcopal Church

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
St. John's welcomes you.

Ash Wednesday
14 February 2024
12:10 & 6:30 p.m.

*We invite you to prepare for the service in quiet meditation and prayer.
Please silence cell phones prior to the service.*

*Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982.
“BCP” refers to pages in the red Book of Common Prayer.*

ABOUT ASH WEDNESDAY

In the ancient and venerable tradition of the Old Testament prophets, the placement of ashes on one's head signified the soul's deepest sorrow and heartiest repentance. Over time, Christians also adopted this practice, observing it primarily at the beginning of Lent, the Church's forty-day season of fasting, penitence, and prayer. The imposition of ashes serves as a stark reminder of our mortality and our dependence upon God alone.

On this day, you are invited to join Christians throughout the world in the observance of a holy Lent. Through self-examination, repentance, prayer, and self-denial, may these forty days be to you a time of genuine restoration and renewal in God's providence and mercy.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Solemn Procession *(Please stand)*

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from the book of Joel

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” *[Joel 2:1-2, 12-17]*

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Lord, who throughout these forty days Hymn 142

The Gospel

<i>Gospeller</i>	The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
<i>People</i>	Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you

pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” *[Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21]*

<i>Gospeller</i>	The Gospel of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children's Chapel *(6:30 p.m. only)*

Pre-K through 3rd grade children gather at the front steps of the chancel for a blessing before processing to Children's Chapel.

The Sermon

A brief period of silence follows the sermon.

THE LITURGY OF ASHES

The Invitation to a Holy Lent..... BCP 264

Holy Silence *(Please kneel)*

The Blessing of the Ashes BCP 265

The Imposition of Ashes

Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come forward at this time, as guided by the ushers, while the Choir sings Psalm 51.

The Litany of Penitence..... BCP 267

The PeaceBCP 360

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION	
Offertory.....	Miserere mei, Deus Raphaella Aleotti
Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me, for my soul trusteth in thee; and under the shadow of thy wings shall be my refuge, until this tyranny be over-past.	
If you are worshipping with us in person, we encourage you to place your gift in the offering plates as they are passed in the pews. For instructions on online and text giving, see the back panel of this bulletin.	
Presentation of Gifts (Stand).....	Hymn 143, v.5
Eucharistic Prayer C (Stand)	BCP 369
The Sanctus	Hymn S 114
The Lord’s Prayer	BCP 364
The Fraction Anthem	Hymn S 158
Communion	
All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at St. John’s. Approach the altar in a double line in the center aisle. Stand or kneel at the rail and receive the bread in your hand. You may sip the wine directly from the common cup, or you may allow the Eucharistic Minister to dip the bread in the cup and return it to you. If you do not wish to receive the bread or wine for any reason, fold your arms across your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing instead.	
If you would like to receive Communion but are unable to walk to the rail, tell a greeter, and a minister will be happy to bring Communion to you at your pew.	
Communion Hymns	150, 141
The Prayer of Thanksgiving	BCP 366
The glory of these forty days (Stand)	Hymn 143 vv.1-4
The Dismissal.....	BCP 366
Voluntary	O Christ, Lamb of God, BWV 619 J.S. Bach

St. John’s
Episcopal Church

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(850) 222-2636 | www.saint-john.org

The Season of Lent

Lent is the 40-day season of fasting and prayer leading to Easter. The word “Lent” comes from the Old English “lencten,” referring to Spring and the “lengthening” of days that occurs at this time of year. Why 40 days? Because that’s how long our Lord fasted and prayed in the wilderness after his baptism.

During Lent, our worship adopts a uniquely reflective and penitential tone. In place of our typically festive approach to worship, these changes allow us to experience a different side of the Christian life as we journey with Christ to the cross, the grave, and ultimately to resurrection.

Changes You See & Hear

PURPLE: The liturgical color for Lent is typically purple, symbolizing penitence. Unbleached linen may also be used. St. John’s has utilized both over the years.

VEILED CROSSES: Our more ornate processional and altar crosses represent the glory of the resurrected Christ. In Lent we veil these items in purple to shift our attention away from glory and splendor and to remember that God is also found in the simple, the humble, and the sacrificial.

ALLELUIA: “Alleluia” is a joyful word derived from the ancient Hebrew “hallelujah.” It is the most festive word we have. As such, we lay it aside during Lent and do not employ it in our music or liturgy until Easter morning.

MUSIC: Our music, like in all liturgical seasons, seeks to reflect and magnify the liturgy. You’ll hear anthems and hymns with haunting harmonies, and texts that prompt introspection and renewed intimacy with God.

DECALOGUE & CONFESSION: In Lent our Sunday worship begins with the recitation of the Ten Commandments (also known as the Decalogue) and the Confession of Sin. Placing the Confession up front allows us to acknowledge our sins and to seek God’s forgiveness at the outset before we enter into the rest of worship.

KYRIE ELEISON: In place of the usual triumphant Gloria, we sing, “Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,” also sometimes sung in Greek as “Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.” The Greek is pronounced keer'-ee-ay ee-lay'-ee-sohn, crist'-ay ee-lay'-ee-sohn.


LAMB OF GOD: At the breaking of the bread, we sing the words, “Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us,” in place of our more festive fraction anthems.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER C: Affectionately known by many Episcopalians as the “Star Wars prayer” thanks to its reference to “the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,” the true beauty of Eucharistic Prayer C lies in its penitential theology. As we gather around the Holy Table and tell the story of our salvation, we use this prayer to proclaim the fundamental truth of our atonement: “By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.” It is only by the selflessness and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ that we obtain healing, mercy, grace, and everlasting life.

Welcome!

Since 1829, St. John’s Episcopal Church has sought to love Christ and our neighbors in Tallahassee and the world. Whether you are a lifelong Christian or it is your first time entering a church, welcome. We are glad you are here.

Your Gift Makes a Difference



GIVING

St. John’s runs solely on the generosity of its members. Give today via the offering plate; or text STJOHNS to 73256; or scan this code with your phone to give online. You can also mail your gift to St. John’s Episcopal Church, Attn: Finance Office, 211 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. Every gift, large or small, sustains the church you love.

Childcare

Free, professional childcare is provided 9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. each Sunday.

Hearing System

To access our hearing loop system, set your hearing aid to tele-coil or “t” telephone mode. If your hearing aid does not have this capability, wireless headsets are available at the north tower entrance or from an usher.

Weekly Services

SUNDAY

8 a.m.....Holy Eucharist (Rite I).....Sanctuary

10 a.m..... Holy Eucharist (Rite II)Sanctuary
service is livestreamed

7:30 p.m.....Sung ComplineSanctuary

WEDNESDAY

12:10 p.m..... Holy Eucharist (Rite II) Chapel
with Healing Prayer

5:30 p.m..... Evensong..... Chapel
Sung by the Choristers

Parish Prayer List

Please take this list home each week and commit to praying daily for your fellow parishioners.

Prayers: Julia Livingston, Kathy Hall, Hollis, Deacon Mike Hall, Ellen Sloyer, John Larson, Diana Daktere, Aaliyah Montgomery, Glen, Ida and Otis, Ross Sepielli, John Henry Mitchell

The Departed: Rebecca, Donna Virnelson, Rebecca Lynn Olson, Margaret Sanders, Mike Martin, The Rev. Laughton Thomas, Bill Grubbs

Our Clergy: The Rev. Lonnie Lacy, Rector; The Rev. Leslie Roraback, Associate Rector; The Rev. Dcn. Joe Bakker, The Rev. Dcn. Mike Hall, The Rev. Dcn. Linda Liebert-Hall, Deacons; Melanie Salsgiver, Postulant for holy orders