



St. John's Episcopal Church

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

1st Sunday in Lent
10 a.m. 18 February 2024

We invite you to prepare for the service in quiet meditation and prayer.
Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982.
"BCP" refers to pages in the red Book of Common Prayer.

About The Great Litany *Book of Common Prayer, p. 148*

Today's service begins with the Great Litany, a series of sung petitions and responses dating back to 1544, five years before the first English *Book of Common Prayer*. It is our oldest original English language rite.

Originally, it was intended to be prayed every Wednesday and Friday, but over the centuries it came to be used primarily on the first Sunday in Lent. From the earliest days, it was often sung or prayed in procession. Today we reclaim this age-old tradition.

The words of the Great Litany are meaningful, deep, and all encompassing, covering nearly every aspect of our common life. In a world still torn by strife and unrest, these continue to be prayers worth praying.

As the choir processes around the congregation, kneel as you are able, listen deeply to these ancient petitions, and join in the responses. Thank you for starting your Lent here with us at St. John's.

THE WORD OF GOD

Tower Bells

Voluntary O Lamb of God, innocent, BWV618
J. S. Bach

The Great Litany.....BCP 148

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant continues

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A reading from the Book of Ezra

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in order that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom, and also in a written edict declared:

“Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of those among you who are of his people—may their God be with them!—are now permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem; and let all survivors, in whatever place they reside, be assisted by the people of their place with silver and gold, with goods and with animals, besides freewill-offerings for the house of God in Jerusalem.”

The heads of the families of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites—everyone whose spirit God had stirred—got ready to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. All their neighbors aided them with silver vessels, with gold, with goods, with animals, and with valuable gifts, besides all that was freely offered. King Cyrus himself brought out the vessels of the house of the Lord that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods. King Cyrus of Persia had them released into the charge of Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah. [Ezra 1:1-8]

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 (The choir sings verse 1, verses 2-7 sung by all)



- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of / Zion, *
then were we like / those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with / laughter, *
and our tongue with / shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the / nations, *
“The Lord has done great / things for them.”

- 4 The Lord has done great things for / us, *
and we are / glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O / Lord, *
like the watercourses / of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with / tears *
will reap with / songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the / seed, *
will come again with joy, shoulder / ing their sheaves.

A reading from the Book of Nehemiah

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen:”, lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” [Nehemiah 8:1-6, 9-10]

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Help us, O Lord, to learn (Stand) Hymn 626

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” [Mark 1:9-15]

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

Children’s Chapel

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 Nicene Creed (Stand).....**BCP 358**

The Peace..... **BCP 360**

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory..... **Wayfaring Stranger**
arr. Alice Parker

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 **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..... **630, 310**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Kneel)..... **BCP 366**

Sending of Eucharistic Visitors

If Eucharistic Visitors are sent forth to take Communion to the sick or homebound, the following is said.

Celebrant N., we send you forth in the Name of this Congregation, to N. 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.

The Blessing

Forty days and forty nights (Stand) **Hymn 150**

The Dismissal **BCP 366**

Voluntary..... **Preserve us, Lord**
Johann Pachelbel

**St. John’s
Episcopal Church**

211 North Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32301
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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.

About Today’s Readings

Today’s first two readings are selected with the Bishop’s permission to support St. John’s yearlong, parishwide journey through the Bible. The gospel is the regularly assigned gospel of the day. To view the usual lectionary readings, visit lectionarypage.net.

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, Ellen Sloyer, Diana Daktere, Aaliyah Montgomery, Glen, Ida & Otis, Ross Sepielli, John Henry Mitchell

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

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