

A Reading from the book of Isaiah

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. *[Isaiah 58:1-12]*

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

Lord, who throughout these forty days Hymn 142

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People 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]*

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

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

Psalm 51 (Sung by the choir) BCP 266

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

The Litany of Penitence..... BCP 267

The Peace BCP 360

Ash Wednesday
18 February 2026
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.*

If you are attending today's service on a break from work and need to leave before the conclusion, please feel welcome to do so.

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.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory..... *Jesu, meine freude*

J. S. Bach

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 152**, v.5

Grant, O thou blessed Trinity;
grant, O unchanging Unity;
that this our fast of forty days
may work our profit and thy praise!

Eucharistic Prayer C (Stand) **BCP 369**

The Sanctus **Hymn S 124**

The Lord's Prayer **BCP 364**

The Fraction Anthem **Hymn S 161**

Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. Approach the altar in a double line via the center aisle. Stand or kneel at the rail and receive the Bread in your hand. You may sip from the common cup or allow the minister to dip the Bread in the Wine for you. If you prefer a blessing, fold your arms across your chest. If coming forward is difficult, tell an usher and a minister will bring Communion to your pew.

Communion Motet *Miserere mei, Deus*
William Byrd

Communion Hymns **148, 475, 144**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving **BCP 366**

The glory of these forty days (Stand) **Hymn 143**

The Dismissal **BCP 366**

Voluntary *Ricercare (In Memoriam)*, Op. 61
Marcel Dupré

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 "lencfen," 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 is purple, symbolizing penitence. Unbleached linen may also be used. Our ornate crosses are veiled in purple to shift our focus to humility, sacrifice, and simplicity.

ALLELUIA: This joyful word, derived from hallelujah, is omitted until Easter.

GREAT LITANY: On the first Sunday in Lent, we begin with this sweeping prayer of confession and petition, asking for God's mercy.

DECALOGUE & CONFESSION: Sunday worship begins with the Ten Commandments (Decalogue) and the Confession of Sin, allowing us to seek God's forgiveness at the very outset of our service.

KYRIE ELEISON: Instead of the Gloria, we sing, "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy," sometimes in Greek: Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, pronounced KEE-ree-eh eh-LEY-ee-sohn, KRIST-eh eh-LEY-ee-sohn.

LAMB OF GOD: At the breaking of the bread, we sing, "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us."

EUCARISTIC PRAYER C: Affectionately known by some Episcopalians as the "Star Wars prayer" for its mention of "interstellar space," its true beauty lies in its penitential theology: "By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed."

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



St. John's runs primarily 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 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 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.

Large Print Bulletins

Large print bulletins are available in the south transept and north tower for the visually impaired. Pick one up by the door or ask an usher.

Altar Flower Dedications

Altar flower dedications are a wonderful way to honor loved ones. Visit the GIVE page on St. John's website or contact the church office for assistance.

Weekly Services

SUNDAY

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II) Sanctuary
service is livestreamed

11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II) Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. Sung Compline Sanctuary

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: Mtr. Leslie Roraback, Diana Daktere, Baby Honor Isabelle Strauss, John, Ben, Sharon & Nathanael Lyle, Tina, Ray, Corinna Strayer, Linda, Sharon, Stephen, Allison, Elizabeth, Mary Kaye, Nora, Jeannie, Mimi, Mary Lee, LiAnn

The Departed: Earl Yarborough

Our Clergy: The Rev. Lonnie Lacy, Rector; The Rev. Leslie Roraback, Associate Rector; The Rev. Dcn. Joe Bakker, Deacon; The Rev. Dcn. Melanie Salsgiver, Deacon and Seminarian

St. John's Episcopal Church

211 North Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 222-2636 | www.saint-john.org

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