4th Sunday in Lent
11:15 a.m. 15 March 2026

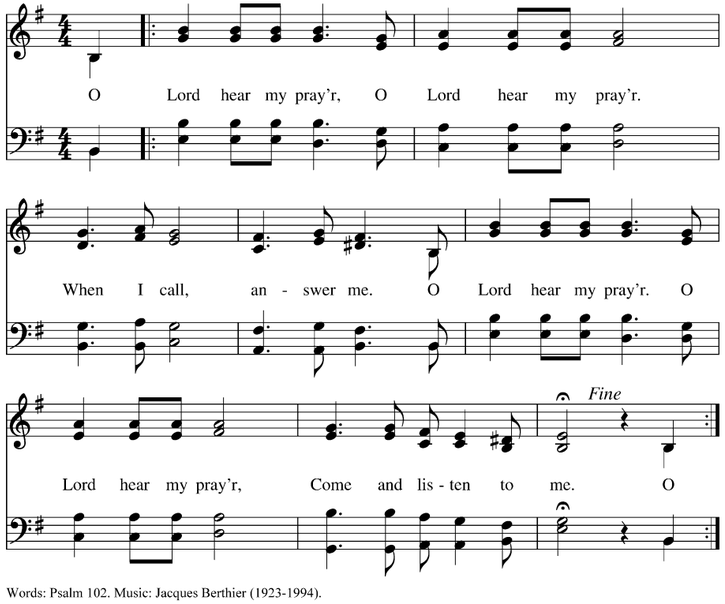
*We invite you to prepare for the service in quiet meditation and prayer.*
*Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982.*
*"BCP" refers to pages in the red Book of Common Prayer.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Tower Bells**

**Voluntary** .....**Prelude on *Sine Nomine***
Herbert Howells

**O Lord, hear my prayer** *(Kneel or sit as you are able as you sing)*




Words: Psalm 102. Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994).

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
*People* His mercy endures for ever.

**The Decalogue** *(Kneel)*.....**BCP 350**

*At the end of each commandment:*

*People* Amen. Lord have mercy.

*After the Decalogue, the Celebrant says*

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]*

### The Confession & Absolution

*Deacon*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Deacon and People*

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.

*The Celebrant stands and says*

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 Kyrie** .....**Hymn S 96**

### The Collect of the Day

*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.*

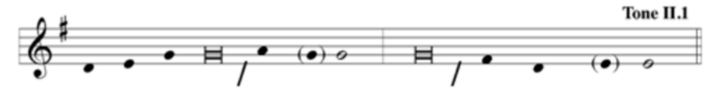
### A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." *[Ephesians 5:8-14]*

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

**Psalm 23** *(The choir sings verse 1, verses 2-6 are sung by all)*




1 The Lord is my / shepherd; *
I shall / not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green / pastures *
and leads me beside / still waters.

3 He revives my / soul *
and guides me along right pathways / for
his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no / evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, / they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the
presence of those who / trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is run / ning over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of / my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord / for ever.

**I want to walk as a child of the light** *(Stand)*.....**Hymn 490**

### The Gospel

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"

And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.” *[John 9:1-41]*

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

## The Sermon

*A brief period of silence follows the sermon.*

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

## The Prayers of the People *(Kneel)*

*At the end of each petition*

*Leader* Light of the world,
*People* open our eyes.

## The Collect for the Diocese

## The Peace ..... BCP 360

## Announcements

# The Holy Communion

## Offertory ..... *Amazing grace*

Evelyn Simpson-Currenton

*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.*

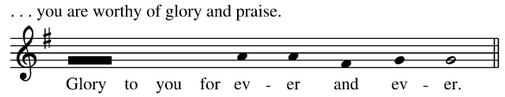
## Presentation of Gifts *(Stand)* ..... Hymn 152, v.5

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

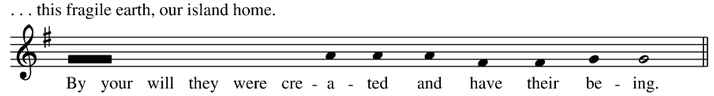
## Eucharistic Prayer C ..... BCP 369

*The responses of the People during the prayer are given below.*
*The Celebrant’s words which introduce each response are indicated.*

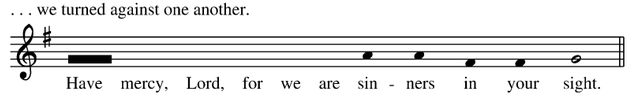
. . . you are worthy of glory and praise.



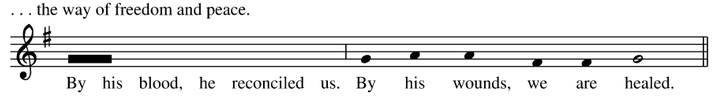

. . . this fragile earth, our island home.




. . . we turned against one another.

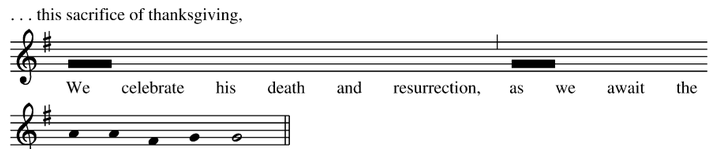



. . . the way of freedom and peace.

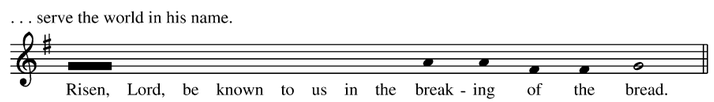



## The Sanctus ..... Hymn S 124

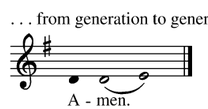
. . . this sacrifice of thanksgiving,




. . . serve the world in his name.




. . . from generation to generation.




## 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.*

*Intercessory prayer is available during Communion at the rear of the nave near the baptismal font; trained ministers offer brief, confidential prayer and anointing for comfort, healing, or strength.*

## Communion Hymns ..... 339, 429, 538

## The Post Communion Prayer *(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

## O for a thousand tongues to sing *(Stand)* ..... Hymn 493

## The Dismissal ..... BCP 366

## Voluntary ..... Praeludium und Fuge e-moll (GroB)

Nicolaus Bruhns

## 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.

# St. John’s
## Episcopal Church

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**Deep Roots. True Belonging. Abundant Grace.**