

WELCOME TO

ST. LUKE'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PARISH IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

+++

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 15, 2026

HOLY EUCHARIST

10:30 A.M.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are welcome!

Whether you are a guest or a long-time member, we are blessed by your presence today.

Children are most welcome and always celebrated as a part of our church community. Nursery care is available during worship for children 0 - 4 years old in "The Children's Space," first floor, Parish Hall building. Children's Church is offered for children 4 years old - elementary. We gather in the rear of the church and process to the Parish Hall for a lesson and activity, returning to worship at the Peace. Our trained staff and volunteers lead both of these ministries. The Parish Hall is also home to nursing and changing facilities and a comfortable, quiet space (St. Agnes room). Please ask an usher or greeter if you need assistance finding any of these locations.

Restrooms are in the hallway on the Church Street side of the building - exit through the Baptistry, turn left at the end of the ramp and then left at the sidewalk that runs alongside the church.

If you are visiting today, please complete a Guest Card (in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate.

May the God who brought you here today bless you throughout the coming week.

The Rt. Rev'd William O. Gregg, Ph.D., *Interim Rector*

VI Bishop of Eastern Oregon, res.

Assistant Bishop of North Carolina, ret.

The Rev. Thomas Carter, *Priest Associate*

The Rev. Bonnie Duckworth, *Deacon & Coordinator for Older Adult Ministry*

Stephen Williams, *Director of Music Ministry*

Caroline Stephenson, *Parish and Family Ministry Coordinator*

Jessica Moorman, *Parish Administrator*

Daphne Safrit, *Director, The Children's Space*

Come and See
the *difference* Christ makes



THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY

Prélude, Tiento, Improvisation (Suite Médiévale)

Jean Langlais

HYMN #686

Come thou fount of every blessing

Hymnal 1940

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

SALUTATION

Book of Common Prayer, 351

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures forever.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Please kneel, as able.

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 ABSOLUTION

BCP 353

KYRIE

Missa brevis II

Denis Bédard

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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.**

FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Please be seated.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to

Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM 23 *Sung by the choir.*

chant, Russell Jackson

- 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 running 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.

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 5:8-14

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."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN #469 There's wideness in God's mercy *Please stand.* *Hymnal 1982*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

Deacon: 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."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Please be seated.

The Rt. Rev'd William O. Gregg, Ph.D.

VI Bishop of Eastern Oregon, res.

Assistant Bishop of North Carolina, ret.

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand.

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please kneel or stand.

Deacon: Creator God, you have formed us for a purpose. Enter more deeply into our hearts that we might more fully know you and the role you have created us for, and accept our prayers as we say, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Empower your Church to speak truth and to stand boldly against the dark powers of this world, that it might be a refuge and a place for hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embolden your people to hold to account the leaders of the world, that they might pursue policies of peace and fellowship. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant us discerning and generous hearts that your blessings might be made known to our neighbors through our actions. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Equip us and sustain us to forestall environmental catastrophes, and to preserve the glorious abundance of creation for future generations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Support those who suffer and make your healing presence known to them. Especially we pray for Reg, Danny, Barbara, Tricia and Debbie. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accept the dying into your loving arms and greet us also in the hour of our death that we might rise again in your new age. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Speak to us and guide us in our life's path so that we might be fully the people you created us to be. All we have and all we ask comes from you, O Lord, who with the Son and Holy Spirit reigns for ever, one God. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR THE CALLING OF OUR NEXT RECTOR

Gracious and loving God, who calls faithful leaders and has blessed St. Luke's with gifts of love, compassion, diversity, fellowship, inspiring liturgy, and historic spaces within which to worship: Send your Holy Spirit to guide us in our discernment as we seek the one you are calling to be our next rector. Continue to form us through intentional worship, empower our efforts in becoming your beloved community, and keep your abundant grace always before us. In the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

BCP 820

THE PEACE *Please stand.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS *Prayed by all.*

Those celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary in the previous or coming week are invited to come forward for a prayer. It is customary, but not at all required, to put an offering in the silver vessel when coming forward. Some choose to put an amount symbolic of the number of years being celebrated.

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Guest Information cards (found in the pew racks)
may be placed in the offering plate or given to the clergy after church today.*

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Gifts to support the ministries of St. Luke's may be placed in the Offering Plate or given online at www.SLS.church/give

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What shall I render to my God?

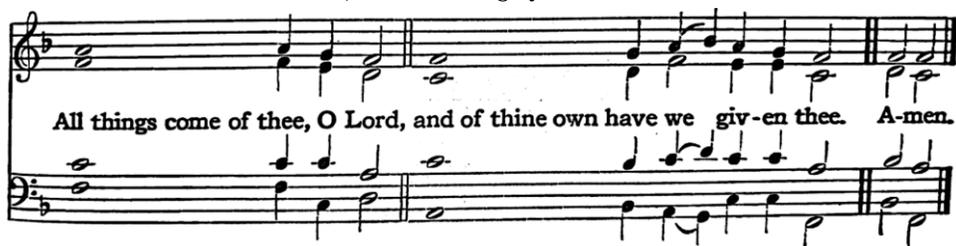
Austin Lovelace

What shall I render to my God For all His mercy's store?
 I'll take the gifts He hath bestowed And humbly ask for more.
 The sacred cup of saving grace I will with thanks receive,
 And all His promises embrace And to His glory live.
 My vows I will to His great name Before His people pay,
 And all I have, and all I am, Upon His altar lay.
 Thy lawful servant, Lord, I owe to Thee whate'er is mine.
 Born in Thy family below. And by redemption Thine.
 Thy hands created me, Thy hands from sin have set me free,
 The mercy that hath loosed my bands Hath bound me fast to Thee.
 Praise Him, ye saints, the God of love who hath thy sins forgiv'n,
 Till gathered to the church above, We sing the songs of heaven.
 (Text by Charles Wesley; the tune is Fairfield)

THE DOXOLOGY

Please stand, as able. Sung by all.

Hymnal 1940



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy

Sung by choir. Missa brevis II

Denis Bédard

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

FRACTION ANTHEM

Sung by choir. Missa brevis II

Denis Bédard

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
 O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
 O Lamb of God, grant us peace.

All baptized persons are most welcome to receive Communion with us, regardless of the tradition you were baptized. If you do not wish to receive Communion or if you are not baptized, you are invited to come to the Altar for a blessing. To indicate that you want a blessing, place your arms across your heart.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION Hymn #343 Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless Hymnal 1982
 Choir Ave verum Corpus Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,
 Truly suffering, sacrificed on the cross for man,
 From whose pierced side flowed water and blood,
 Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet] in the trial of death.
 O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus, O Jesus, son of Mary.*

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER Please stand or kneel. BCP 365

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 Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

THE PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE *In Lent, in place of a blessing the Celebrant offers a solemn prayer on the people's behalf asking for God's strength, guidance, and grace. The People respond with "Amen."*

Deacon: Bow down before the Lord. *(The people kneel.)*

Celebrant: Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weaknesses and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #490 I want to walk as a child of the light Please stand. Hymnal 1982

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. *People:* **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY Acclamations (Suite Médiévale) Jean Langlais

Servers	Today	Next Sunday
Ushers	Bob Setzer, Andy Lund, Erik Lipscomb	Brian Whitson, Tyler Speir, Sandy Goodman, Will Goodnight
Greeter	Pennie Martin	Teresa McKinney
Emergency Response	Stephen Collins	Greg Shields
Lectors	Lee Piper, Pennie Martin	Davis Cooke, Kathy Carter
Chalicians	Bain Jones, Pennie Martin	Kathy Carter, Ray Swann
Intercessor	Luke Hamaty	Cris Leckonby
Verger	Michelle Whitson	Davis Cooke
Acolytes	Stephanie Collins, Anna Chamberlain, Joaquim Chamberlain, Pierce Ellis	Nick Clement, Ruby Corriher, Marlee Speir, Sawyer Jacobson
Choir	St. Luke's Choir	St. Luke's Choir
Nursery	Joynice Gladey, Cris Leckonby	Joynice Gladey, Danielle Corriher
Children's Church	Kathy Gregg, Carol Rocca	Caroline Stephenson, Kathy Gregg
Wednesday Server	Stephanie Phoenix	Ray Swann
Vestry Deposit	Penny Roemer, Mary Ann McCubbin	Sarah Wooten, John Cowan
Altar Guild	Ann Dunn, Alex Dunn, Dora Wood, Tyler Breese, Eliza Breese	Barb Whenal, Ann Dandison, Reg Boland

Eucharistic Candles given by: Mary Ellen Turner in memory of Lloyd Inman Hendricks

Sanctuary Lamp given by: Joy Hartle in memory of Bud Hartle

Altar Greens given by: Frances McGill in memory of Dr. John C. McGill, Mabel H. McGill

HOLY WEEK: MARCH 29TH–APRIL 5TH

Palm Sunday: Procession of the Palms precedes 10:30am liturgy. Meet at steps of Rowan Museum at 10:15am or join the processional in the church.

Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday: Liturgies nightly at 7pm

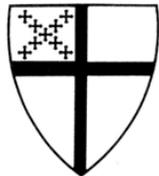
Maundy Thursday: Liturgy at 7pm

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross begins at 8am on church front lawn. Prayer Book Liturgy at 12 noon.

Holy Saturday: Liturgy at 10am

Great Vigil of Easter (Saturday, April 4th): Liturgy at 8pm

Easter Sunday: Worship at 8am and 10:30am. *Children's egg hunt on the front lawn follows the 10:30am liturgy. Treats available for all participants.*



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Established 1753

A Parish of the Diocese of North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

131 West Council Street Salisbury, NC 28144

Phone: 704-633-3221 / www.SLS.church / @stlukessalisbury



PARISH OFFICERS AND VESTRY

2026: Kathy Carter, Tyler Ellis (Jr. Warden), Andrew Jacobson, Jane White (Sr. Warden)

2027: Penny Roemer, Ray Swann, Brian Whitson, Sarah Wooten

2028: David Cline, John Cowan, Mary Ann McCubbin, Luanne Short

Parish Officers: Davis Cooke (Secretary); Will Goodnight (Treasurer); Chip Short (Chancellor)

All music printed with permission: OneLicense.net A-725767