

**The Parish of Christ Church
Andover, Massachusetts**

For this week's
announcements and
prayer list, please scan:



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

at eight and ten o'clock in the morning

Voluntary Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness, BWV 654 *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

All stand, as able

Hymn 686 Come, thou fount of every blessing *Nettleton*

A Penitential Order: Rite Two *BCP, p. 351*

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

The Celebrant continues with the Decalogue with the people responding. All are invited to kneel.

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of
bondage. You shall have no other gods but me. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

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 Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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 Priest 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.**

Lord, have mercy [Hymnal S-95] (*Sung at 10:00 a.m.*)

Kyrie

Litany of the Saints

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

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 First Book of Samuel (16:1-13 NRSV)

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.**

At the 10:00 a.m. service, the Congregation is invited to join the Choir in singing the even verses of the psalm.



Tone VIII.1

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my /shepherd; *

I /shall not be in want.

- 2 He makes me lie down in green /pastures *
and leads me be/side 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.

A Reading from Ephesians (5:8-14 NRSV)

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 490, vss. 1 & 3 (10:00 a.m.) I want to walk as a child of the light

Houston

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John (9:1-41 NRSV)

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.**"

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

The Sermon The Rev. Michael J. Hodges

The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Based on Form III, *BCP*, p. 387

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Julia, our bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Becky, Peter, Debbie, Maddie, Nancy, Leslie, Ed, Mary, Ila, Bonnie, Roger, Karen, Kendra, and Kathy, and those family and friends of parishioners who have been commended to our prayers, have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Karen Schnorrenberg.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

We give thanks for the Pennacook-Abenaki people who inhabited the lands upon which our church building is located.

May we be faithful stewards of this sacred space.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions. The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Minister and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Hymn 493 (8:00 a.m.) O for a thousand tongues to sing *Azmon*

Offertory Anthem (10:00 a.m.) The Lord Is My Shepherd *Nicholas White (b. 1967)*

Hymn at the Presentation 143, verse 1 The glory of these forty days *Erhalt uns, Herr*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, p. 361

Lift up your hearts [Hymnal S-120] *Sursum corda (Sung at 10:00 a.m.)*

Plainsong

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a proper Preface is sung or said.

Therefore we praise you joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord [S-124] *Sanctus (Sung at 10:00 a.m.)*

David Hurd (b. 1950)

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.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer [Hymnal S-119] (*Sung at 10:00 a.m.*)

Plainsong

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God [S-161] *Agnus Dei* (*Sung at 10:00 a.m.*)

David Hurd

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

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

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant This is Christ's table of love and forgiveness. "The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation" provide food for our souls. All are welcome to draw near and share these holy mysteries. Take Christ within your bodies and become the Body of Christ.

The Congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the communion hymn.

Communion Hymn 339 (*10:00 a.m.*) Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Schmücke dich

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 493 (*10:00 a.m.*)

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Azmon

Dismissal

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary “Allegro” from Concerto in G Major, BWV 592 *Johann Ernst (1696-1715) - J. S. Bach*

***During the season of Lent, please refrain from applause following the postlude.
An appropriate response would be respectful silence or a quiet “Amen”.***



The Parish of Christ Church

As we have been fed at God's Table as the Body of Christ, we warmly invite you to join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments following the service. Our Coffee Hour is held in the Parlor following the 8:00 a.m. service, and we gather in the Parish Hall after the 10:00 a.m. service. These are wonderful opportunities to connect with others.

Everyone is Welcome at God's Table ~ Christ Church Andover Serving at Today's Service

Celebrant and preacher	The Rev. Michael J. Hodges, Rector
Organist	Barbara A. Bruns
Choir	Parish Choir
Lectors	(8:00) Michael Smotrich (10:00) Musa Kikaire
Eucharistic Ministers	(8:00) Marie Wagner (10:00) Rosemarie Buxton
Ushers	(8:00) Michael Smotrich (10:00) Jon Vacik, Bill Hastings
Flowers	Rita DeLollis
Altar Guild	(8:00) Marie Wagner (10:00) Cathy Humphries
Verger	Chris Wagner
Acolytes	Benjamin McFarland, Caitlin Nason, Linus Barrett
Videographer	Sophia Marcinelli

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Welcome to Christ Church!

We're delighted you have found us! We are blessed by your presence here today and want to do everything possible to make you feel at home. In our celebration of Holy Communion, we believe that everyone is welcome at God's table. Our welcome extends to all people without preference for age, ability, gender, race, ethnic or religious background, sexual orientation, marital or family status. We desire to know ourselves and one another as God knows us - as beloved children of God - and to embody Jesus' own example of radical hospitality. If you have questions about this parish specifically, or about the Episcopal Church in general, please ask someone seated near you. There's a lot of wisdom in the helpful people in the pews. You may also talk with the Rev. Michael Hodges, our Rector.

Children: Children's activity bags for borrowing are available on the children's bookshelf in the back of the church. Our service is enriched by the presence of children; they learn liturgical behavior by observation. Let them see you participate in and enjoy the service!

Accessibility: Plastic magnifying sheets are available at the rear of the church. There are also hearing assistance devices located in the rear of the church. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Restrooms: Restrooms, including one with a changing table, are located behind the Parish Hall at the end of the long hallway on the left. Follow the red signs.

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that Christ Church is located on the ancestral lands of the Pennacook tribal nation, an Algonquian-speaking tribe of the Wabanaki Confederacy composed of the Pennacook, Pawtucket, and other Indigenous people. This was their home for more than 10,000 years. We acknowledge these caretakers of the land and waters: the elders who lived before, the Indigenous people today and the generations to come. We are guests on this land and have used it and its people for our betterment, often at their expense. We commit to doing our part to become better stewards of this land, understanding the impact of present and past exploitation, and working toward a more just and equitable future.

Our Weekday Services: Our weekday services of Morning Prayer take place on Zoom on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 7:00 a.m. Our Wednesday morning Eucharists take place in person in the North Chapel at 7:00 a.m. Our services of Compline are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. All are welcome! To join any of our online services, go to our homepage for the Zoom links.



Everything we do here at Christ Church is dependent on the generosity of our parishioners and other donors. Please use this QR code to donate today! Our vestry greatly appreciates your support.

The Parish of Christ Church

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