

MOTHER Emanuel

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Right Reverend James Levert Davis

Mother Arelis Beevers Davis
Episcopal Supervisor

Reverend Kenneth Taylor

Presiding Elder of the Edisto District

Presiding Prelate, 7th Episcopal District

Reverend Dr. Eric S. C. Manning
Senior Pastor of Charge

Mrs. Andretta M. Manning
First Lady

Hope, Healing and Holiness

Jeremiah 29: 11, Psalm 147: 3, 1 Peter 1: 15-16

The Order of Sacred Worship

March 1, 2026

Processional

Pastor Announcements and Acknowledgements of Visitors

***Doxology**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come people of God, with hearts open to the One who restores.

People: We come, bringing our wounds, our worries, and our weariness.

Leader: In God's presence, hope is rekindled and new beginnings take root.

People: We lift our eyes to the Lord, the source of our strength and joy.

Leader: Christ, our Healer, meets us with grace that mends the broken places.

People: We receive His mercy, His peace, and His renewing love.

Leader: The Holy Spirit calls us into a life set apart, clothed in holiness.

People: We will walk in the light, live in God's love, and worship in Spirit and in truth.

All: Come, let us worship the God of hope, the Healer of our souls, the Holy One who makes all things new!

***Hymn of Praise - Hymn 148 When I Survey the Wonderful Cross**

(Isaac Watts/arranged by Lowell Mason)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Congregation please stand / ** Ushers may seat worshippers / *No walking or entry into the sanctuary*

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*****Preface of Prayer**

Give me a clean heart so I may serve Thee. Lord fix my heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow thee.

*****Prayer of Invocation**

Response

*****Scripture Readings**

Old Testament.....Genesis 12: 1-4a

Psalms.....Psalm 121

New Testament.....Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

Gospel.....John 3: 1-7

***Preface Hymn to the Decalogue** (*the congregation rises, sings*)

“From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator’s praise arise; Let the Redeemer’s name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.”

*****Decalogue (Abridged) Led by Minister:**

Minister: And God said: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

And God said: You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

And God said: You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

And God said: Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work; you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within thy gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath Day and hallowed it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

And God said: You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

And God said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

*****Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Selection

Offering Appeal

Selection

Sermon

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Holy Communion

Chief Celebrant, Reverend, Dr. Eric S.C. Manning

Communion Hymn - Hymn # 530 Let Us Break Bread Together

- Let us break bread together on our knees; Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain -

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

- Let us drink wine together on our knees; Let us drink wine together on our knees.

- Let us praise God together on our knees; Let us praise God together on our knees;

THE BIDDING

You that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbor, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways, draw near with faith and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Your Divine Majesty,

provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

First Collect

Second Collect

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Humiliation

Prayer of Consecration

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you to preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Fellowship - I Need You to Survive

I need you, you need me. We're all a part of God's body

Stand with me, agree with me. We're all a part of God's body

It is His will that every need be supplied. You are important to me, I need you to survive

You are important to me, I need you to survive

Closing Affirmation

Benediction

Weekly Announcements

TEXT GIVING - "Gifts of love", tithes and offerings, text Mother Emanuel to 73256

Welcome to Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church—a sacred place where God's enduring hope continues to rise, even through history's deepest trials. Here, we believe in Christ's power to heal wounded hearts and restore our communities. As we worship together, we invite you to join us in living out holiness, growing in faith, love, and Christ-centered living.

Resurrection Sunday Service Choir Rehearsals, March 3rd - 6pm - Ebenezer AME Church

Midweek Bible Study - March 4th at 5:30pm

Trustee Board Meeting - March 4th at 6:30pm

Ushers Board Meeting - March 7th at 10:30am

Daylight Savings Time, March 8th (2:00am) *Spring forward!*

If you wish to contribute floral arrangements for our pulpit area,
please contact Steward LaVerne Bennett at 843-670-4718.

God is good!

Hope, Healing and Holiness

Jeremiah 29: 11, Psalm 147: 3, 1 Peter 1: 15-16

The Order of Sacred Worship

March 8, 2026

Pastor Announcements and Acknowledgements of Visitors

***Doxology**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come people of God, with hearts open to the One who restores.

People: We come, bringing our wounds, our worries, and our weariness.

Leader: In God's presence, hope is rekindled and new beginnings take root.

People: We lift our eyes to the Lord, the source of our strength and joy

Leader: Christ, our Healer, meets us with grace that mends the broken places.

People: We receive His mercy, His peace, and His renewing love.

Leader: The Holy Spirit calls us into a life set apart, clothed in holiness.

People: We will walk in the light, live in God's love, and worship in Spirit and in truth.

All: Come, let us worship the God of hope, the Healer of our souls, the Holy One who makes all things new!

***Hymn of Praise – Hymn 148 When I Survey the Wonderous Cross**
(Isaac Watts/arranged by Lowell Mason)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

*****Preface of Prayer**

Give me a clean heart so I may serve Thee. Lord fix my heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow thee.

*****Prayer of Invocation**

Response

*****Scripture Readings**

Old Testament.....Exodus 17: 1-7

Psalms.....Psalm 95

New Testament.....Romans 5: 1-11

Gospel.....John 4: 5-42

***Preface Hymn to the Decalogue** (*the congregation rises, sings*)

“From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator’s praise arise; Let the Redeemer’s name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.”

***** Summary of the Decalogue**

He said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **(Matthew 22:37-40)**

*****Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Selection

Offering Appeal

Selection

Sermon

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Closing Affirmation

Benediction

Weekly Announcements

TEXT GIVING - "*Gifts of love*", tithes and offerings, text Mother Emanuel to 73256



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Resurrection Sunday Service Choir Rehearsals, March 10th- 6pm - Ebenezer AME Church



Midweek Bible Study - March 11th at 5:30pm



Steward Board Meeting - March 11th at 6:30pm



YPD Retreat, March 13th - March 15th in Myrtle Beach, SC

NO YPD MEETING DUE TO THE RETREAT



If you wish to contribute floral arrangements for our pulpit area,
please contact Steward LaVerne Bennett at 843-670-4718.

WORSHIP & PRAISE

Hope, Healing and Holiness

Jeremiah 29: 11, Psalm 147: 3, 1 Peter 1: 15-16

The Order of Sacred Worship

March 15, 2026

Pastor Announcements and Acknowledgements of Visitors

***Doxology**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come people of God, with hearts open to the One who restores.

People: We come, bringing our wounds, our worries, and our weariness.

Leader: In God's presence, hope is rekindled and new beginnings take root.

People: We lift our eyes to the Lord, the source of our strength and joy.

Leader: Christ, our Healer, meets us with grace that mends the broken places.

People: We receive His mercy, His peace, and His renewing love.

Leader: The Holy Spirit calls us into a life set apart, clothed in holiness.

People: We will walk in the light, live in God's love, and worship in Spirit and in truth.

All: Come, let us worship the God of hope, the Healer of our souls, the Holy One who makes all things new!

***Hymn of Praise - Hymn 148 When I Survey the Wonderous Cross**

(Isaac Watts/arranged by Lowell Mason)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

*****Preface of Prayer**

Give me a clean heart so I may serve Thee. Lord fix my heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow thee.

*****Prayer of Invocation**

Response

*****Scripture Readings**

Old Testament.....1 Samel 16: 1-13

Psalms.....Psalm 23

New Testament.....Ephesians 5: 8-14

Gospel.....John 9: 1-41

***Preface Hymn to the Decalogue**

“From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator’s praise arise; Let the Redeemer’s name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.”

*** Summary of the Decalogue

He said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **(Matthew 22:37-40)**

***Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Selection

Offering Appeal

Selection

Sermon

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Closing Affirmation

Benediction

Weekly Announcements

TEXT GIVING - "*Gifts of love*", tithes and offerings, text Mother Emanuel to 73256

Welcome to Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church—a sacred place where God's enduring hope continues to rise, even through history's deepest trials. Here, we believe in Christ's power to heal wounded hearts and restore our communities. As we worship together, we invite you to join us in living out holiness, growing in faith, love, and Christ-centered living.

Resurrection Sunday Service Choir Rehearsals, March 17th - 6pm - Ebenezer AME Church

Midweek Bible Study - March 18th at 5:30pm

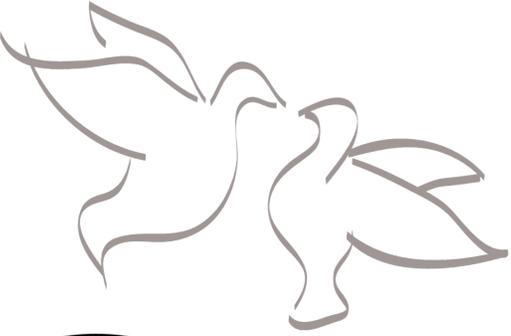
WMS Meeting - March 18th at 6:30pm

Edisto District Conference - March 20th - March 21st at St. James Bethel
Friday night 7:00pm and Saturday morning 8:30am

Lay Meeting - February 21st at 12:00pm

If you wish to contribute floral arrangements for our pulpit area,
please contact Steward LaVerne Bennett at 843-670-4718.

Grow in Christ



Hope, Healing and Holiness

Jeremiah 29: 11, Psalm 147: 3, 1 Peter 1: 15-16

The Order of Sacred Worship

March 22, 2026

Pastor Announcements and Acknowledgements of Visitors

***Doxology**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come people of God, with hearts open to the One who restores.

People: We come, bringing our wounds, our worries, and our weariness.

Leader: In God's presence, hope is rekindled and new beginnings take root.

People: We lift our eyes to the Lord, the source of our strength and joy.

Leader: Christ, our Healer, meets us with grace that mends the broken places.

People: We receive His mercy, His peace, and His renewing love.

Leader: The Holy Spirit calls us into a life set apart, clothed in holiness.

People: We will walk in the light, live in God's love, and worship in Spirit and in truth.

All: Come, let us worship the God of hope, the Healer of our souls, the Holy One who makes all things new!

***Hymn of Praise - Hymn 148 When I Survey the Wonderous Cross**

(Isaac Watts/arranged by Lowell Mason)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

*****Preface of Prayer**

Give me a clean heart so I may serve Thee. Lord fix my heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow thee.

*****Prayer of Invocation**

Response

*****Scripture Readings**

- Old Testament**.....Ezekiel 37: 1-14
- Psalm**.....Psalm 130
- New Testament**.....Romans 8: 6-11
- Gospel**.....John 11: 1-45

***Preface Hymn to the Decalogue (*the congregation rises, sings*)**

“From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator’s praise arise; Let the Redeemer’s name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.”

**** Summary of the Decalogue**

He said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **(Matthew 22:37-40)**

*****Gloria Patri**

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Selection

Youth Moment

Offering Appeal

Selection

Sermon

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Closing Affirmation

Benediction

Weekly Announcements

TEXT GIVING - "*Gifts of love*", tithes and offerings, text MotherEmanuel to 73256



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Resurrection Sunday Service Choir Rehearsals, March 24th- 6pm - Ebenezer AME Church



Midweek Bible Study - March 25th at 5:30pm



Official Board Meeting - March 25th at 6:30pm



NAACP Meeting March 26th at 6:30pm



If you wish to contribute floral arrangements for our pulpit area,
please contact - Steward LaVerne Bennett at 843-670-4718.

PALM SUNDAY

• HOSANNA TO THE KING •

Hope, Healing and Holiness

Jeremiah 29: 11, Psalm 147: 3, 1 Peter 1: 15-16

The Order of Sacred Worship

March 29, 2026 Psalm

Pastor Announcements and Acknowledgements of Visitors

***Doxology**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come people of God, with hearts open to the One who restores.

People: We come, bringing our wounds, our worries, and our weariness.

Leader: In God's presence, hope is rekindled and new beginnings take root.

People: We lift our eyes to the Lord, the source of our strength and joy.

Leader: Christ, our Healer, meets us with grace that mends the broken places.

People: We receive His mercy, His peace, and His renewing love.

Leader: The Holy Spirit calls us into a life set apart, clothed in holiness.

People: We will walk in the light, live in God's love, and worship in Spirit and in truth.

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***Hymn of Praise - Hymn 148 When I Survey the Wonderous Cross**

(Isaac Watts/arranged by Lowell Mason)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

*****Preface of Prayer**

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*****Prayer of Invocation**

Response

*****Scripture Readings**

- Old Testament.....Isaiah 50: 4-9
- Psalms.....Psalm 31: 9-16
- New Testament.....Philippians 2: 5-11
- Gospel.....Matthew 26: 14-27: 66

***Preface Hymn to the Decalogue (*the congregation rises, sings*)**

“From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator’s praise arise; Let the Redeemer’s name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.”

**** Summary of the Decalogue**

He said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **(Matthew 22:37-40)**

*****Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Selection

Offering Appeal

Selection

Sermon

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Closing Affirmation

Benediction

Weekly Announcements

TEXT GIVING - "*Gifts of love*", tithes and offerings, text Mother Emanuel to 73256

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Happy **MARCH** Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries

NO MEETINGS during Holy Week, March 30th - April 3rd

Resurrection Sunday Service Choir Rehearsals, March 31st - 6pm - Ebenezer AME Church

Maundy Thursday Worship Service at Morris Brown AMEC, April 2nd at 7:00pm

Easter Sunrise Worship Service at Ebenezer AME Church at 6:00am

Mid-year Meeting - April 16th - April 19th in Florence, SC

Hosting Lay Madam Seven, April 25th at 4:00pm

If you wish to contribute floral arrangements for our pulpit area, please contact - Steward LaVerne Bennett at 843-670-4718.

Church School Corner

March 1, 2026

Lesson Context: The setting of **Mark 12:28–34** is the temple in Jerusalem during Jesus' final week. He spends much of that week teaching in the temple environs (**Mark 11:15–17, 27; 12:35**; etc.). Earlier, Jesus expressed his opposition to the economics of temple practices when he drove out the money changers who had turned the temple into a commercial center rather than a place of prayer (11:15–17). This, along with his teaching, enraged the temple authorities (11:18).

Consequently, those authorities sought to undermine Jesus' credibility with the people by questioning his allegiances and debating him publicly. Should his popularity wane by being discredited, the authorities could act against Jesus without incurring the people's anger. If his answers questioned the authority of Rome, he could be handed over to the Romans for execution. Either way, the authorities wanted to undermine Jesus' credibility because they perceived him as a threat to their own powerful positions (compare **John 11:48**).

Concerning the book of James, there are four or five men named James in the New Testament. The author of the book that bears his name is the James of **Matthew 13:55**. Thus, he is the half-brother of Jesus. We see the influence of this James in **Acts 15:13–21**. James writes his letter to a group we call the "*diaspora*": religiously and ethnically Jewish people who are dispersed and scattered, many of whom have come to see Jesus as the fulfillment of the hope of Israel (**James 1:1**). He is evidently concerned with his readers' actions. In providing a solution to the areas of concern, he exhorts his readers to live in light of the gospel they profess (**James 1:21–22, 27; 2:8, 24**). James's identification of the "*royal law*" is the same that Jesus quoted in **Mark 12:31**: love your neighbor as yourself (**James 2:8**).^[1]

March 8, 2026

Lesson Context: The book of Daniel is divided into two parts: chapters 1–6 consist of narratives about Daniel and his companions in service to various kings, while chapters 7–12 consist of Daniel's visions. Because of these visions, the book is found in the "prophecy" section of the Bible. Today's lesson comes from the first half of the book. The epistle of 1 Timothy was written more than 500 years after Daniel's time. Timothy was a traveling companion and coworker of Paul's. In this letter, Paul gives Timothy instructions regarding the situation in the church at Ephesus, particularly in countering false teachings that threaten to muddy the good news of the gospel and cause distress within the church.^[1]

^[1] John Mark Hicks, Becki Rogers, and Jonathan Miller, "*Loving God, Loving Others*," in *The NIV Standard Lesson Commentary, 2025–2026*, ed. Taylor Z. Stamps et al., vol. 32, *The NIV Standard Lesson Commentary* (Colorado Springs, CO: Standard Publishing, 2026), 218–219.

Church School Corner

March 15, 2026

Lesson Context: The title Deuteronomy is a combination of two Greek words meaning “*second law*.” Moses spoke and wrote the words in this book after the Israelites served their 40-year sentence in the wilderness (**Numbers 32:13; Deuteronomy 2:7; 8:2**). A new generation replaced the previous one, and that new generation needed to hear the Law of Moses for themselves. Thus Deuteronomy refers to the second giving of the law (compare the Ten Commandments in both Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5).

Law codes directly shape (and are shaped by) culture. They articulate societal norms and expectations. Throughout the ancient Near East, law codes included common themes such as repayment of debts, release of enslaved people, and establishing land rights. The Law of Moses speaks to similar themes. It also calls for the release of debts, people, and land, although on a different timeline (**Leviticus 25:10; Deuteronomy 15:1–2**).

The Law of Moses bears striking similarities to other codes of the ancient world, including the Code of Hammurabi. But the combination of political, governmental, and spiritual leadership within the Law of Moses is ultimately unique. The one true God is the spiritual leader and king. He calls his people to reflect his holiness, generosity, etc., in their lives.^[1]

March 22, 2026

Lesson Context: The Christian church birthed on the day of Pentecost stemmed from a core of believers with Jewish backgrounds (**Acts 2:5**). The 12 apostles, seven deacons in Jerusalem (6:5–6), Paul and Barnabas (14:1), and Jesus himself were all ethnically Jewish or converts to Judaism. Most Jews in the Roman Empire kept themselves apart from Gentiles, forming distinct communities in their cities. Observant Jews saw Gentiles as unclean pagans who endangered Jewish religious and moral purity. They would not eat with Gentiles nor visit their homes (10:28).

Jewish faith drew a significant number of non-Jewish people. Some of these Gentiles became proselytes, devout converts to Judaism who were circumcised and followed the Law of Moses (**Acts 2:10; 6:5; 13:43**). Other Gentiles worshiped God but did not become total converts. These people were considered faithfully devoted and were referred to as “God-fearing Gentiles” (13:16, 26; 17:4, 17).^[1]

^[1] *Nadia Vermaak, Adrien Keables Hayward, and Angela E. Reed, “Watching Our Consumption,” in The NIV Standard Lesson Commentary, 2025–2026, ed. Taylor Z. Stamps et al., vol. 32, The NIV Standard Lesson Commentary (Colorado Springs, CO: Standard Publishing, 2026), 234.*

^[1] *Becki Rogers, Joshua Seth Houston, and Angela E. Reed, “Giving to the Community,” in The NIV Standard Lesson Commentary, 2025–2026, ed. Taylor Z. Stamps et al., vol. 32, The NIV Standard Lesson Commentary (Colorado Springs, CO: Standard Publishing, 2026), 242–243.*

Church School Corner

March 29, 2026

Lesson Context: Isaiah began prophesying at the end of the reign of Uzziah, king of Judah, in about 740 BC (**Isaiah 1:1; 6:1**). During Isaiah's lifetime, the kingdom of Judah faced threats from within and without. Whether the danger came from war with the massive Assyrian Empire (7:17) or injustice and violence within Judah itself (1:21–23), the future of its capital, Jerusalem, was uncertain.

The beginning of the book of Isaiah warns Judah against an even deeper conflict: a war of rebellion that the people were waging against God. The people of Jerusalem led lives filled with unrighteousness, idolatry, and oppression; the once “*faithful city*” had become a “*prostitute*” (**Isaiah 1:21**). Isaiah explains that the Judeans will have no peace with other nations or among their own people until they first accept God's terms of peace. Thus, Isaiah calls Judah to repent (1:16–17). Amid promises of fearsome judgment, however, Isaiah also announces a message of hope: Jerusalem would once again become a “*City of Righteousness*” through God's redeeming work (1:26–27). The first of today's texts (which has a parallel in **Micah 4:1–3**) picks up on this theme.⁵



Children's Sermon - March 1, 2026

Theme: “God Knows My Name.”

Scripture: *Isaiah 43: 1 (ESV)* “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”

Object: A Name Tag

Message: Good morning, friends. Today I brought a name tag. When you wear a name tag, people know who you are. They don't have to guess. They don't have to wonder. They can call you by your name.

Did you know God doesn't need a name tag to know who you are? God says, “*I have called you by name; you are mine.*” That means God knows your name, your heart, your gifts, and your story. You are not forgotten. You are not invisible. You belong to God.

Black History Moment: Today we remember Bessie Coleman, the first Black woman to earn a pilot's license. People told her she couldn't fly because of her race and gender. But she knew God had given her a name and a purpose. She didn't let anyone else define her. She became a pilot who inspired the world.

Reflection for the Week: This week, remember: God knows my name, and God has a purpose for me.

Prayer: *“Dear God, thank You for knowing my name and loving me. Help me remember that I belong to You. Amen.”*

Children’s Sermon - March 8, 2026

Theme: *“Jesus Makes Us New”*

Scripture: **2 Corinthians 5:17:** (ESV) *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”*

Object: A Dirty Penny and a Shiny Penny.

Message: I have two pennies today. One is dirty and old. The other is shiny and new. They’re both pennies, but one looks like it’s been through a lot.

Sometimes we feel like the dirty penny—hurt, sad, or like we’ve made mistakes. But Jesus doesn’t throw us away. Jesus makes us new on the inside. When we follow Him, He gives us a new heart, new hope, and a new start.

Black History Moment: Today we remember George Washington Carver, a scientist who took things people ignored—like peanuts and sweet potatoes—and made something new out of them. He created over 300 inventions! He believed God could make something beautiful out of anything. And God can make something beautiful out of you too.

Reflection for the Week: This week, remember: Jesus can make me new every day.

Prayer: *“Jesus, thank You for making us new. Help us shine with Your love. Amen.”*

Children’s Sermon - March 15, 2026

Theme: *“God Helps Me Be Brave”*

Scripture: **Joshua 1:9** (ESV) *“Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

Object: A Small flashlight

Message: Have you ever been afraid of the dark? A flashlight helps you see where you’re going. It doesn’t remove the darkness, but it helps you walk through it.

God says, *“Be strong and courageous.”* That doesn’t mean we’ll never feel afraid. It means God is our light. God walks with us. God helps us be brave even when things feel scary.

Black History Moment: Today we remember Ruby Bridges, a brave six-year-old girl who walked into a school where people didn’t want her because she was Black. She prayed every day for God to help her be brave. And God did. Ruby reminds us that even children can be courageous with God’s help.

Reflection for the Week: This week, remember: God helps me be brave, even when I feel small.

Prayer: *“God, thank You for being with me. Help me be brave and trust You every day. Amen.”¹*

Children's Sermon - March 22, 2026

Theme: *“Jesus Is Always With Me”*

Scripture: **Matthew 28:20** (ESV) *“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Object: A Small Heart Sticker

Message: I have a little heart sticker. If I put it on your shirt, it stays with you wherever you go. You might forget it's there, but it's still with you.

Jesus says, *“I am with you always.”* Even when you can't see Him. Even when you forget. Even when you feel alone. Jesus is right there—loving you, guiding you, and helping you.

Black History Moment: Today we remember Mary McLeod Bethune, a teacher who started a school with just \$1.50 and faith in God. She believed Jesus was with her, even when she didn't have much. Her school grew into a university that still stands today. Jesus was with her—and Jesus is with you.

Reflection for the Week: This week, remember: Jesus is with me everywhere I go.

Prayer: *“Jesus, thank You for being with me always. Help me feel Your love every day. Amen.”*

Children's Sermon - March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

Theme: *“Jesus Is Our King”*

Scripture: **John 12:13** (ESV) *“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”*

Object: A Palm Branch Or Green Paper Leaf

Message: On Palm Sunday, people waved branches and shouted *“Hosanna!”* because Jesus was coming into Jerusalem. They were excited because Jesus is a different kind of King—not a king who sits on a throne, but a King who loves, serves, and saves.

When we wave our palms, we're saying, *“Jesus, You are my King too!”*

Black History Moment: Today we remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a leader who followed Jesus by choosing love over hate and peace over violence. He believed Jesus was the true King who could change hearts and change the world. Dr. King reminds us that following Jesus means loving others boldly.

Reflection for the Week: This week, remember: Jesus is my King, and I can follow His way of love.

Prayer: *“Jesus, thank You for being our King. Help us follow You with joy and love. Amen.”*

Devotions for Lent

inspired by the book of Psalms (Monday - Thursday)

Psalm 121 (ESV)

Monday - "I Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills"

Choosing Where to Look

Focus: Psalm 121:1-2

Theme: Lent invites us to examine our gaze. Where we look shapes how we live. The psalmist lifts his eyes—not to the hills as sources of help, but beyond them to the Maker of heaven and earth.

Key Insights:

- The hills were places of danger and false worship. The psalmist refuses to look to lesser sources of security.
- Help comes from the Lord, not from the landscape. God is not limited by circumstance.
- Lent reorients our attention. We lift our eyes from fear, distraction, and self-reliance to the God who made everything.

Closing Prayer - Maker of heaven and earth, turn my eyes from lesser sources of help and fix them on You alone.

Amen.

Tuesday — "He Will Not Let Your Foot Be Moved"

The God Who Holds You Steady**

Focus: Psalm 121:3-4

Theme: The journey of faith is uneven, but God is unwavering. The psalmist declares that God does not sleep, drift, or lose focus. His watchfulness is constant.

Key Insights:

- God guards our steps. "Your foot" symbolizes stability on the path.
- God does not slumber. Unlike ancient idols, He is never inattentive.
- Lent reminds us that God's constancy is greater than our weakness. We may stumble, but He does not.

Closing Prayer - Lord, steady my steps. Thank You that You never sleep, never drift, never lose sight of me.

Amen.

Wednesday - "The Lord Is Your Keeper"

Covered, Protected, Held**

Focus: Psalm 121: 5-6

Theme: God is not a distant observer—He is a keeper, a shade, a covering. The psalmist uses intimate, protective imagery to describe God's nearness.

Key Insights:

- "Keeper" is covenant language. God guards, watches, and preserves His people.
- Shade at your right hand means protection at your most vulnerable place.
- Sun and moon represent all threats—seen and unseen, physical and emotional.

Closing Prayer - God, my Keeper, cover me from the heat of the day and the fears of the night. Be my shade and my shelter. **Amen.**

Thursday — "The Lord Will Keep Your Going Out and Coming In"

A Life Surrounded by God's Care**

Focus: Psalm 121: 7-8

Theme: The psalm ends with a sweeping promise: God keeps us in every movement, every moment, every season. Lent is not only about repentance—it is about resting in God's faithful presence.

Key Insights:

- "Keep" appears six times in this psalm. God's care is comprehensive.
- Going out and coming in covers the whole rhythm of life.
- "From this time forth and forevermore" anchors us in eternal security.

Closing Prayer - Faithful Keeper, surround my life with Your care. Keep me in every step, every season, every moment—now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Psalm 95 (ESV)

Monday - “Oh Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord”

Worship as Our First Response

Focus: Psalm 95: 1-2

Theme: Lent is not only a season of repentance—it is a season of reorientation. The psalm begins with exuberant worship, reminding us that repentance flows from relationship, not fear.

Key Insights:

- Worship begins with invitation. “Oh come” signals that God draws us near, not pushes us away.
- Joy and reverence coexist. Lent does not silence joy; it purifies it.
- Thanksgiving is the doorway to God’s presence. Gratitude softens the heart and clears the spiritual fog.

Closing Prayer - Lord, draw me into joyful worship. Let thanksgiving rise in me as I enter Your presence. **Amen.**

Tuesday — “The Lord Is a Great God”

Remembering Who God Is

Focus: Psalm 95: 3-5

Theme: Lent calls us to remember the greatness of God. The psalmist anchors worship in God’s identity as Creator and King. When we see God clearly, repentance becomes trust, not terror.

Key Insights:

- God’s greatness is cosmic. The depths, heights, seas, and dry land all testify to His power.
- Creation reveals God’s care. The One who shaped the world is attentive to His people.
- Lent invites us to lift our eyes from our failures to God’s majesty.

Closing Prayer - Faithful God, keep me from the patterns of unbelief that lead to wandering. Lead me into Your rest and teach me to trust You fully. **Amen.**

Wednesday — “Today, If You Hear His Voice”

Guarding Against a Hardened Heart

Focus: Psalm 95: 6-8

Theme: The psalm shifts from praise to warning. Worship without obedience becomes empty. Lent is a season to listen deeply and respond quickly to God’s voice.

Key Insights:

- Worship leads to surrender. Bowing and kneeling symbolize yielded hearts.
- God still speaks “today.” Lent is a present invitation, not a distant memory.
- A hardened heart is not sudden—it forms slowly. Neglect, distraction, and resistance calcify the soul.

Closing Prayer - Shepherd of my soul, soften my heart. Help me hear Your voice and respond with trust. **Amen.**

Thursday — “Do Not Harden Your Hearts”

Learning from the Wilderness

Focus: Psalm 95: 9-11

Theme: The psalm ends with a sober reminder: Israel’s wilderness generation missed God’s rest because they refused to trust Him. Lent invites us to learn from their story and choose a different path.

Key Insights:

- Testing God reveals distrust. Israel demanded proof rather than resting in God’s character.
- Wandering is the result of unbelief. A restless heart cannot enter God’s rest.
- Lent calls us to trust God’s leading even when the path feels uncertain.

Closing Prayer - Faithful God, keep me from the patterns of unbelief that lead to wandering. Lead me into Your rest and teach me to trust You fully. **Amen.**

Psalm 23 (ESV)
Monday — “The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Learning to Live From God’s Care

Focus: Psalm 23: 1

Theme: Lent invites us to release our illusion of self-sufficiency. The psalm begins with a declaration of belonging—my Shepherd. Everything else flows from this relationship.

Key Insights:

- God’s identity shapes our security. We are not wandering alone; we are led.
- “I shall not want” is not a denial of need but confidence in God’s provision.
- Lent teaches us to trust the Shepherd more than our striving.

Closing Prayer - Good Shepherd, teach me to rest in Your care. Lead me away from self-reliance and into trust. **Amen.**

Tuesday — “He Makes Me Lie Down... He Leads Me”

Resting in God’s Provision

Focus: Psalm 23: 2-3a

Theme: Lent is a season of slowing down. The Shepherd not only provides rest—He makes us lie down. He restores what life drains.

Key Insights:

- Green pastures and still waters symbolize abundance and peace, not scarcity.
- Rest is not optional—it is spiritual formation.
- Restoration is God’s work. We don’t restore ourselves; we are restored.

Closing Prayer - Lord, lead me beside still waters. Restore my soul where it is weary, restless, or worn. **Amen.**

Wednesday — “Even Though I Walk Through the Valley”

Courage in the Dark Places

Focus: Psalm 23:4

Theme: Lent does not avoid the valley—it walks through it with God. The psalmist moves from talking about God to talking to God. Presence replaces fear.

Key Insights:

- “Even though” is the language of faith, not denial.
- The valley is real, but temporary. We walk through it, not into it to stay.
- God’s rod and staff comfort. His authority and guidance protect us.

Closing Prayer - Shepherd of my soul, walk with me through every valley. Let Your presence be my courage. **Amen.**

Thursday — “You Prepare a Table... My Cup Overflows”

Living in God’s Abundant Love

Focus: Psalm 23:5-6

Theme: The psalm ends not in scarcity but in abundance. God’s goodness pursues us. His hospitality surrounds us. Lent leads us toward resurrection hope.

Key Insights

- God prepares a table in hard places. Blessing is not postponed until life is easy.
- Anointing and overflowing cups speak of honor, joy, and divine generosity.
- Goodness and mercy “follow”—literally “pursue”—us all our days.
- The destination is God’s house, not the valley.

Closing Prayer - God of abundance, thank You for pursuing me with goodness and mercy. Let my life overflow with Your love. **Amen.**

Psalm 130 (ESV)
Monday — “Out of the Depths I Cry to You”

Honest Prayer from Hard Places

Focus: Psalm 130:1–2

Theme: Lent invites us to pray from the real places—not the polished ones. The psalmist cries “from the depths,” showing that God welcomes our raw, unfiltered honesty.

Key Insights

- The “depths” symbolize distress, guilt, grief, or spiritual exhaustion. Lent gives us permission to name these places.
- Crying out is an act of faith. Silence is despair; prayer is hope.
- God hears the desperate, not just the disciplined.

Closing Prayer - Lord, hear my voice. From the depths I cry to You. Let Your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy. **Amen.**

Tuesday — “If You, O Lord, Should Mark Iniquities”

The Mercy That Meets Our Sin

Focus: Psalm 130:3–4

Theme: The psalmist acknowledges a hard truth: if God kept a strict record of our sins, none of us could stand. But the deeper truth is this—God delights to forgive.

Key Insights

- Sin is real, but mercy is greater. Lent is not about wallowing in guilt but awakening to grace.
- Forgiveness leads to reverence. Awe grows where mercy is received.
- God’s character—not our performance—is the foundation of hope.

Closing Prayer - God of mercy, thank You that You do not treat me as my sins deserve. Teach me to stand in awe of Your forgiveness. **Amen.**

Wednesday — “My Soul Waits for the Lord”

Learning the Patience of Hope

Focus: Psalm 130:5–6

Theme: Lent is a season of waiting—waiting for renewal, for resurrection, for God’s timing. The psalmist models a hopeful, expectant waiting rooted in God’s Word.

Key Insights

- Waiting is not passive—it is trust in motion.
- The watchman image shows longing, vigilance, and expectation.
- God’s Word sustains us in the in-between places.

Closing Prayer - Lord, teach my soul to wait with hope. Let Your Word be my anchor as I look for Your dawn. **Amen.**

Thursday — “With the Lord Is Steadfast Love”

Redemption for You and for the World**

Focus: Psalm 130:7–8

Theme: The psalm ends with a sweeping promise: God not only forgives individuals—He redeems His people. Lent prepares us for the God who rescues fully, freely, and faithfully.

Key Insights

- Steadfast love (hesed) is God’s covenant loyalty—unbreakable, undeserved, unwavering.
- Redemption is abundant. God doesn’t forgive reluctantly or partially.
- Our personal hope becomes communal hope. What God does in us, He intends to do among us.

Closing Prayer - Redeeming God, thank You that with You there is steadfast love and plentiful redemption. Let my life reflect the hope You give. **Amen.**

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 (ESV)

Monday— “Oh Give Thanks to the Lord, for He Is Good”

Gratitude That Grounds Us

Focus: Psalm 118:1–2

Theme: Lent often feels heavy by week six, but Psalm 118 begins with a declaration of God’s goodness and steadfast love. Before we enter the drama of Holy Week, we anchor ourselves in gratitude.

Key Insights

- Steadfast love (hesed) is God’s covenant loyalty—unchanging, unearned, unwavering.
- Thanksgiving is not circumstantial—it is theological. We give thanks because of who God is.
- All God’s people are invited to declare His love. Israel, the priests, and “all who fear the Lord.”

Closing Prayer - Lord, You are good, and Your steadfast love endures forever. Root my heart in gratitude as I walk toward Holy Week. **Amen.**

Tuesday — “Open to Me the Gates of Righteousness”

Entering God’s Presence with Humility**

Focus: Psalm 118:19–21

Theme: The psalmist longs to enter the “gates of righteousness”—a picture of approaching God’s presence with humility and joy. Lent prepares us for this kind of entry.

Key Insights

- The gates symbolize access to God. Not earned, but granted.
- Righteousness is God’s gift, not our achievement.
- Praise flows from answered prayer. “You have answered me and become my salvation.”

Closing Prayer - God of righteousness, open the gates of Your presence to me. Let my praise rise from a heart You have answered and saved. **Amen.**

Wednesday — “The Stone the Builders Rejected”

Seeing Christ in the Psalm

Focus: Psalm 118:22–24

Theme: These verses echo through the New Testament as a prophecy of Christ. The rejected stone becomes the cornerstone. Lent prepares us to see Jesus clearly—rejected, crucified, raised, and exalted.

Key Insights

- Rejection does not negate God’s purpose. It fulfills it.
- Christ is the cornerstone—the foundation of salvation and the alignment of our lives.
- “This is the day the Lord has made” is not generic encouragement; it points to God’s decisive act of salvation.

Closing Prayer - Lord Jesus, rejected yet exalted, align my life with You. Let me rejoice in the salvation You have made possible. **Amen.**

Thursday — “Blessed Is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord”

Welcoming the King**

Focus: Psalm 118:25–29

Theme: These verses echo Palm Sunday. The psalmist cries, “Save us!”—the very meaning of Hosanna. Lent leads us to welcome Christ not as a political hero but as the saving King who brings light, sacrifice, and steadfast love.

Key Insights

- “Save us” (Hosanna) is both a plea and a proclamation.
- God’s light shines on the path to the altar. The psalm anticipates Christ’s sacrificial journey.
- Thanksgiving bookends the psalm. We end where we began: “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.”

Closing Prayer - Saving King, I welcome You with praise and surrender. Shine Your light on my path and lead me into the fullness of Your steadfast love. **Amen.**



RESURRECTION SUNDAY SERVICE

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REHEARSALS

- MARCH 03, 2026 @ 6 PM
- MARCH 10, 2026 @ 6 PM
- MARCH 17, 2026 @ 6 PM
- MARCH 24, 2026 @ 6 PM
- MARCH 31, 2026 @ 6 PM

ALL REHEARSALS AT
EBENEZER AME CHURCH

