

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**  
**The Second Sunday in Lent**  
**March 1, 2026      10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II**

*We, at St. Philip's Church strive to love God and love others in all we do.*

*Before the service, speak to the Lord;  
During the service, let the Lord speak to you;  
After the service, speak to one another.*

*The Invitation to silently prepare for worship.*

*Call to Worship - "Spirit of the Living God"*

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.**

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Opening Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise" (#401)*

*The Penitential Order*

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People: His mercy endures forever.**

*Celebrant:* 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 commandment greater than these."

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

*Celebrant:* 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.

*Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.*

***People: Christ, have mercy.***

*Celebrant: Lord, have mercy*

### *The Collect of the Day*

*Celebrant: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant: Let us pray.*

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

### *The Liturgy of the Word*

#### A Reading from the Book of Genesis (12:1-4)

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm 121

## *Levavi oculos*

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
**from where is my help to come?**
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, \*  
**the maker of heaven and earth.**
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved \*  
**and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.**
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
**shall neither slumber nor sleep;**
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
**the LORD is your shade at your right hand,**
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
**nor the moon by night.**
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
**it is he who shall keep you safe.**
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
**from this time forth for evermore.**

## A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (4:1-5, 13-17)

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have

made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Sequence Hymn: “My Faith Looks up to Thee” (#691 v. 1-2)*

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (4:1-11)

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Sequence Hymn: “My Faith Looks up to Thee” (#691 v.3)*

Sermon

Mother Betty

*The Nicene Creed (Please stand as you are able)*

**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 (Please stand or kneel as you are able.)*

*Leader:* In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

*Leader:* For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Rob our own Bishop, for Sarah our bishop-elect, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed St. Philip, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**People: To you, O Lord our God.**

*Silence*

*Celebrant:* For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

**People: Amen.**

*The Peace (Please stand as you are able)*

*Officiant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Welcoming*

*Ministry in Focus*

*Collect for the Rector Search Committee*

**Loving God, through the Holy Spirit, guide our search committee in discerning the rector You have called for us. Keep them faithful to Your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Offertory Sentence:* Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

*Offertory*

(Congregation stands and sings the following with the presentation of gifts.)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

# The Liturgy of the Eucharist

## *The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer A*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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:

*Celebrant and People (S130)*

**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 people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant:* 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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

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.

**People: AMEN**

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

**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 and People:*

**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.**

*Celebrant:* The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## *Post Communion Prayer*

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## *Sending Prayer for Lay Eucharistic Visitors*

*Celebrant:* In the name of Christ, and of this congregation, we send you forth bearing the body and blood of Christ to (\_\_\_\_\_), who cannot be with us today. Take God's holy Word, the prayers of this congregation, and this holy food for holy people.

**People: We who are many are one Body because we share one bread, one cup.**

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads before the Lord.

*Celebrant:* Grant Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness 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.

**People: Amen.**

*Hymn – “How Firm a Foundation” (#637)*

*Deacon: The Dismissal*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Celebrant and Preacher: Mother Betty*

*Deacon: Deacon Pam Hayes*

*Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Russell, Susan Chase, Jane Mitchell*

*Lay Readers: Frank Darzano, David Cox*

*Ushers: Dennis Courtnage, Craig Elliott, Pat Elliott, Steve Russell*

*Vestry Person of the Day: Angela Urquhart*

### **Lenten and Holy Week Service Schedule**

Wednesdays in Lent -12:00 PM - Holy Eucharist Rite II – Chapel of the Cross

March 29 – Palm Sunday – 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM

April 2 – Maundy Thursday – 7:00 PM

April 3 – Good Friday / Tenebrae – 7:00 PM

April 5 - Easter Day – 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

### **Welcome!**

**There are many churches in our community and we are so glad that you chose to join with us in worship this morning. It is our hope that you find St Philip's to be a new home if you are looking for a church, or a home away from home if you are visiting Southport!**

**We believe that God is Love, and that we are called to love both God and others as God's children.**

**Please know that we place a premium on having a chance to get to know one another. Unfortunately, Sunday mornings do not allow us that precious time together. It would be wonderful if you would mention on the visitor card (or drop us an email) that you would like to meet us for a time of conversation and coffee!**

## St. Philip's Contacts

The Rt. Rev. Rob Skirving – Bishop of East Carolina  
The Rev. Sarah Fisher – Bishop-Elect of East Carolina  
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