

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Holy Eucharist Rite II
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19 2023, 8 a.m.**

We are delighted to worship with you.

Masks are now optional for all vaccinated individuals but remain recommended. Diocesan policy requires that unvaccinated persons wear a mask at all times during worship and in meetings. Masks are available in the narthexes at the entrances of the church for anyone who needs one. Please remember that being indoors and singing unmasked can elevate the possibility of Covid transmission. Getting vaccinated and boosted, wearing masks and using discretion in physical contact are important precautions for your own health and that of your neighbors.

If you have any cold-like or flu-like symptoms, please stay home. If you are unwell and need the church's assistance, please let us know.

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your 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." Mark 12:29-31

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

Silence may be kept.

All

**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. Amen.

The congregation then joins in saying the following:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *please be seated*

Reader **A reading from First 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Reader will lead the praying of the Psalm.

Psalm 23

¹The 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.**

³He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.

**⁴Though 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.**

⁵You 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.

**⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Reader **A Reading from 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.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The 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.

Sermon

The Rev. Caleb Tabor

The Nicene Creed

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 (Form IV, Book of Common Prayer 388)

(On Facebook we invite you to share prayer requests in the comment line.)

The Leader and People pray responsively

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Remembering everyone on our parish prayer list and all others we may mention now silently or aloud now [pause], God, we ask you to comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled. We pray especially for your children who have died by violence; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people stay in place during the peace. Feel free to wave, bow, or show the peace sign to others.

Please be seated.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

All baptized persons, from any tradition, are invited to take communion. Baptized children of all ages are included in this invitation. **If you require a gluten-free communion wafer, please indicate this by holding out your hands palms facing down.** Those who do not wish to receive communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing from the clergy. Simply cross your arms across your chest to indicate this. The ushers will direct the congregation to the altar rail, row by row. Please alert an usher if you would like to receive communion from your seat.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A (BCP p. 361)

The people stand as they are able.

*The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest,
faces them and sings or says*

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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, 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 on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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

**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.

Please stand or kneel, as you are able.

Then 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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.

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

People and Celebrant

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 and Wine

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

Please be seated until the usher guides you to communion.

Sharing of the Bread and Wine

The Usher will direct those present to receive communion at this time. If you are unable to come forward (or feel the need to stay socially distant), let the usher know and the priest will bring the bread to you.

Act of Reception, *to be prayed privately by anyone who has not received communion who desires to.*

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly all members of St. Luke's, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death and resurrection, for the means of grace and hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

(from St. Augustine's Prayerbook, permission by Forward Movement.)

Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand as you are able.*

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.

Blessing

Dismissal

People: Thanks be God.

Preacher, Presider—The Rev. Caleb Tabor

Deacon Kate Wisz

Crucifer-acolyte – John Willard

Chalice—John Willard

Lay Reader, Intercessor—Kay Gresham

Altar Guild—**Kay Gresham**, Bill Callahan, Valleri Callahan, Cindy Henry, Ila Hurley,
June Santa

Announcements

Thank you from June Santa, Jr. Words can't convey how much I appreciate the love I am feeling from my parish family. The cards, emails, texts and phone calls checking on me, supporting me and especially the hugs. Can't get enough hugs!

Our mother had a beautiful celebration of her life. My brother and I thank everyone who served, Rhonda and Jim, Kaye and the choir, John Yarbrough, Beth Bonner and the reception group, all those who brought food for the reception and helped setup and cleanup, the altar guild, Mike Sistrom and Doug Marlowe. My brother and I heard several wonderful comments from visitors about the service and reception.

Our parents loved St. Luke's. Thank you St. Luke's for showing your love for our Mother.

Dear friends at St. Luke's, many thanks for your kind thoughts and prayers and notes of sympathy on the death of my brother, John. My family and I feel your prayers and are lifted up by them. Your thoughtfulness means the world to me. With love, Rev. Stephanie Yancy.

Join Deacon Kate for a holy Lenten practice of the **Daily Office of Evening Prayer**, Thursdays, **March 23** and 30, 6-7pm on Zoom. (See the announcement email or the Parish calendar for the Zoom link.) We will gather to pray together and read God's holy word.

Live Music, Scripture and Silences. Change Up Your Lenten Friday Nights!. You're invited to Taize Services 7 pm at United Church of Chapel Hill. 1321 MLK Blvd.; Chapel Hill, NC 27514. **Mar. 24** and April 7. All are invited!

Sunday Adult Learning in Epiphany and Lent. (none today, 3/19). *26 March:* Each week, Rector Rhonda Lee will lead a discussion comparing a text for the day from the Revised Common Lectionary (the lectionary we use on Sundays) to a text offered in The Rev. Dr. Wilma C. Gafney's newly-published *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* (Church Publishing Inc.). To learn more about The Rev. Dr. Gafney and this lectionary, check out <https://www.wilgafney.com/womenslectionary/>.

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions will start at 9:10 a.m. in the Kramer Room just off the north-side narthex. Please plan to join, and invite a friend!

Lector-intercessor Training. We will have a brief training session for lectors and intercessors—the laypersons who read the lessons and lead the prayers in our services—Sunday the 26th of March at noon in the nave. The training will last no more than an hour, and probably closer to 30 minutes.

New and returning intercessors and lectors are invited to attend. So is anyone who may want to participate in this ministry but isn't sure yet. Come see what it's about!

Spring Fling Yard Sale!!

- Bring your clean treasures to Johnson Hall starting Sunday, March 26 through Wednesday, March 29 (only).
- Join us for Friday Fling for St. Luke's members only—good food, good early shopping, good friends! March 31, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Shop Saturday, April 1, from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring your friends and neighbors!

Assistant Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson will visit St. Luke's on Sunday the 23rd of April. So that all of us may worship together with the bishop, and witness the confirmation of members of the Farrell-Sexton family together, we will have **one service that day at 10:30**. Following the service, there will be an opportunity for fellowship and conversation with Bishop Jennifer.

If you would like to be confirmed or make a reaffirmation of faith that day, please let Rector Time Certain Rhonda Lee know as soon as possible. And please plan to attend our single Eucharist that day.

Our long-time priest associate, Jim Craven, will celebrate his final Eucharists with St. Luke's on Sunday the 14th of May at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Jim will continue as St. Luke's priest associate after that date.

Our Nursery is open Sunday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. for infants through children aged five. Both the nursery attendants are fully vaccinated and boosted and will be wearing masks.

We ask that if someone attends a service and then tests positive for Covid and others who may have come into close contact with them, that they please contact the rector or senior warden for both pastoral care needs and also to inform others who may have come into close contact with them.

Contact us: St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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The Rev. James. B. Craven, III, priest associate: jbc64@mindspring.com
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