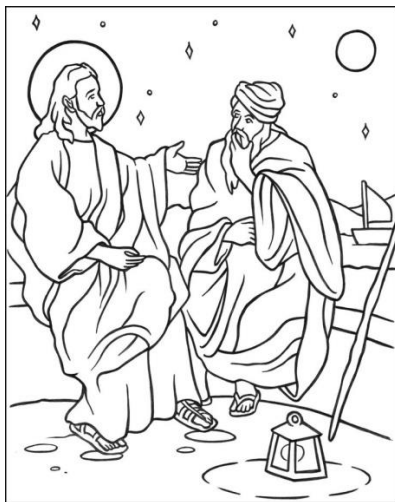


St. John's Episcopal Church



Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026 - 9am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Processional: *The God of Abraham praise (vv. 1-3)*

Hymnal #401

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love;
the Lord, the great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed;
we bow and bless the sacred Name forever blest.
2. He by himself hath sworn: we on his oath depend;
we shall, on eagles-wings upborne, to heaven ascend:
we shall behold his face, we shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace for ever more.
3. There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Righteousness,
triumphant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;
on Zion's sacred height his kingdom he maintains,
and, glorious with his saints in light, for ever reigns.

Lenten Acclamation:

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures for ever.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts be open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Kyrie Confession (sung response)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins, remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

A Prayer Book for Australia

***God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive: Grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ, that in every way we may prove to be your loving children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.***

First Lesson:

A reading from *The Book of Genesis* (12:1-4a)

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.

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 121

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

- 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.

Second Lesson:

A reading from *The Letter of Paul 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.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn: *O for a closer walk with God (vv. 1-2)*

Hymnal #684

1. O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!
2. Where is the blessedness I knew when first I sought the Lord?
Where is the soul refreshing view of Jesus and his word?

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John (3:1-17)*.

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."

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

Sequence Hymn: *O for a closer walk with God (v. 5)*

Hymnal #458

5. So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the lamb.

Homily

Fr. Walter Connolly

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.*

Prayers of the People:

Common Worship, Church of England

Worship Leader: With confidence and trust, let us pray to the Holy One of Israel.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, let us pray to the Holy One.

In your mercy hear us.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness she may preach the gospel
to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Holy One.

In your mercy hear us.

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Holy One.

In your mercy hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer, especially Emily Graves Autori, Nicholas Bettencourt, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Francine Carroll, Barbara Cox, Ken DiBiccari, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne & Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Allison Gray, and Jerica Hamre; let us pray to the Holy One.

In your mercy hear us.

For refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, let us pray to the Holy One.

In your mercy hear us.

For refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, let us pray to the Holy One.

In your mercy hear us.

For those whom we have injured or offended, let us pray to the Holy One.

In your mercy hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, let us pray to the Holy One.

In your mercy hear us.

For those who have gone before us in faith and walked the way of the cross, especially James & Doris Smith, Jess & Ann Woodbury, Margaret L. Hurl, Members of the Kelly Family: Doris, John Sr. & Jr., Kevin Noonan, William H. Cox, Jr., and most recently, Priscilla 'Jill' Todd; let us pray to the Holy One.

In your mercy hear us.

Priest: Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us and not what we deserve, and, as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Peace and Announcements

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Invitation to the Offering

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father in heaven.

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.
2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And from death I'm free I'll sing on and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Doxology

(v. 3) Hymnal #380

*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.*

God of wisdom, may the light of your eternal Word, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
lead us in holiness and guide us to glory; we ask this in his name. *Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Common Worship, Eucharistic Prayer E

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word, you open our eyes to your

presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

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

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine out poured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine. Again, he praised you, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

*Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.*

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Blessed Mary of Nazareth, Blessed John the Evangelist, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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

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

Fraction: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

*Jesus, Lamb of God, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Savior of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, gentle Prince of Peace, grant us peace [grant us peace].*

The Invitation to Holy Communion

In fellowship with our sisters and brothers worshipping online, let us join together in praying for that spiritual communion shared by all Christ's disciples.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

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.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt 11:28-29). All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are welcome at God's altar.

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.*

Lenten Blessing:

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Recessional: *Lift high the cross (vv. 1-3).*

Hymnal #473

1. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.

*Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

Refrain

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

Refrain

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Welcome to St John's Episcopal Church. All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion. Proceed up the aisle on the right, allowing room on the left for others to return. You may kneel or stand at the rail to receive. Most people receive the consecrated Host in the hands, and some receive on the tongue. We have not returned to the Common Cup but offer individual Communion Cups. Please deposit the empty cups in the tray as you return. If you would prefer a blessing instead of Holy Communion, simply cross your hands over your chest as the priest approaches. Please join us for fellowship and refreshment in Ashworth Hall after worship.

Parish Cycle of Prayer

(Please help to keep this list *current* and inform the office of any changes - thank you.)

Week One of the Month:

Emily Graves Autori, Nicholas Bettencourt, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Barbara Cox, Ken DiBiccari, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne & Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Allison Gray, and Jerica Hamre

Week Two:

Will Hare, Carolyn Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Anthony K., Janet Lancaster, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, and Darlene Jackson

Week Three:

Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Ralph Nasuti, Lisa P., Kathy Pothier, Tom & John Puckett, Shirley Raithel, Sandy & David St. Clair, Marilyn Aham, Amy Wright, and Liana

Week Four:

Nancy Scarry, Malcolm Silva, Teddi, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom & Joanie Tello, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Rachel, Abigail, Claire, Carol Ann, Patty, Holly, Kevin O'Connor, and Jesse Tucker

Parish Calendar

Mar 11	Wed	Faith Community Lunch – 12pm - 2pm
Mar 14	Sat	Artisan Marketplace - 9am - 2pm
May 4	Fri	Lobster Roll Sale (details TBA)

Announcements

Current St. John's Officers and Vestry (2026)

Officers: Donna Manoogian - Sr. Warden, John Rogalski - Jr. Warden, Paul Felci - Treasurer, James Duracin - Asst. Treasurer, and Brenda Caggiano - Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry: Rose Holt (2027), Joanne Lancaster (2027), M. 'Dibby' LeBlanc (2027), Colleen Marcotte (2028), and Diana White (2029)



Participants in this Service:

The Rev. Walter Connelly, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Ray Mears, Layreader & Kristina Palazzo, L.E.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906