



Christ Episcopal Church

Roxbury, Connecticut

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026 9:30 AM

At ten minutes before the hour, the altar candles are lit, inviting all into a time of preparation for our worship. Please silence electronic devices.

Prelude The Chorale *Es wird schier die letzte Tag herkommen* (These will be the very last days) [BWV 310] of Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

The Rev. Jim Wheeler

Processional Hymn *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Hymn 490

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures forever.**

The Decalogue

Please kneel as you are able. The Celebrant says

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together,

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are 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.**

TRISAGION
FROM MASS FOR CHRIST CHURCH IN G MINOR
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GREGORY J. CAVA

INTRODUCTION REPEAT 3 TIMES

Ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly God. Ho - ly and Migh - ty.

Ho - ly and i - mor - tal one have mer - cy up - on us. on - us

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

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel (16:1-13)

Read by Dona Murphy

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 *In Unison*

Led by Dona Murphy

- 1 The 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.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

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

A Reading from Paul's Letters to the Ephesians (5:8-14)

Read by Dona Murphy

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.”

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Hymn 493 vv. 1, 5 and 6

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

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."

The Gospel of the Lord

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

The Sermon

The Rev. Jim Wheeler

The Nicene Creed *In Unison, please stand if 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 *(based on Form VI)*

Led by Jim Stanton

Please stand or kneel as able.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our presiding bishop, Jeffrey and Laura our bishops, the ministers of Christ Church Roxbury, and all who proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *Silence*

We remember especially those for whom prayers have been requested: Ainsley, Annie, Bobby, Charlie, Chris, David, Deb, Deke, Denise, Diane, Drew, Ed, Freddy, Genesis, James and Robert, Jamie, Jane, Jean, Jeanne, Jeffrey, Jerry, Joan, John, John and Pam, Judy and Mike, Judith, Kathy, Lance, Lily, Linda, Lisbet, Margo, Meg, Mia, Mike, Peter, Ryan, Sheila, Steve, Sydney, Timothy, and those we name before you aloud and in our hearts.

Silence

Hear us Lord;

For we put our trust in you.

We pray for an end to war and all acts of violence of one group of people against another.

We pray for peace in the Holy Land.

We pray for an end to the violence and polarization that plague our communities. *Silence*

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Please add your own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

We ask your mercy on the immortal souls of the soldiers who have lost their lives in the conflict in the Middle East. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Silence

Please add your own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon your saints;

Who put their trust in you.

A Prayer While Awaiting a New Shepherd *In Unison*

Loving and Faithful God, You have guided our parish through seasons of joy and challenge. As we wait for the shepherd You have chosen for us, fill our hearts with patience, unity, and hope. Bless those entrusted with the call to discern and decide. Prepare the heart of our future priest with wisdom, compassion, and courage, that they may lead us closer to You and serve with humility and love.

Keep us steadfast in prayer, generous in service, and open to the new chapter You are writing for our community. May Your Spirit be our guide until we welcome our new pastor with joy.

In Jesus' name we pray, *Amen*.

The Celebrant concludes

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Please stand as able. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please greet each other in whatever way you are comfortable.

Announcements (*Also see page of the service leaflet.*)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn *Deck Thyself, my Soul, with Gladness*

Hymn 339 (vv. as necessary)

During the offertory anthem, the ushers will collect your gifts and bring them before God's Holy Table.

The Celebrant receives the gifts and all sing.

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

ARRANGED & VOICED BY
GREGORY J. CAVA

INTRODUCTION

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow.

7 Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther,

14 Son, and Ho ly Ghost. A - - men.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A.

The people stand. The Celebrant faces them and 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 God 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.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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 sing together

The Sanctus *Hurd* Setting

Hymnal S-124

The people stand or kneel as 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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.
Then may be sung*

AGNUS DEI

FROM MASS FOR CHRIST CHURCH ROXBURY IN G MINOR
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GREGORY J. CAVA

INTRODUCTION

Je-sus, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world have mer - cy

9
on us. Je-sus, Lamb of God - , you take a-way the sin of the world have mer - cy on us.

17
Je-sus, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Grant, us, peace.

Please come forward to receive communion either standing or kneeling along the altar rail.

Gluten free wafers are also available.

If you do not wish to receive, you are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Communion Meditation The Third Movement, *Lent et Grave* (Slow and Grave), from the *Trois Gymnopédies* of Erik Satie

The Celebrant says

Let us pray together.

Celebrant and People

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

In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used as follows:

Bow down before the Lord.

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn *How Wondrous and Great*

Hymn 533

The people are sent with these words

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *How Wondrous and Great*, Composed by Michael Haydn

Thank you to our ministers today.

The Rev. Jim Wheeler, Celebrant

Music Minister: Mr. Gregory J. Cava

Eucharistic Minister: Jim Stanton

Lector: Dona Murphy

Welcoming: Peter Hurlbut

Altar Guild Chair: Deb Howes

Sonneur: Larry Apolzon Allumeur: Mike Snowden

Cover Art: Healing the Blind Man Václav Mánes (c. 1793 – 31 January 1858)

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

The Right Reverend, Jeffrey Mello, Bishop Diocesan

The Right Reverend Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

Announcements

All are welcome to **Coffee Hour** following the service in the Parish Hall

Healing prayer is offered today in the back of the church during Communion or speak with Judy Martinez.

Next Sunday, March 15th, there will be a service of **Morning Prayer** at 9:30 AM in person and via ZOOM

The next **Vestry Meeting** will be March 17th at 4:30 PM.

Compline and Healing at Bernhardt Meadow will be Wednesday, March 18th at 4:00 PM

If you would like a source for a daily Lenten devotion, pick up a copy of *Forward Day by Day* in the Narthex or use this link to their website:

<https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/about/to-the-reader>

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday , March 29th at 9:30 AM, the Rev. Jack Gilpin, Celebrant
Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, Meal at 5:30 PM, Service at 7:00 PM, the Rev. Jim Wheeler, Celebrant
Good Friday, April 3rd, Stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM, Service at 7:00 PM.
Easter Sunday, April 5th at 9:30 AM, the Rev. Jack Gilpin, Celebrant



Christ Church Tag Sale on May 16th!

Do you have good saleable items to donate?
(No heavy furniture or clothing, please) Volunteers are needed!
For more information contact Anissa Roy at 860-316-8076.

Please Note:

The Vestry has decided to continue our Sunday Service time of 9:30 AM through Easter Sunday, April 5th.
We want to hear from you! Please feel free to give us some feedback on this starting time.