



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Morning Prayer, Rite II
 March 15, 2026 · 10:30 am

All are welcome to worship God in this place.
In church before the service, please respect others by being silent.
Bold print indicates all the people shall read aloud

PRELUDE Improvisation (Op. 174, no. 6)

Josef Rheinberger

PROCESSIONAL HYMN The Glory of These Forty Days

Hymnal - 143

Erhalt uns, Herr



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
 *5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
 5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
 5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OPENING SENTENCE

Book of Common Prayer 76

Officiant Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. *Joel 2:13*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Book of Common Prayer 79

Officiant 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.

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

INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Book of Common Prayer 80

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

VENITE

Psalm 95:1-7

Hymnal - S 35

Jack Noble White

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
 let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
 And raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God,
 And a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
 And the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
 And his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
 And kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
 And we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Hymnal - 490

Houston

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.
 I want to look at Je-sus.
 I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.
 show me the way to the Fa-ther.
 shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The
 night and the day are both a-like. The
 Lamb is the light of the ci-t-y of God. *rit.*

a tempo

Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

Lector A reading from Ephesians.

For 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.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE

Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word

Hymnal - 440

Liebster Jesu

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to
2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
3 Gra - cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -

hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred
shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night
ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,

now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings
with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to
help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy

pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

THE THIRD LESSON

John 9:1-41

Lector A reading from John.

As he 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 ¹⁹and 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON

by The Rev. Joseph Peters-Matthews
Delivered by Eva Sullivan

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Book of Common Prayer 496

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

The people stand or kneel as they are able.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Book of Common Prayer 97

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 SUFFRAGES A

Book of Common Prayer 55

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;
People **And grant us your salvation.**

Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
People **Let your people sing with joy.**

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People **For only in you can we live in safety.**

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;
People **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;

People **Your saving health among all nations.**
Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People **And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.**

THE COLLECTS

The Collect of the Day

Officiant 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.**

A Collect for Sundays

Officiant O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

Officiant Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayer which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Peace

Book of Common Prayer 815

Officiant Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

See insert of *Praying the Scriptures* by Jeremiah Williamson

Lector Brothers and sisters, live as children of the light-for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Light of the world, **open our eyes.**"

Lector Lord our Shepherd, you have given your Church all that we need. Rain down on us mightily with your Spirit, that we may testify to the astonishing things you have done in our lives. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya. In the Diocese of Ohio, we pray for St. Luke's Church, Chardon; St. Andrew's Church, Cleveland; and St. Luke's Church, Cleveland and their surrounding communities.

I invite the congregation to share their thanksgivings or petitions either aloud or in the silence of their hearts.

Silence

Lector Light of the world.

People **Open our eyes.**

Lector God, you are present in the valley of the shadow of death. Comfort all those around the world who know danger or violence or war. By your love, cast out all evil and fear.

Silence

Lector Light of the world.
 People **Open our eyes.**
 Lector Lord, you make us to lie down in green pastures; you lead us by still waters. You have blessed us with a beautiful planet. May we work to preserve the holy gift of nature.
Silence

Lector Light of the world.
 People **Open our eyes.**
 Lector Lord, spread a table for those who are hungry; where there is scarcity and need in our neighborhoods, fill empty hearts, lives and cups with your abundance. By your light expose all the unfruitful works of darkness.
Silence

Lector Light of the world.
 People **Open our eyes.**
 Lector God of life, pursue the sick and sorrowful with your goodness and mercy. Reveal your works in those who are suffering. Make yourself known as Healer.
Silence

Lector Light of the world.
 People **Open our eyes.**
 Lector Reviver of Souls, give to the dying and the dead your promise of new and unending life. May we one day live with them forever in the light of Christ.
Silence

Lector Light of the world.
 People **Open our eyes.**

Officiant All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
 All **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
 All **And also with you.**
The congregation greets one another in the name of Christ.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND BLESSINGS

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Officiant Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM The Lord is My Shepherd

Randall Thompson

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

All **Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our**

creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Officiant Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God, Alleluia!**

CLOSING HYMN O For a Thousand Tongues

Hymnal - 493

Azmon

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
 2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim
 3 Jesus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease;
 4 He speaks; and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,
 5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones, your loosened tongues employ;

1 the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
 2 and spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy Name.
 3 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 4 the mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
 5 ye blind, behold, your Savior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
 be now and ever given
 by saints below and saints above,
 the Church in earth and heaven.

DISMISSAL

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

POSTLUDE Soaring (Aufschwung) (Op. 174, no. 3)

Josef Rheinberger

MUSIC NOTES

The prelude and postlude this morning comes from the pen of the late Romantic German composer and organist, Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901). Rheinberger was from Liechtenstein, but spent most of his career in Munich. He was a fairly prolific composer, but it is primarily his organ music that garners the most attention today. The prelude this morning is a quiet lyrical piece that allows the solo voice to sing and soar. The postlude uses arpeggios (broken chords in a sense) and a lyrical melody that seems to climb throughout the piece.



WE PRAY FOR those who have requested prayer this month:

T.J. Leo, Allen DeMarks, Vickey, Ginger Elliott, Carmela, Twila, Ron Robertson, Gaynell Harris, Olivia, Carlos & Julianna Caguiat, Donna Wynn, Brian Sullivan, Mary Snyder, Pat Rogers, Karen Kelly, Bob, Jason, Joe Edwards, Eleanor Congdon, Bill Bonte, Pat Sekola, Roxanne DeNiro, George & Carol Errington, Paul, Clinton Jost, Stan, Ronald Gould, Fabio Ceccarani, Kevin Shelton.



WE PRAY FOR our faithfully departed and their families:

Charles Rumberg passed away on March 11, 2026.
Services will be held at St. John's, details to follow.

**ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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BISHOP OF OHIO
The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly

**ORGANIST &
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Dr. Richard Konzen

SENIOR WARDEN
Tony Manhollan

JUNIOR WARDEN
Martie Witt

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Heather Seno

**FINANCIAL
SECRETARY**
Karen Warchol

SEXTON
Adam Sullivan

*To make donations using your phone,
please scan this QR Code to be
directed to our website.
Thank you!*



THOSE WHO ARE SERVING TODAY

OFFICIANT	<i>Eva Sullivan</i>
ORGANIST / CHOIRMASTER	<i>Dr. Richard Konzen</i>
LECTOR	<i>Chuck Laska</i>
VIDEOGRAPHER	<i>Doug Hotchkiss</i>
ALTAR GUILD	<i>Cindy Sharish, Tom Simerlink</i>
USHERS	<i>David Simonelli, Matt Barry</i>
ACOLYTES	<i>Sveva Ceccarani</i>
COUNTER	<i>Chet Amedia</i>
THE RED DOOR CAFE	<i>YSU Environmental Science</i>

The material in this bulletin is taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*. All copyrighted music is reprinted with permission under RiteSong. Prayers of the People are taken from *Praying the Scriptures* by Jeremiah D. Williamson. Today's sermon by The Rev. Joseph Peters=Matthews was provide by *Sermons That Work* on episcopalchurch.org

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Lucy Matthews by Margaret Scott; Frank & Hazel Rully, Patricia Heileman, and Michael Schotsch by Alexis Smith.

TODAY'S AUMBRY CANDLE is given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Joan Dikun by Richard & Mary Chisholm; Thomas G. New by Diane L. New.

We welcome you to St. John's.

If you are visiting with us, we ask that you fill out a Connection Card and place it in the offering plate, or sign the guest register located in the hallway.

ADULT FORUM LENTEN STUDY In *The Message of Jesus*, Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus' teaching, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. Led by Rev. David Hill each Sunday in the Parlor from 9:15 - 10:20 concluding March 29. Study books are available in the office. A suggested donation of \$ 5 for the books is suggested.

GLIMPSSES OF GOD THROUGH THE EYES OF THE MYSTICS This discission deconstructs the human lives of The Mystics by understanding their lives and the images they used to describe their relationship to God in an attempt to bring us closer to God. Throughout Lent, we will meet each Thursday at noon in the Parlor for a simple Eucharist, followed by lunch and reflection.
March 19th - Thomas Merton, March 26th - Howard Thurman

EASTER FLOWERS If you would like to submit names for Easter Flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones, please contact Heather in the church office. Easter Flowers will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Altar Guild accepts a suggested donation of \$25. Submissions are due by March 26th.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday	03/29	8:00am / 10:30am
Maundy Thursday	04/02	7:00pm
Stations of the Cross	04/03	5:00pm
Good Friday	04/03	7:00pm
Easter Vigil	04/04	8:00pm
Easter Sunday	04/05	8:00am / 10:30am
Easter Brunch	04/05	9:15am