

# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Centered in our love for Jesus, we worship God, reach out to those in need, celebrate our blessings, and love and care for each other. We are inclusive and welcoming of all God's people. Together, we strive to faithfully meet the challenges of a changing world.*

## **Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026—7pm**

**PRELUDE** Die Seele Ruht in Jesu Händen “The Soul Rests in Jesus’ Hands” by Bach

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **THE LESSONS & PSALM**

**A reading from the book of Joel (2:1-2,12-17)**

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
    for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near--  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
    a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
    a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
    nor will be again after them  
    in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
    rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the Lord, your God,  
    for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
    and relents from punishing.  
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
    and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
    for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
    gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation;  
    assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
    even infants at the breast.

We ask that you silence any electronics that might make noise during the service.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Please pray Psalm 103:8-14 responsively by half-verse.

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**

9 He will not always accuse us,  
**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
**so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

12 As far as the east is from the west,  
**so far has he removed our sins from us.**

13 As a father cares for his children,  
**so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made;  
**he remembers that we are but dust.**

### **A reading from the Second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (5:20b-6:10)**

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

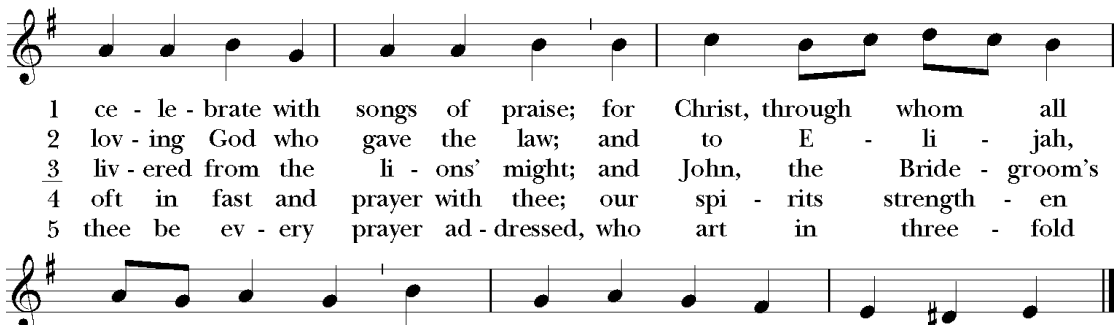
*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### **GRADUAL HYMN** The Hymnal 1982 #143 The Glory of these Forty Days *Please join us.*



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.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt. Copyright © by permission Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
 Music: *Erhalat uns, Herr*; melody from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL Matthew (6:1-6, 16-21) *Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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

**SERMON** The Rev. Katie Holeman

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need, which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*Please come forward and kneel around the altar for the imposition of ashes. The clergy will impose the ashes on your forehead with the following words:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*Please kneel and join in on the reading of Psalm 51 in body or spirit.*

## **Psalm 51**

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
In your great compassion blot out my offenses.**
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness\*  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.**
- 4 Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.**
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment**
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.**
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- 10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.**
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.**
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.**
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.**
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

## **LITANY OF PENITENCE**

*Celebrant* Together, let us pray:

**Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth that we have sinned by our own fault 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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us. **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us; **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation. **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord, **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE AND OFFERTORY** *Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Celebrant*      The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Celebrant*      O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** God So Loved the World by Libby Larsen

**PRESENTATION HYMN** The Hymnal 1982—#488 Be Thou My Vision *Please join us, continued on the following page.*

Musical notation for the hymn 'Be Thou My Vision'. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—

5



Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Copyright © by permission of the Estate of Eleanor Hull and Chatto & Windus Ltd. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *Please stand in body or spirit.*  
*Eucharistic Prayer Enriching Our Worship 2*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**THE SANCTUS** The Hymnal 1982— S#130 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (*Please join us.*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Please stand or kneel in body or spirit.*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Michael, your archangel and all angels and saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, 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.**

### THE BREAKING OF BREAD and THE INVITATION

**FRACTION ANTHEM** The Hymnal 1982— S#164 Jesus, Lamb of God (*Please join us.*)

The musical score is written for two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines.

System 1:  
Vocal: Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.  
Piano: Accompaniment for the first system.

System 2:  
Vocal: Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.  
Piano: Accompaniment for the second system.

System 3:  
Vocal: Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:  
Piano: Accompaniment for the third system.

System 4:  
Vocal: give us your peace, give us your peace.  
Piano: Accompaniment for the fourth system.



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to receive communion. Communion is offered with gluten free bread that is free of the top 8 allergens. The Bread and Wine is offered at the altar rail, and grape juice is offered at the back of the altar. Communion will be taken by eating the bread and sipping from the cup. If you do not feel able to sip from the cup please allow it to pass by. We believe that if you have received communion in one kind (bread only) you have received a full communion. Cross your arms over your chest if you wish to receive a blessing in place of consuming. Baptism from any Christian tradition is anticipated for those regularly receiving. Let an usher know if you need to receive at your pew. Ingredients are listed in the back of the bulletin.*

This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who want to know and love Christ, all are invited to come and meet Jesus here. The Gifts of God for the people of God.

**COMMUNION ANTHEM** Miserere Mei by Lotti

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** *Please stand or kneel in body or spirit.*

*Celebrant* Together, let us pray.

**Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** The Hymnal 1982—#149 Eternal Lord of love (*Please join us. Music can be found on the following page*)

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Prelude in g minor, BWV 558 by Bach

*\*Communion Bread ingredients: Gluten Free Flour (Rice Flour, Whole Grain Brown Rice Flour, Sorghum Flour, Tapioca Starch, Potato Starch, Cellulose, Vitamin and Mineral Blend [calcium carbonate, niacinamide (vitamin B3), reduced iron, thiamin hydrochloride (vitamin B1), riboflavin (vitamin B2)], Xanthan Gum, Cellulose Gum.), Water, Avocado Oil, Honey, Baking Powder, Salt.*

## Serving Today

**The Rev. Megan Anderson Gartin** Celebrant

**The Rev. Katie Holeman** Preaching

**The Rev. Mike Ferrito** Deacon

**John McEntyre & Warner Seargeant** Readers

**Renee Pierce & The Rev. Kathy Hopner** Eucharistic Ministers

**Dave Clausus & Rick Larkey** Ushers

**St. Michael's Chancel Choir**

**John Cozza** Music Director

CLOSING HYMN The Hymnal 1982—#149 Eternal Lord of love (*Please join us.*)

*Unison or harmony*

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church  
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
 so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,  
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here—the goal of all de - sire.  
 so we are dead and live with you in God.  
 so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

Words: Thomas H. Cain (b. 1931)

Music: Old 124th, melody *Pseauxmes octante trois de David*, 1551;  
 harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

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## Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday March 29— 10am Eucharist with Choir & Livestream

Maundy Thursday April 2— 7pm Eucharist with Choir & Livestream *with a dinner at 5:30pm*

Gethsemane Watch April 2 from 8pm to 7am April 3 in the Sanctuary

Good Friday April 3— 8:30am & Noon Stations | 7pm Passion & Livestream

Easter Vigil April 4— 7pm Eucharist with Choir & Livestream

Easter Sunday April 5— 10am Eucharist with Choir & Livestream

Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service

