

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 15, 2026

*Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome to Advent Episcopal Church. Our worship service follows the Book of Common Prayer and includes Holy Communion in which all may receive the bread and wine of Christ's Body and Blood. Hymn numbers preceded by the letter "H" are found in the blue Hymnal 1982. The hymn numbers preceded by the letter "W" are found in the blue hymnal Worship & Rejoice.*

*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

*Acknowledging the people of the land, the Hohokam and other indigenous people as the original stewards of this land, we give thanks for our ancestors, our elders, and for all indigenous people who pray for unity and peace together.*

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

H 493

*All standing, the Celebrant says*

*BCP 351*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* His mercy endures for ever.

*The Deacon or Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. Minister and People*

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 priest stands and pronounces an absolution*

*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.*

TRISAGION (*8am said, 10am sung, 3 times*)

*S-102*

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

*Have mercy upon us.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

COLLECT

*Celebrant*

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL (16:1-13)

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.

**All                Thanks be to God**

### PSALM 23 *(8am spoken, 10am sung)*

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- <sup>3</sup> He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> 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.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.

**THE SECOND LESSON      EPHESIANS (5:8-14)**

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

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

GOSPEL HYMN                            H 533

*Clergy*            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."

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

Sermon            The Rev. Dr. Beverley Rader

#### **The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

Leader: For all people in their daily life and work;

**People:** ***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

Leader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

**People:** ***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

**People:** ***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.***

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**People:** ***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

Leader: For our Presiding Bishop, and our Diocesan Bishop and our parish ministers;

**People:** ***For all who serve God in his Church.***

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

*Silence*

*(The People may add their own petitions)*

Leader: Hear us, Lord;

**People:** ***For your mercy is great.***

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

*Silence*

*(The People may add their own thanksgivings)*

**People:** ***We will exalt you, O God our King;***

***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

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

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**People:** ***Who put their trust in you.***

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*The Celebrant then says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY & TRAVELERS BLESSING

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE *Said by the Celebrant*

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

*The people stand as able while the offerings of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Altar.*

THE PRESENTATION AND BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

(8 AM SAID) All things come of thee, O Lord.

And of thine own have we given thee.

(10 AM SUNG)

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
 Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
 With God as our Father, brothers all are we.  
 Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
 Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
 With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
 To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
 Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer A*

The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS (*8am spoken, 10am sung*) S-125

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

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant:* 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.

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.*

*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

*(A period of silence is kept)*

**Fraction Anthem**

Agnus Dei

S164

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.**

*All are welcome to the Lord's Table to receive the bread and wine of Christ's Body and Blood. The wine will be offered by intinction, which means that you may dip the wafer into the small cup offered by the Lay Assistant. If you do not wish to receive the wine, just receive the wafer and return to your seat. The Church teaches that you receive the full Christ in either the bread or wine. There is no requirement to receive both. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

COMMUNION HYMN

W 252

*After communion the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*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.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace;

and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

CLOSING HYMN W 466

DISMISSAL

*Priest* Let us bless the Lord.

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

POSTLUDE

## *ADVENT'S 2026 HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE*

Palm Sunday, March 29	8 AM	Holy Eucharist
	10 AM	Holy Eucharist with Music
Wednesday, April 1	10 AM	Healing Service
	11:30 AM	Lenten Soup Lunch and Study
Maundy Thursday, April 2	4 PM	Holy Eucharist
Good Friday, April 3	11:15 AM	Stations of the Cross
	12 PM	Good Friday Service
Holy Saturday, April 4	5 PM	Great Vigil of Easter



### *EASTER MORNING*

Sunday, April 5

8 AM—Holy Eucharist Service  
10—AM Easter Service