



*The Fourth Sunday of Lent:
March 19th, 2023
St. Francis' Episcopal Church*

ST. FRANCIS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Francis Episcopal Church is a diverse community accepting all.

We gather to worship God, grow in faith, and share in fellowship

We go out to serve Christ by serving others.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE!

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Announcements

Worship Safety at St. Francis: Face masks are optional for vaccinated worshipers. Face masks are required for all unvaccinated people, for their own safety as well as that of others.

Rev. Andrew Calandriello returns this morning as our celebrant for Eucharist.

Saint Paul's Food Pantry will continue to accept donations of non-perishable food items to assist helping the food insecure in our neighboring town. For the month of March, donations of peanut butter and jelly are being requested. Monetary donations can be sent directly to the Saint Paul's Food Pantry, 445 Old Post Road, Edison, NJ 08817. See Kathy Balenson for further information.

Women's sanitary items continue to be collected for the **Fresh Start Program** coordinated by Summit Health. Adult, baby, and toddler diapers are also needed. Items may be placed in the containers outside or inside the church.

Saint Hubert's Animal Welfare Center is in need of wet and dry cat food. Please place donations in the bin at the bottom of the stairs by the front door. Thank you for your generosity!

Please support St. Francis Episcopal Church and beautify your gardens by placing an order with **Dutch Mills Bulbs** today! A variety of perennial bulbs can be ordered from their site and 50% of all sales benefit St. Francis Church. Please use the following link. Shipping begins on April 1st. <https://dutchmillbulbs.com/st-francis-episcopal-church-dunellen-nj>

Fellowship Hour Hosts are needed for upcoming Sundays. Please sign up in the Narthex. If you've never hosted coffee hour and want guidance, please contact Cynthia Pelliccia, pelliccia71@gmail.com.

Fellowship after worship is sponsored by the Pelliccia-Moya family this morning. Please join us in Millbank Hall.

Celebrations this week: Birthdays: Ava Parmelee - 03/25; Baptism Anniversaries: Anthony DeRogatis, Sr. - 03/21; Confirmation Anniversaries: Derek Staats - 03/19; Daryl DeRogatis - 03/20

Sanctuary Candles were sponsored by Christy McGuire in memory of Eleanor Wetzel and by Larry Quirk in memory of Vincent Mendola.

Easter Flowers: If you would like to make a donation toward Easter Flowers in Thanksgiving or in Remembrance of a loved one, please fill out the Easter Flower Form and return it to church on or before March 26th. You may call the office and leave a message if you have any questions.

Saint Francis Church Office Hours: (732) 968-6781
Wednesdays: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Deacon Gerry
Thursdays: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Office Assistant

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Worship: Today's service begins with the Penitential Order. To mark the somber character of the Lenten season, the music for the Eucharist is the spare *New Plainsong Mass*. Bells are not used, brass crosses, candlesticks and plates are replaced with wood or baskets, and silver Altar vessels are replaced with pottery.

Lent Madness: *Who Will win the Golden Halo?* Lent Madness, a take-off on college basketball's "March Madness", is a bracket elimination tournament pitting the heroes and heroines of the faith on the Episcopal Church's Calendar of Saints against each other. You can follow the competition and vote for your favorite saint at and follow the results.

Journey Through Lent Map: Today, the fourth Sunday in Lent: Reflect on what Jesus says in today's gospel "*I am the light of the world.*" Pick up your copy in the narthex.

Lenten Service Project: Please join Deacon Gerry and the Saint Francis Youth for the collection of "**Blessing Bundles**" for those in need. Collection has started and will end on April 9th. Items will be distributed to a local service organization. Please donate travel-size first aid kits, wet wipes, socks, individually wrapped granola bars, crackers, etc., shaving products, deodorant, dental products, feminine items, etc. You may make a monetary donation using Vanco or using your offering envelopes marking "other" with "Lenten Blessing Bundles". Please include a personal note of encouragement.

Lenten Study: Join us today after the service for Lenten Study led by Deacon Gerry and designed by the Diocesan-wide Refugee Resettlement Task Force. This study is suitable for all ages and resources will be provided. Please join us following the services from now through March 26th.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY - April 2nd

Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist: 8:00 AM

Procession of the Palms: 10:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 6th

Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing: 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY - April 7th

Stations of the Cross: 12:00 PM

Good Friday Liturgy: 7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY - April 8th

Saint Barnabas Church

Great Vigil of Easter: 8:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY - April 9th

Holy Eucharist: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

The Holy Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday of Lent: March 19th, 2023

PRELUDE

WHERE'R YOU WALK

George F. Handel

THE ENTRANCE HYMN

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

Hymnal (1982) 690

Please stand as you are able.

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

Presider Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Presider Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

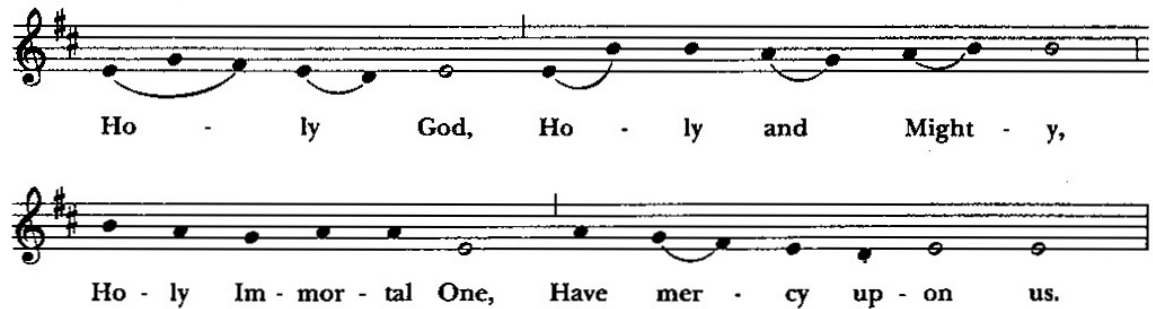
Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Please kneel as you are able. An extended period of silence is kept for self-examination.

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.**

THE ABSOLUTION

The Trisagion is sung three times.



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Presider

Let us pray. *Silence for the People's prayers.*

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 forever.

Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Reader

A Reading from the Book of Samuel.

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.

Silence to hear the Word of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM (23)

Please join in reading the Psalm responsively by half verse.

- 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.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

Reader *A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.*

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."

Silence to hear the Word of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

THE GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
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.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Andrew Calandriello

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand as you are able.

ALL 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

People **Lord, have mercy.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

***** WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *****

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY HYMN *COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING* *Hymnal 686*

Presider All things come of Thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given Thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP page 361

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

Presider It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace, we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Hymnal S-124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Presider 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:

ALL **Christ has died**
Christ is risen
Christ will come again

Presider We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

ALL **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

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

A PRAYER FOR SHARED COMMUNION

ALL Lord Jesus Christ, our constant companion,
you promised to be with us to the end of the age,
and you make us one with each other
in your Body, the Church.
We thank you for giving us yourself
in this Holy Sacrament,
the seal of your love that is stronger than death.
Grant, then, O Lord, that we all may receive you,
whether met at this table or dispersed in our homes;
and so strengthen the bonds of our common life
that with all your people in every place,
we may praise and serve you
until we come to the joys of your heavenly banquet.
We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

Presider Behold what you are.
People May we become what we receive.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

BENEATH THE CROSS

Mark Patterson

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Please stand as you are able.*

Presider Let us pray.

ALL Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

THE CLOSING HYMN

LEAD US, HEAVENLY FATHER, LEAD US

Hymnal 559

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

HUNGARIAN DANCE

Johannes Brahms

