The Fifth Sunday of Lent:
March 26th, 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.

Please welcome **The Rev. Canon Karin Mitchell** who will be celebrating the Eucharist with us this morning. Mother Karin served as our Vicar from 2003 to 2005.

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 Heather Nunes this morning. Please join us in Millbank Hall.

Celebrations this week: *Birthdays:* Dax Maye – 03/31; *Baptism Anniversaries:* Althea Heirholzer – 03/28; Isabella Ramos – 03/31; Sebastian Ramos – 03/31; Yuennadi Moya – 03/31; *Confirmation Anniversaries:* Lauren Staats – 03/31

Easter Flowers: Today is the last day to order! 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. 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 fifth Sunday in Lent: Reflect on what Jesus says in today's gospel ***"I am resurrection and I am life."*** 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 this morning.

Maundy Thursday is the day we remember Jesus gathered with the disciples in an upper room where he washed their feet and shared a meal with them the night before his trial and crucifixion. We mark Jesus' new commandment (*mandatum* – the origin of the name Maundy Thursday) to "love one another." This year's night vigil after Maundy Thursday Service on April 6th will be from 8pm until midnight. Please sign up in the Narthex to pray and watch.

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 Fifth Sunday of Lent: March 26th, 2023

PRELUDE *SARABANDE FROM SUITE XI* George F. Handel

THE ENTRANCE HYMN *I SING THE ALMIGHTY POWER OF GOD* ***Hymnal*** *(1982)* **398**

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.

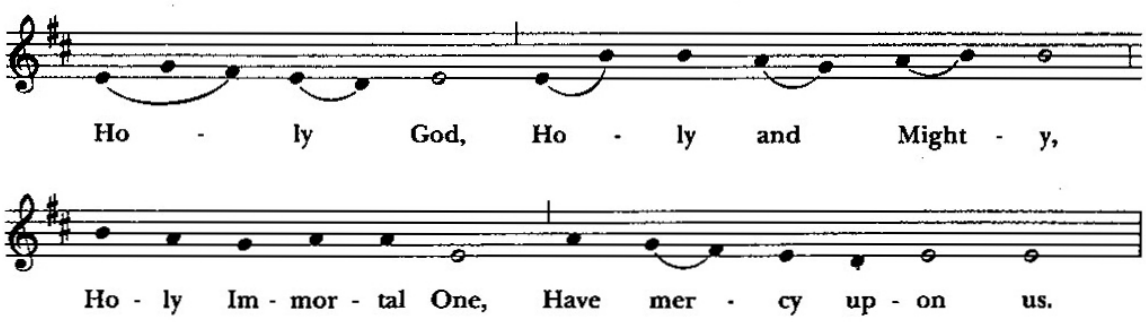
Please kneel as you are able. An extended period of silence is kept for self-examination.

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 (*THRICE HOLY)* ***Hymnal 1982* S99**

The Trisagion is sung three times.



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.*

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

Reader *A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, `Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Silence to hear the Word of God.

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

THE PSALM (130)
Please join in reading the Psalm responsively by half verse.

De profundis

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *

6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

THE SECOND LESSON *Romans 8:6-11*

Reader *A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Romans.*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Silence to hear the Word of God.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN *NOT FAR BEYOND THE SEA, NOR HIGH* ***Hymnal* 422**

Please stand as you are able.

THE GOSPEL *John 11:1-45*

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.
Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."
When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."
When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.
When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"
Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."
Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

THE SERMON *The Rev. Canon Karin Mitchell*

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

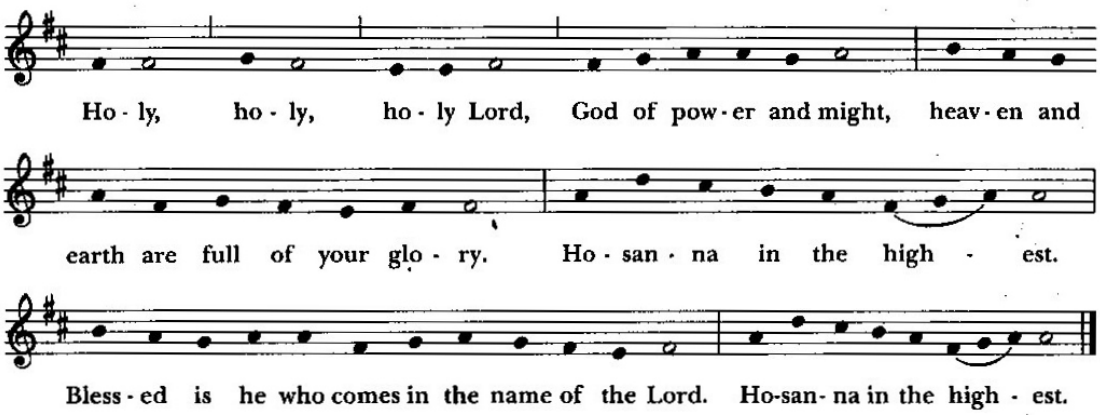
THE OFFERTORY HYMN *WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS* ***Hymnal 474***

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***



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 *REMEMBER ME* Deborah Govenor

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 *LORD, WHOSE LOVE THROUGH HUMBLE SERVICE* ***Hymnal 610***

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *PAVANE* Gabriel Faure