



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH ✝ DECATUR, ALABAMA
www.stjohnsdecaturn.org

Office: 256-353-9615 ✝ Pastoral Emergency Line: 256-280-3792

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT | MARCH 30, 2025

8:00 AM | THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

Please keep a reverent silence before the liturgy.

Prayers and liturgy can be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal. Hymns listed with an "S" in front of the number can be found in the front of the hymnal in the Service Music section.

Organ Prelude

"Lenten Prelude"

Dennis Janzer

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

BCP 323

The Collect for Purity

BCP 323

Trisagion, *sung three times*

Hymn S102

The Collect of the Day

The First Lesson

Joshua 5:9-12

The Psalm

Psalm 32

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Sermon

Father Ackerman

The Nicene Creed

BCP 326

The Prayers of the People

BCP 328

Confession & Absolution

BCP 330

The Peace

BCP 332

Announcements, Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

card in pew

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Presentation Hymn

Hymn 9, verses 4-6

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer I

BCP 333

Sanctus

Hymn S114

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

The Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP 339

The Blessing

BCP 339

Procession Hymn

Hymn 690

Dismissal

BCP 339

10:30 AM | THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please keep a reverent silence before the liturgy.

Prayers and liturgy can be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal. Hymns listed with an "S" in front of the number can be found in the front of the hymnal in the Service Music section.

Organ Prelude

"Lenten Prelude"

Dennis Janzer

Procession Hymn

Hymn 411

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

The Collet for Purity

BCP 355

Trisagion, sung three times

Hymn S102

The Collect of the Day

The First Lesson

Joshua 5:9-12

The Psalm

Psalm 32

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sequence Hymn

Hymn 470

The Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Sermon

Father Ackerman

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People, Form II

BCP 385

Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

The Peace

BCP 360

Announcements, Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

card in pew

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Presentation Hymn

Hymn 9, verses 4-6

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer A

BCP 361

Sanctus

Hymn S124

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Communion Hymn

Hymn 301

Communion Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing 101

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

*Come home, Ye who are weary, come home!
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!*

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,
Mercies for you and for me?

Refrain

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
Passing for you and for me;
Shadows are gathering, death beds are coming,
Coming for you and for me.

Refrain

Oh! For the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and
pardon,
Pardon for you and for me.

Refrain

The Post Communion Prayer
The Prayer over the People
Procession Hymn
Dismissal

BCP 365

Hymn 690
BCP 366

All who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church. If you would like information regarding baptism at St. John's, please speak to one of the clergy. For reasons of public health, if you desire to intinct, please allow the Eucharist Minister to dip your host in the wine and place it on your tongue. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, simply indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

TODAY'S READINGS

The Collect of the Day

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.

The First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 32

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in
the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in
the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; 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.

The Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

SERVING TODAY

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| Ushers | 8:00 AM: Mike Burnthall | 10:30 AM: Kathy Landis, Holly Burcham |
| Lay Eucharistic Minister | 8:00 AM: Alexander Steel | 10:30 AM: Bobby Straub |
| Lectors | 8:00 AM: Lisa Dye | 10:30 AM: Linda Miller |
| Acolytes | 8:00 AM: Rebecca Self | 10:30 AM: Ezra Lokken, Gus Greenbaum, Sadie Wilson |
| Media Minister | Ann Stewart | Flower ReArranger Mary McKimmon |
| Vestry Person of the Day | Rachel Wiley, Victoria Tumbleson | Flower Deliverer Ann Stewart |