



St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH ✦ DECATUR, ALABAMA

www.stjohnsdecaturn.org

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | MARCH 22, 2026

8:00 AM | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

Please keep a reverent silence before the liturgy and ensure all electronic devices are silenced.

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

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele
Moritz Friedrich August Koehler

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclimation	BCP 323
Collect for Purity	BCP 323
Trisagion	Hymnal S100
The Collect of the Day	
The First Lesson	Ezekiel 37:1-14
The Psalm	Psalm 130
The Second Lesson	Romans 8:6-11
The Gospel	John 11:1-45
The Sermon	The Rev. Mary Catherine Allan-Thomas
The Nicene Creed	BCP 326
The Prayers of the People	BCP 328
Confession & Absolution	BCP 330
The Peace	BCP 332
Announcements, Birthday & Anniversary Prayers	<i>Inside Back Cover, BCP</i>

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory	
Presentation Hymn	Hymnal 9 v 4-6
The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer 1	BCP 333
Sanctus	Hymnal S114
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 336
The Breaking of the Bread	BCP 337
Fraction Anthem	Hymnal S161
The Post Communion Prayer	BCP 339
The Blessing	BCP 339
Procession Hymn	Hymnal 344
Dismissal	BCP 339

10:30 AM | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please keep a reverent silence before the liturgy and ensure all electronic devices are silenced.

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

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele
Moritz Friedrich August Koehler
Hymnal 411

Processional Hymn

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation	BCP 355
The Collect for Purity	BCP 355
Trisagion	Hymnal S100
The Collect of the Day	
The First Lesson	Ezekiel 37:1-14
The Psalm	Psalm 130
The Second Lesson	Romans 8:6-11
Sequence Hymn & Dismissal to Children's Chapel	Hymnal 508
The Gospel	John 11:1-45
The Sermon	The Rev. Mary Catherine Allan-Thomas
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	<i>Inside Back Cover, BCP</i>

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory	
Presentation Hymn	Hymnal 9 v 4-6
The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A	BCP 361
Sanctus	Hymnal S124
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 364
The Breaking of the Bread	BCP 364
Fraction Anthem	Hymnal S161
Communion Hymn 1	Hymnal 309
Communion Hymn 2	Hymnal 314
The Post Communion Prayer	BCP 365
The Prayer over the People	
Procession Hymn	Hymnal 344
Dismissal	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

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.*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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.

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



- 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, *
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.

Romans 8:6-11

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.

John 11:1-45

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.

SERVING TODAY

Ushers	8:00 AM: D Hall	10:30 AM: Sara Reed Thompson and Bobby Straub
Lectors	8:00 AM: Sarah Edman	10:30 AM: Rachel Wiley
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	8:00 AM: Lisa Dye	10:30 AM: Alex Adams
Acolytes	8:00 AM: Rebecca Self	10:30 AM: Kathy Landis, Leo Salerno, Leilani Fleischman
Media Ministry	Ezra Lokken	
Vestry Person of the Day	Sue Hennessy and Luke Slaton	
Flower Rearranger	Mary McKimmon	
Flower Deliverer	Pat Price	

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Chase Ackerman, Rector

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The Rev. Sam Burcham, Deacon, Outreach & Family Ministries

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Lauren Cantrell Choirmaster

Foster Bailey Organist

Julia Sanford Seminarian

Natalie Huber Children's Ministry Assistant

Callie Melick Nursery Attendant

Rebecca Bailey Nursery Attendant

Melba Middleton Food & Hospitality

Paul Montgomery Sexton

VESTRY

Class of 2026: Nora Hall, Sue Hennessy, Julie Leavitt (Senior Warden),
Lyla Peebles, Kevin Wilson

Class of 2027: Bynum Kirby, Jackie Joiner, Ann Stewart (Junior Warden),
Suzanne Thompson, Victoria Tumbleson

Class of 2028: Alex Adams, Rob Getman, Erika Huber, Luke Slaton, Emly White

Stuart Tubb Treasurer

Stan Evans Assistant Treasurer

Carol Sartain Clerk

Ken Schuppert Chancellor



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

202 Gordon Drive SE | Decatur, Alabama 35601

Church Office 256-353-9615 | churchoffice@stjohnsdecaturn.org

After-hours Pastoral Emergency: 256-280-3792

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm | closed Friday

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