

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026
8:45 & 11:00am



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Est. 1836 | Flat Rock, North Carolina

Mission Statement

To know and love God as He is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, to bring others to His saving love, and to serve the world in His name.

Welcome to St. John in the Wilderness

We welcome you warmly to St. John in the Wilderness and invite you to share in our songs, prayers, and eucharistic feast. If you do not have a church family at this time, then we invite you to join in this fellowship of faith as we share life together as the Body of Christ. See the note to our visitors on the back inside cover for more information about receiving Communion and joining the church.

Reminders for Worship

- Children of all ages are most welcome in worship, and during the service they may enjoy the activity bags, which are in the Tower Entrance. Nursery care is available for children from infancy to pre-K across Rutledge Drive in our Parish House Education Building from 8:30am to 12:30pm on Sundays. Please use the crosswalk to get there!
- Formation is available for children, youth, and adults most Sundays from 10:10 to 10:45am in our Parish House complex across Rutledge Drive.
- Please participate in the service by singing and praying with us. At the time of the Peace, please take a few moments to leave your pew and greet others in the name of our Lord.
- A restroom is available near the front of the church and can be accessed through an exterior door. Please see an usher for directions.
- You will find hand sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it after the Peace and before receiving Communion.

Prayer List: Just a reminder that the Sunday prayer list will be updated at the end of the quarter. On Sunday, April 5, the list will be comprised of only the names submitted or updated in March. You can add or update a name on the prayer list at www.stjohnflatrock.org/prayer-list.

Upcoming Services & Gatherings

Lenten Learning Series: Marks of Mission, with the Rev. Dr. Timothy Ross Tuesdays in Lent, 5:00-6:30pm in the Wilderness Room

We invite you to a series of adult formation every Tuesday night in Lent with Pastor Tim Ross. The course will ask questions such as: *Who are we as a congregation? What do we stand for? What are we up to in our community? What are we supposed to do with our lives? What is our mission in life?* Please bring a finger food to share.

Stations of the Cross | Fridays during Lent, 12:00pm in the Church

This weekly devotional practice helps to ground us as we travel the path of reflection and repentance during the 40 days of Lent and draws us closer to our Lord. A soup and salad lunch will follow in the Wilderness Room. No RSVP necessary.

United Thank Offering (UTO) Continues through March 22

Our UTO collection period runs through the last Sunday in Lent. These offerings go to support innovative mission and ministry around the world. Please pick up a Blue Box from one of the church entrances, fill it with coins as you count your blessings throughout this season, and bring it to service on March 22.

Tickets Available for *The Many Lives of Carl Sandburg* Sunday, March 15, ~~2:30~~ (SOLD OUT) and 5:00pm in the Wilderness Room

Friends of Music & the Arts presents *The Many Lives of Carl Sandburg*, a one-act play exploring the diverse facets of Sandburg's experience, written by John W. Quinley and directed by Karen Moore. The two shows are free to attend, with reservations required at bit.ly/FOMAsandburg.

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

arr. Wayne L. Wold

Welcome & Announcements

ENTRANCE HYMN: #685 Rock of ages, cleft for me

Toplady

THE WORD OF GOD

Acclamation & Response

BCP p. 323

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People **His mercy endureth for ever.**

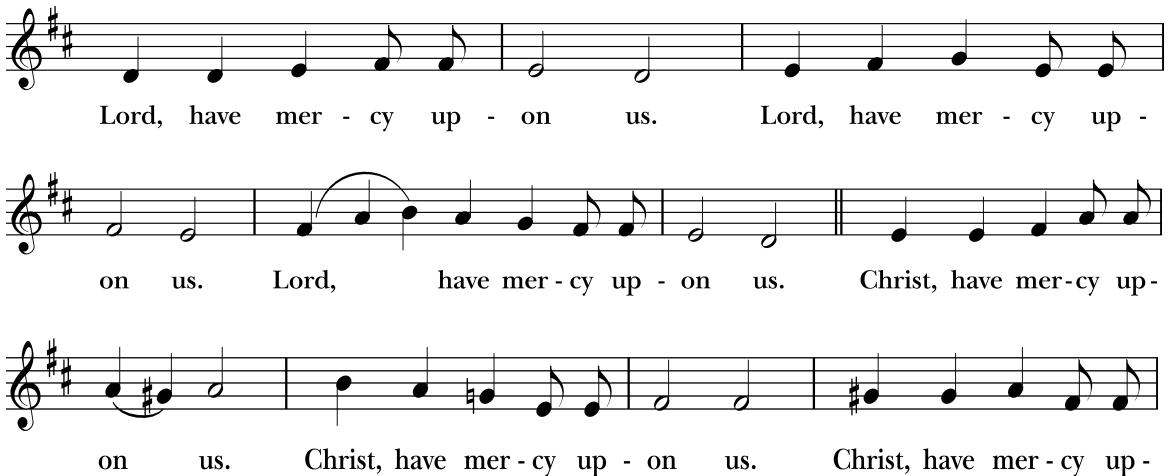
The Celebrant says

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE ELEISON (Lord, Have Mercy)

The Hymnal 1982, #S-91



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Celebrant says to the people

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| | The Lord be with you. |
| <i>People</i> | And with thy spirit. |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Let us pray. |

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

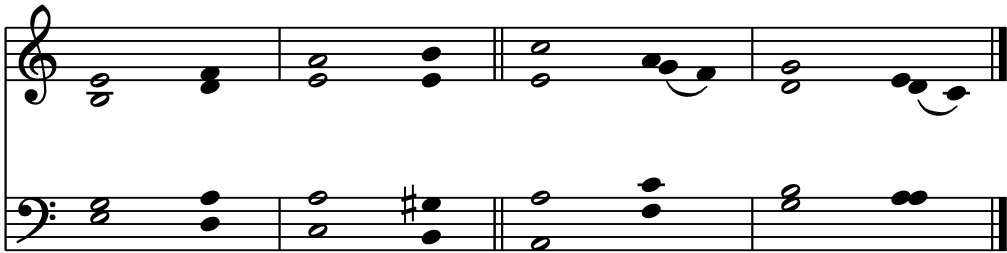
The people are seated.

First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| | The Word of the Lord. |
| <i>People</i> | Thanks be to God. |

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse at 8:45 and sung in unison at 11:00. The 11:00 congregation remains seated as it sings the Psalm.



Chant setting, #408 from The Hymnal 1982, Service Music — Music: James Frazier (b. 1947). Copyright © 1978 James Frazier.

- 1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksGIVING *
and raise a loud shout to him with PSALMS.
- 3 For the Lord is a great GOD, *
and a great King above all GODS.
- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the EARTH, *
and the heights of the hills are his ALSO.
- 5 The sea is his, for he MADE IT, *
and his hands have molded the dry LAND.
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the KNEE, *
and kneel before the Lord our MAKER.
- 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his HAND. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his VOICE!
- 8 Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the WILDERNESS, *
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they TEMPTED ME.
- 9 They put me to the TEST, *
though they had seen my WORKS.
- 10 Forty years long I detested that generation and SAID, *
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my WAYS."
Sing second half of chant for verse 11
- 11 So I swore in my WRATH, *
"They shall not enter into my REST."
Glory be to the Father, and to the SON, *
and to the Holy GHOST:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever SHALL BE, *
world without end, aMEN.

Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

As the music begins, all stand for the gradual hymn and reorient themselves to the Gospel of our Lord as it is processed into the congregation.

GRADUAL HYMN: #658 As longs the deer for cooling streams

Martyrdom

All remain standing as the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The Gospel: John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you

get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

After the sermon, there is a brief moment of silence. When the Celebrant rises, the congregation stands.

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

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 Leader and People pray responsively

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

People For all people in their daily life and work;
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.**

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
People **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 Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; José, our Bishop;
and for all bishops and other ministers;
People **For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation: for Jeff, Legare, Elijah,
Susan, Betsy, Tawana, Chuck, John, Nancy, Ginger, Robert, Dottie, Betty, Mason,
Mary, Sue, Dale, Mary, Deacon, Kristen, Katherine, Joan, and Julie. Are there
others?

The People may add their own petitions silently or aloud

Leader Hear us, Lord;
People **For your mercy is great.**

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

The People may add their own thanksgivings silently or aloud

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;
People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader We pray for all who have died, [*especially* _____,] that they may have a place in your
eternal kingdom.

The People may add their own petitions silently or aloud

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

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

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 330

The Deacon introduces the Confession with the following or the other introduction on page 330.

Deacon Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The people stand or kneel. Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against thee

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in thy will,

and walk in thy ways,

to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

The Peace

BCP p. 332

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

A Prayer for Those Celebrating Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries in March

BCP p. 830
Prayer 50

Included in our prayers are those served by our Visitor Ministry with birthdays this month: Ginger Quarles (March 18), Marge Smith (March 19) and Nancy King (March 27).

O God, our times are in your hands. Look with favor, we pray on your servants who are celebrating birthdays or wedding anniversaries this month. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing of an Expecting Family

Book of Occasional Services p. 170

O Lord and giver of life, receive our prayer for Abby and for the child she has conceived, that they may happily come to the time of birth, and serving you in all things may rejoice in your loving providence. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God. You have blessed the union of Abby and McKenzie. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God. May your blessing be upon Abby and the child she carries. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God. May this time of pregnancy be for Abby and McKenzie months of drawing nearer to you and to one another. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God. May Abby and McKenzie's experience of birth be full of awe and wonder and the joy of sharing in your creation. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God. May Charlie's bond with his new sibling be strong and enduring, and his heart full of love and patience as he takes on his role as big brother. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God. Let the fullness of your blessing be upon those whom we bless in your Name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then shares an offertory sentence.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

The ushers pass the offering plates and present the gifts of the congregation at the Lord's table.

Online gifts may be made using the QR code to the right.



OFFERTORY MUSIC:

8:45 Voluntary in G

Thomas Tomkins

11:00 O, My God, Bestow

Giovanni B. Pergolesi/arr. Hal Hopson

Text: adapted verses from Psalm 51

O, my God, bestow Thy tender mercy. Blot out my transgressions; cleanse my sin.

O God, bestow Thy love. Hear me, restore me, forgive me, uphold me;

From all my sins, O hide Thy face from my sin. Restore the joy.

I cry to Thee. Hear Thou my prayer. Cast me not away. Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Open Thou my lips, my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Doxology

Old 100th

Musical notation for the first part of the doxology, featuring a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low; praise".

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low; praise

Musical notation for the second part of the doxology, continuing from the first part. The melody and accompaniment are on treble and bass clef staves. The lyrics are: "him a-bove ye heav' nly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men."

him a-bove ye heav' nly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

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

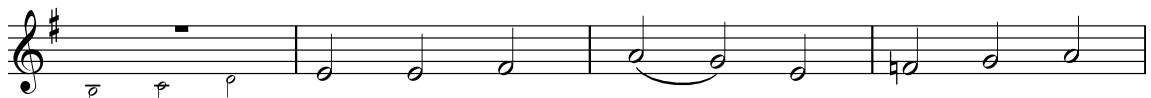
BCP p. 337

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The following or some other suitable anthem may be said (8:45) or sung (11:00) here

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People **have mercy upon us.**
Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People **have mercy upon us.**
Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People **grant us thy peace.**



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Celebrant and People

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ushers immediately begin releasing the congregation to share in the Eucharistic feast. A gluten-free option is available upon request. For further instructions about Holy Communion, see the note to our visitors on the back inside cover of the bulletin.

The choir often begins by singing a hymn while the congregation receives the Sacrament. Following the choir's hymn, please join in as we sing the Communion Hymn together.

COMMUNION MUSIC:

8:45 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me arr. Peter Pindar Stearns

11:00 Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty Delores Durner/*Beach Spring*

"Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live."
Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.
"Come to me, all travelers weary; come that I may give you rest.
Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest."
"Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer, turn to me and seek my face."
"Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame.
Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name."

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939. Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374

COMMUNION HYMN: #343 Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless *St. Agnes*

Sending Out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant With whom will you share this communion?

Eucharistic Visitors respond with the names of those to whom they will go.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we share one bread and one cup.**

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Kneel before the Lord.

The people stand or kneel for the Post-Communion Prayer.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing.

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL HYMN: #690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

The Dismissal

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, may dismiss the people with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Maestoso*, from Werk 9 for Organ

Hermann Schroeder

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers intercessions and thanksgivings to God. **Worshippers, wherever they are in the church, are encouraged to offer aloud or silently their own such prayers during the appropriate part of the Prayers of the People.** As we pray, please remember those who are ill or with other needs: Jeff, Legare Head, Elijah Stephens, Susan Rex, Betsy Thagard, Tawana Gibbs, Chuck King, John and Nancy Taylor, Ginger Quarles, Robert Odean, Dottie Dalzell, Betty, Mason, Mary, Sue, Dale, Mary McCarty, Deacon Whitson, Kristen, Katherine Gee, Joan Odean, and Julie Morse.

Eucharistic Visitors share the Body and Blood of Christ with those who receive care from our Visitor Ministry. We thank God for the ministry of Clint Adams, Art Mack, Judy Petersen, Anita Reid, Stan Rogan, and Bill Taylor.

To Our Visitors: We welcome you with all our hearts! You are also invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive the Sacrament or a blessing. All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive Communion, including infants and children. To receive Communion, simply come forward to kneel at the altar if you are able. Put one hand in the palm of the other and the Celebrant will share the Body of Christ with you. You may then intinct or drink from the Chalice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. If you are not baptized, please come forward and kneel at the altar while crossing your arms over your chest to receive a special blessing, and we invite you to talk to the priest at any time about entering discernment for being baptized. Won't you join with Christ and his Church on this journey of faith?

If you do not have a church home at this time, then we hope you will make St. John in the Wilderness your church family. We find that through sharing life together as the Body of Christ, we are made whole and renewed daily. Talk to an usher or member of the clergy about joining this parish, or you are welcome to simply fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate. We welcome you!

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP

| | Third Sunday in Lent March 8 | | Fourth Sunday in Lent (Rose Sunday) March 15 | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| | 8:45am | 11:00am | 8:45am | 11:00am |
| | Lay Readers/ Eucharistic Ministers | Bob Inglis Mary Anne Inglis | Will Rodriguez E. Christenbury | Sandra Jeffery John Barker |
| Acolytes | Danielle Pharr | Beau Singletary Arlo Stephens Emily Ann Caldwell | Laura Teel | Stan Rogan |
| Ushers | Clint Adams Jerry Holt | D. Christenbury Karen Conley | Stu Holcombe Debby Staton | John Knapp Ned Curtis |
| Greeters | Annabelle Hurd Lois Karcher | Becky & Scott Petersen | Lynne Miller Judy Petersen | Carmen & Ned Curtis |
| Cart Drivers | G. Brombacher | John Knapp | Jim Olson | Sandy Skelton |
| Videography (<i>Service</i>) | N/A | David Burge | E. Wiescholek | N/A |
| Videography (<i>Formation</i>) | BJ McKee | | Jennifer Shelton | |
| Altar Guild | Brenda Hillyer Laurie & Slava Morris (<i>Brass/Sat.</i>) | Lynn Savage Lucie Earhart | Cathryn Harrell BJ McKee | Diane Skelton Jim Cooper (<i>Brass</i>) |
| Flower Guild | Lenten Branches | | | |
| Opening Gatekeeper | David Dethero | | David Dethero | |
| Closing Gatekeeper | Mark Delk | | Mark Delk | |



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Church: 1895 Greenville Highway | Office: 1905 Greenville Highway

Mailing: PO Box 185, Flat Rock, NC 28731

828-693-9783 | www.stjohnflatrock.org

In the case of a pastoral emergency, call the Parish Office and dial 5.

Worship Services: 8:45 & 11:00am | Office Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm M-F

Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Children: 10:00am

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service: Wednesdays 10:30am in the Wilderness Room

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Josh Stephens, Rector: rector@stjohnflatrock.org

Ed Tompkins, Director of Music & Organist: music@stjohnflatrock.org

Mims Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication & Administration: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

Stacy Knapp, Financial Administrator: finance@stjohnflatrock.org

Missy Izard, Director of Christian Education: missy@stjohnflatrock.org

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

VESTRY MEMBERS

Jill Owen, *Senior Warden (2026)*
Jim Cooper, *Junior Warden (2027)*

2026

Jon Fitzpatrick
Sandy Skelton

2027

Kitty Olson
Catherine Popp
Steve Sittnick

2028

Liz Carson
Mark Delk
Worth Gordon
Lynne Miller

PARISH OFFICERS

Marlin Sanders &
Bill Williams, *Treasurers*

Kim Sanders, *Clerk*

STANDING COMMITTEES

Appointments: Carol Rector

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Jerry Tanner

By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson

Christian Formation: Missy Izard

Communications & Publicity: Joey Popp

Finance: Gary German

Historic Churchyard Committee: Sandy Rex

New Member Ministry: Brenda Hillyer & Judy Petersen

Outreach: Jennifer Shelton

Personnel: Margaret Barker

Stewardship: Jim and Jann Cooper

OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Laura Teel

Altar Guild: Cathryn Harrell, Laurie Morris

Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint

Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen

Docents: Polly Morrice & Scott Bell

Endowment Trustees: Mike Teel

Episcopal Church Women: Jan Tanner

Flower Guild: Patrice German

Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Garden Guild: Jerry Tanner

Gatekeepers: BJ McKee

Golf Cart Ministry: Jill Owen

Good News Gardeners: Cathy & David Burge

Greeters: Worth Gordon & Carmen Curtis

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Holy Hikes-WNC: Cynthia Easterling

Lay Readers: Mark Delk

Meal Ministry: Catherine Popp

Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen

Sustainability: Elizabeth Christenbury

Ushers: Clint Adams & Bettie Orr

Visitor Ministry: Clint Adams

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe