

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

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 our worship services. 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.
- 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 6, the list will be comprised of only the names submitted or updated in March.

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

www.stjohnflatrock.org/lenten-journey

Lenten Learning Series: What Is Mysticism and Why It Matters continues on Tuesdays through April 8 at 5:00pm in the Wilderness Room. Bring a finger food to share. No registration or prior reading necessary. Children's formation runs concurrently—please register for children's formation by emailing Missy Izard (missy@stjohnflatrock.org). Come and explore the mystical dimensions of faith this Lent!

Stations of the Cross continues to be held on Fridays through April 11 at 12:00pm in the Church, with a soup and salad lunch will following in the Wilderness Room. All are welcome, no RSVP necessary.

HOLY WEEK: THE WAY OF THE CROSS, THE LIGHT OF RESURRECTION

www.stjohnflatrock.org/holy-week

Palm Sunday | April 13 | 8:45 & 11:00am

Recall Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his Passion on the cross. Gather outside the Carriage Entrance for the Liturgy of the Palms and then process inside the church for the Liturgy of the Word.

Holy Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday | April 14, 15, 16 | 4:30pm

Join us for Evening Prayer in the Atrium Chapel.

Maundy Thursday | April 17

Foot Washing for Kids: 5:00pm | Proper Service: 7:00pm

Wear your sandals and share in the radical servant ministry of Jesus of Nazareth! This year, we hold two Maundy Thursday services: Families with children are invited to join us for a special program tailored for the younger members of our parish. On April 17, we'll gather for pizza at 5:00pm in the Wilderness Room, followed by a program from 5:30 to 6:00pm to engage in the radical servant ministry of Jesus. ***Please sign up for Foot Washing for Kids at bit.ly/maundykids.***

Later in the evening, all are invited to our more traditional service of foot washing and stripping of the altar at 7:00pm in the church as we prepare to keep watch over night. This service ends in darkness, and we leave the church in complete silence as our vigil begins.

Gethsemane Watch | April 17-18 | 9:00pm – 8:00am

The Gethsemane Watch is a vigil during which we, as disciples of Jesus, step into the story of his final hours and do something that the Twelve could not do: we stay awake for one hour and we pray.

Beginning at the end of the Maundy Thursday service and running until the clergy gather for Morning Prayer on Good Friday, you are invited to sign up for an hour of prayer in the church. ***Sign up for a shift at bit.ly/gethsemane25.***

Good Friday | April 18 | Proper Services: 12:00 & 5:30pm

Stations of the Cross: 11:00am | Veneration of the Cross: 1:00-4:00pm

On Good Friday, we will commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus beginning at 11:00am with the Stations of the Cross. Meet in the Parish Hall parking lot to take turns carrying the cross up to the church as we complete the Stations and then enter the church for our Good Friday liturgy at noon. There will be an additional Good Friday service at 5:30pm. Designated checks and loose offerings from our Good Friday services will be collected to send to our siblings in Christ in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. All are invited to spend time in prayer before the Cross, this instrument of shameful death that is for us the means of life, during the Veneration of the Cross in the church between 1:00 and 4:00pm.

Easter Sunday | April 20 | Services: 8:45 & 11:00am

Egg Hunt: 10:00am | Potluck Feast: 4:00pm

The story of Jesus did not end on the Cross, because the love of God cannot stay locked in a tomb. On Easter, we celebrate Jesus' conquering of death to bring new and abundant life to us all. Join in the celebration at one of our services at 8:45 and 11:00am! Gather in the church and bring flowers to share in the flowering of the cross or use the flowers provided in the church.

At 10:00am, the celebration will move across the street for St. John's annual Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by the Young Family Ministry. Bring your own basket and meet in the Rector's Garden.

To round out the day of celebration, Fr. Josh and Rosanna invite you to their home for a potluck feast at 4:00pm. ***RSVP for the Easter Potluck Feast at bit.ly/alleluiapotluck25 by Monday, April 11.***

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: Two Organ Chorale Preludes

Cwm Rhondda

St. Thomas

Alan Viner

Emma Lou Diemer

Welcome & Announcements

ENTRANCE HYMN: No. 690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

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

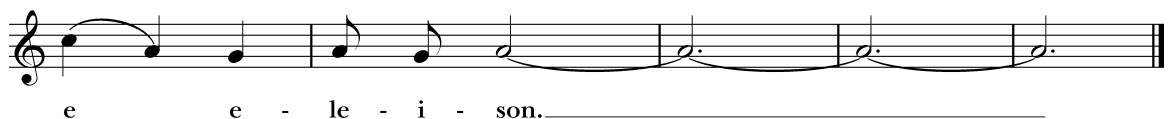
Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

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, No. S-88





The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People

And with thy spirit.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

First Lesson: 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.

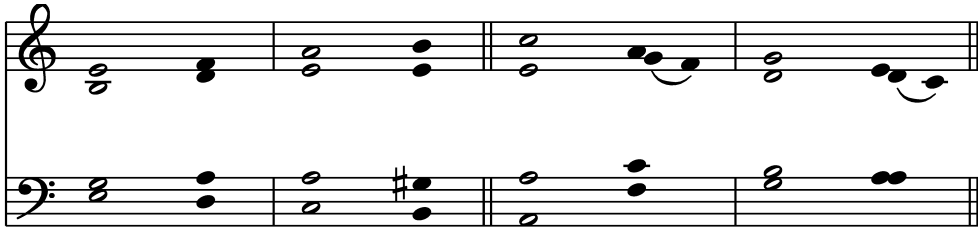
While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse at 8:45 and sung in unison at 11:00. The congregation at 11:00 will remain 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 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.
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: 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. 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 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: No. 470 There's a wideness in God's mercy

Beecher

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

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

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

The Gospel: Luke 115:1-3, 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.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Josh Stephens

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

The Nicene Creed

**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

Form VI, BCP p. 392

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 Sean our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;
People **For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader We pray for those impacted by wildfires in Western North Carolina at this time, and for the special needs and concerns of this congregation: for Tawana, Mary, Bob, Dottie, Betsy, Margaret, Chuck, Harriet, Louise, Ann, Michael, Patty, John, Parker, Patsy, Marilyn, Daniel, Russ, Kirsten, Janet, Susan, Wayne and Ann, Harry, Bennett, Patty, Amanda, Carol, Peggy, Jan, Miguel, Jeff, Roger, Carl, Katherine, Anita, John, and Cindy. 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 Natalie “Pods” Cato and Gerry Hunt, 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.

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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. 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 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Robert A. Hobby

11:00 Drop, Drop Slow Tears Ronald Arnatt/tune Orlando Gibbons

Text: Phineas Fletcher

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet,
Which brought from heav'n the news and Prince of Peace.
Cease not, wet eyes.

His mercies entreat; to cry for vengeance Sin doth never cease.
In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I, BCP p. 333

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.

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.**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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 HYMN: No. 693 Just as I am without one plea

Woodworth

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.**

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 339

After Communion, the Deacon 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 people remain standing or kneeling, and the Celebrant says

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DISMISSAL HYMN: No. 411 O bless the Lord, my soul!

St. Thomas

The Dismissal

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

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Cwm Rhondda*

Paul Manz



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: Tawana Gibbs, Mary McCarty, Bob Sundeen, Dottie Dalzell, Betsy Thagard, Margaret Barker, Chuck King, Harriet Huiet, Louise, Ann Stringfield, Michael Jeffery, Patty Vint, John Taylor, Parker Mattern, Patsy Boehmer, Marilyn Jones, Daniel Mieras, Russ Adam, Kirsten Shepherd, Janet Thompson, Keyla Hensdill, Susan Rex, Wayne and Ann Kanipe, Harry Van Bergen, Bennett Stroman, Patty, Amanda Swan, Carol Black, Peggy Rex, Jan, Miguel Hernandez, Jeff, Roger Gross, Carl Sessions Stepp, Katherine, Anita Reid, John McGuire, and Cindy Brinkmann.

The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of my husband, George Carr, Sr., and Joe Carr, *by Baynard Chamberlain.*

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, Stephen Askew, Patricia Tanzer Askew, E.R. Haire, Art Mack, 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				
	Fourth Sunday in Lent March 30		Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	Sandra Jeffery	Bill Taylor	Judy Petersen Danielle Pharr	Candace Lewis
Acolytes	Danielle Pharr	Stan Rogan		
Ushers	George Grzenda Debby Staton	Bettie Orr D. Christenbury	Jodi Sundeen Jim Spry	Bettie Orr Edgar Ham
Greeters	Lynne Miller Worth Gordon	Becky & Scott Petersen		
Cart Drivers	Marlin Sanders	Scott Bell	Danielle Pharr	John Knapp
Videography (Service)	BJ McKee	N/A	Jennifer Shelton	N/A
Videography (Formation)	Rosanna Couture		N/A – Parish Breakfast	
Altar Guild	Brenda Hillyer Virginia Rehn (Sat.) Rick Rehn (Brass)	Laurie Morris Susan Gibbs	Candace Lewis Kathy Newbold Gibson Sims (Brass)	Laurie Morris Diane Skelton Lynn Redmond (Sat.)
Flower Guild	Jan Tanner		Lenten Branches	
Opening Gatekeeper	David Dethero		George Grzenda & BJ McKee	
Closing Gatekeeper	Jerry Holt		Patrice German	



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

PO Box 185, 1905 Greenville Highway, 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

The Rev. Deacon Sandy Rex, Deacon: cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com

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

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

Stacy Knapp, Finance & Administration: finance@stjohnflatrock.org

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

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

VESTRY MEMBERS

Jerry Holt, *Senior Warden*

Jim Gibbs, *Junior Warden*

2025

Kim Sanders

Patrice German

Laura Teel

2026

Jill Owen

Jon Fitzpatrick

Sandy Skelton

2027

Jim Cooper

Kitty Olson

Catherine Popp

Steve Sittnick

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: Jerry Holt

OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Betsy Tibbs

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: Elizabeth Christenbury, Cava Sittnick

Flower Guild: Patrice German

Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Gatekeepers:

Golf Cart Ministry: Jill Owen

Good News Gardeners:

Greeters: Betsy Tibbs

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Holy Hikes-WNC: Cynthia Easterling

Lay Readers: Mark Delk

Meal Ministry: Catherine Popp

Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen

Newsletter Editor: Mims Yeargin

Sustainability: Elizabeth Christenbury

Ushers: Clint Adams, Bettie Orr

Visitor Ministry: The Revs. Patricia Tanzer Askew and Stephen Askew

Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe