

The First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 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.

Upcoming Services & Gatherings

Vigil of Remembrance for Victims of Gun Violence Sunday, February 22, 4:00pm in the Wilderness Room

At this special service, we will hear a few of the stories of those who were killed in our country in 2025 by guns and grieve the reality of this violence. It is hosted as a collaboration between St. John in the Wilderness and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. All are welcome.

Lenten Learning Series: Marks of Mission, with the Rev. Dr. Timothy Ross Tuesdays in Lent Beginning February 24, 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.

Holy Hike on Ecusta Trail Thursday, February 26, 11:00am at First Congregational Church

Join Holy Hikers on their fourth annual “urban” walk. This hike three miles long and rated easy. Learn more at www.stjohnflatrock.org/upcoming-hike, and register by emailing holyhikes@stjohnflatrock.org.

Souper Bowl of Caring | Extended through Sunday, March 1

We are collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items for IAM to help feed our neighbors in need. You may leave all items in the donation baskets near the Wilderness Room.

Tickets Available for *The Many Lives of Carl Sandburg* Sunday, March 15, 2:30 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 II

8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: Two organ chorales on *St. Flavian*

David Dahl & Harold Stover

The Great Litany

BCP p. 148/Hymnal #S-67

People

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Have mercy upon us.

On God, the Son, Redeemer of the world. Have more eyes upon us.

O God, the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith-ful. Have mer-cy up-on us.

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

preserve us for ever. Spare us, good Lord.

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

devil; and from everlast-ing dam-na-tion,

Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

People



Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

People



Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

People



Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

People



Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

People



Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

People



Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

People



Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,



Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

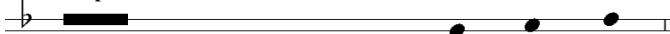


We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United

States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

People



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

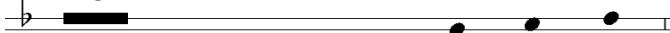
People



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

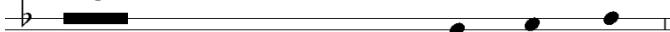
People



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

People



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

People



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

People



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

People



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John, and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.



Officiant Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

People Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.



O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

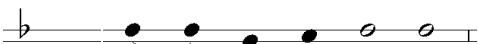
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.



O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.



O Christ, hear us. O Christ, hear us.



Officiant Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

People Chri - ste e - lei - son.

Officiant Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

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 to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32

Beati quorum

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 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: Romans 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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: #142 Lord, who throughout these forty days

St. Flavian

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

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 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. 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 Now Let Us All with One Accord

Edwin T. Childs

11:00 Lead Us, Heavenly Father

Ian Higginson

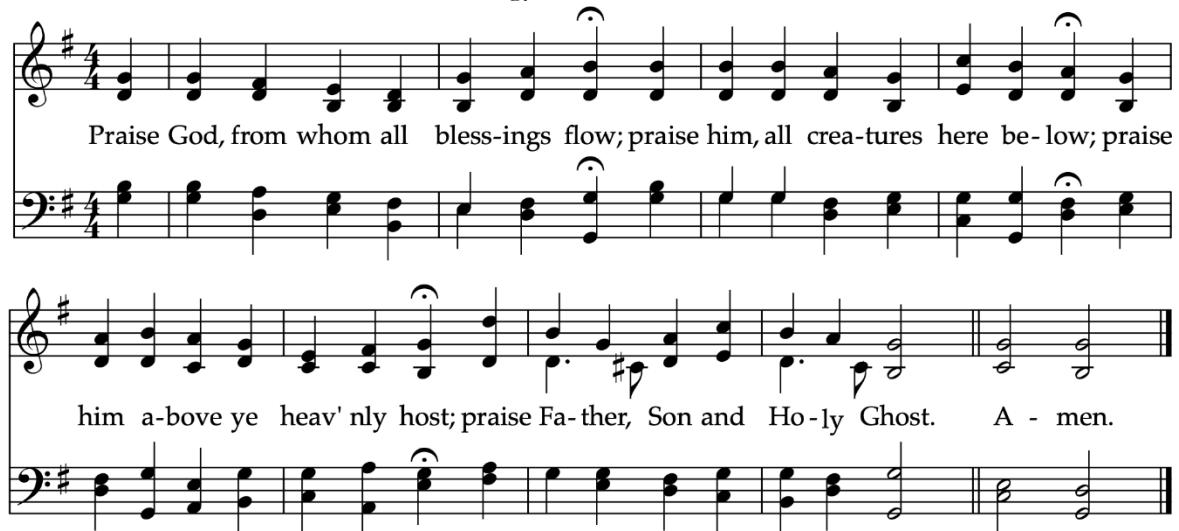
Text by James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Lead us heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing, if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us: all our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us, thou didst feel in keenest woe;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary, through the desert thou didst go.
Spirit of our God, descending, fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending, pleasure that can never cloy:
Thus provided, pardoned, guided, nothing can our peace destroy.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Doxology

Old 100th



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise
him a-bove ye heav' nly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I, BCP p. 333

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

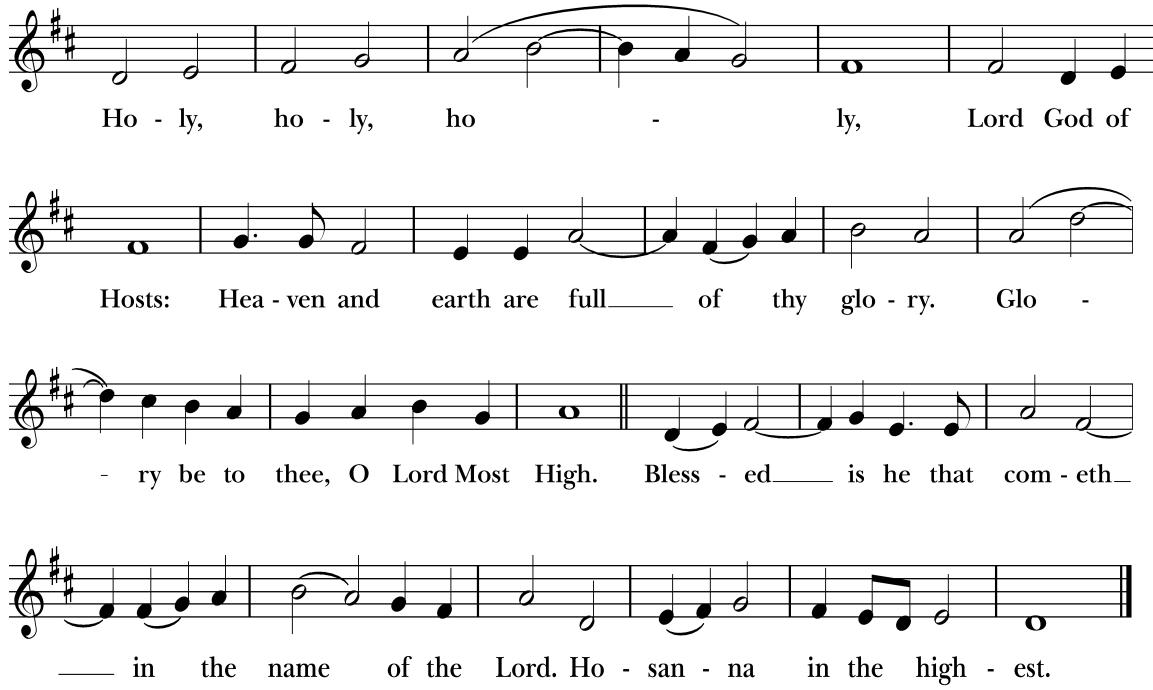
People The Lord be with you.
Celebrant **And with thy spirit.**
People Lift up your hearts.
Celebrant **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
People Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

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

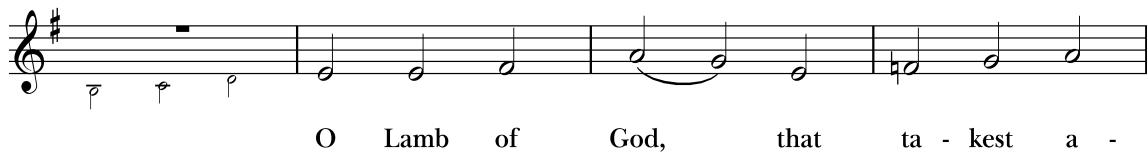
BCP p. 337

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

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: Sojourner

Spiritual; arr. John Carter

COMMUNION HYMN: #147 Now let us all with one accord

Bourbon

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 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.

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL HYMN: #449 O love, how deep, how broad, how high

Deo gracias

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: *Deo Gracias*

David N. Johnson

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, Bob Sundeen, Betsy Thagard, Tawana Gibbs, Chuck King, Jim Gibbs, John and Nancy Taylor, Ginger Quarles, Robert Odean, Dottie Dalzell, Betty, Mason, Mary, Sue, Dale, Mary McCarty, Deacon Whitson, Kristen, and Katherine Gee.

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

	First Sunday in Lent		Second Sunday in Lent	
	February 22	8:45am	March 1	11:00am
Lay Readers/ Eucharistic Ministers	Bob Inglis Mary Anne Inglis	E. Christenbury Mark Delk	Judy Petersen Sandra Jeffery	Candace Lewis Lori Griswold
Acolytes	Jasmine Pharr	Anita Reid	Jasmine Pharr	Cora Fitzpatrick Joey Saltz Sofia Ridgeway
Ushers	Clint Adams George Grzenda	Hilton Swing Ned Curtis	Jodi Sundeen Jim Spry	Bettie Orr Lisa Kauffman
Greeters	Brenda Hillyer D. Brombacher	Jann & Jim Cooper	Worth Gordon Cathryn Harrell	Diane & Sandy Skelton
Cart Drivers	Mark Owen	Scott Bell	Mark Owen	Nancy Cooper
Videography (Service)	N/A	Tom Griswold	Jennifer Shelton	N/A
Videography (Formation)	BJ McKee		N/A – Parish Breakfast	
Altar Guild	Sandra Jeffery Lynne Miller	Sara Kester Michael Jeffery (Brass)	Candace Lewis Kathy Newbold Gibson Sims (Brass)	Laurie Morris Becky Petersen Elaine Harris (Sat.)
Flower Guild	Lenten Branches		Lenten Branches	
Opening Gatekeeper	Clint Adams		David Dethero	
Closing Gatekeeper	Catherine Popp		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

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: Jenifer 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

VESTRY MEMBERS

Jill Owen, *Senior Warden (2026)*

Jim Cooper, *Junior Warden (2027)*

2026

Jon Fitzpatrick

Jim Gibbs

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*