FOURTH SUNDAY

MARCH 10, 2024 8:15AM | 10:30AM | HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

PISCOPA

HOLY COMFORTER

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS

Please complete the information card and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the ushers.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF HOLY COMFORTER

Though very diverse politically and socially, care for each other and care deeply for how our faith is manifested in the community. We believe all people are equal in God's hand. Our nurturing congregation has an appreciation for diverse perspectives and opinions. We grow through a continually evolving and questioning discussion regarding our faith, God, and society. We welcome all, without reservation, into our Christian body to be part of a loving and sharing family.

WE CARE

Please call the church office at (336) 227-4251 if you or someone you know needs visitation, prayers or other assistance because of illness or inability to attend worship service.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

To worship God, revealed to us as Creator, as Jesus the Christ, and as the Holy Spirit, and experience God's presence within the church family, nurturing each other through a comprehensive parish program while affirming each other's individual ministries and responding to Jesus' continuing call to minister to others.

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | 686

Come, thou fount of every blessing



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Officiant People

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins. *His mercy endureth for ever.*

Here 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. *Matthew 22:37-40*

The Deacon or Celebrant then says Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

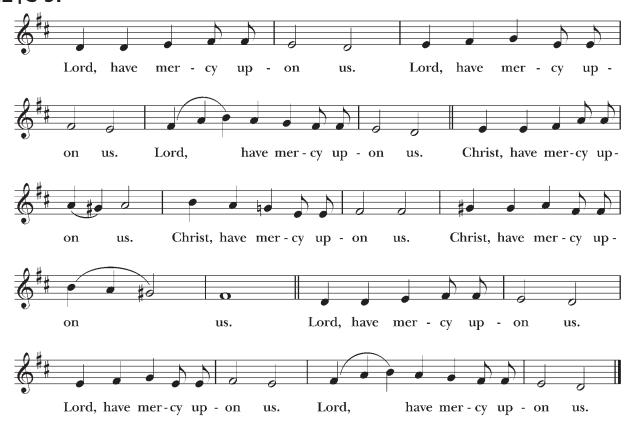
CONFESSION

Minister and People

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



OfficiantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd with thy spirit.

KYRIE | S-91

COLLECT

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

ALL CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO FOLLOW THE CRUCIFER TO GODLY PLAY IN THE CHILDREN'S CHAPEL.

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, * and his mercy endures for ever. 2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim * that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe. 3 He gathered them out of the lands; * from the east and from the west. from the north and from the south. 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; * they were afflicted because of their sins. 18 They abhorred all manner of food * and drew near to death's door. 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, * and he delivered them from their distress. 20 He sent forth his word and healed them * and saved them from the grave. 21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy * and the wonders he does for his children. 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving * and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

Confitemini Domino

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

People	Thanks be to God.
Reader	The Word of the Lord.

SEQUENCE HYMN | 151

From deepest woe I cry to thee



GospelerThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.PeopleGlory be to thee, O Christ.

THE GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

GospelerThe Gospel of the Lord.**PeoplePraise be to thee, O Christ.**

SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

Officiant and People

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world. Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which

The Rev. Greg Farrand

Form I | BCP 328

BCP 326

we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers **[especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Jennifer, our Bishops]**, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land **[especially Joseph, our President, Roy our Governor, and James our Mayor],** that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor **[see prayer list]** all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear **[especially _____]**, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of **[______ and of]** all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

A TRANSITION PRAYER FOR HOLY COMFORTER

Ever-present God,

You call us on a journey to a place we do not know.

We are not where we started.

We have not reached our destination.

We are not sure where we are or who we are.

Transition is not a comfortable place.

May we continue to remind ourselves of the wonderful resources of this Church Sanctuary and a warm and welcoming congregation.

Be among us, we pray.

Calm our fears, save us from discouragement.

Encourage us to care for one another.

And help us to stay on course.

Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey toward calling a new Rector continues as a journey of trust, and faith and love. **Amen**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE BCP 332		BCP 332
Officiant People	The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.	
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
OFFERTORY SENTENCE BCP 37		BCP 376
OFFERTORY ANTHEM I Wonder As I Wander arr. Tom Shelton		
I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die, For poor on'ry people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.		
When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall, With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all; But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall, And the promise of ages it then did recall.		
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,		

Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing, He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die, For poor on'ry people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharist Prayer II

BCP 340

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest faces them and sings or says

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And with thy spirit.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them up unto the Lord.

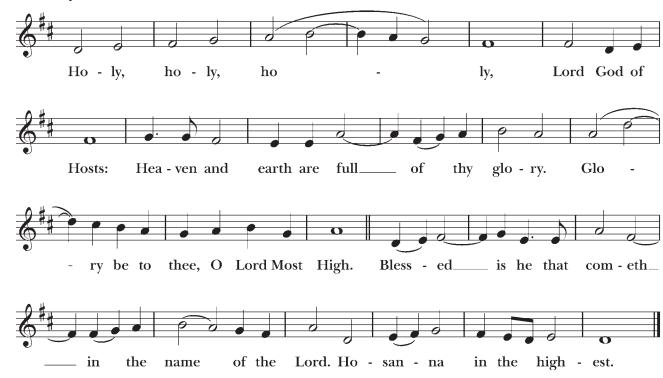
Celebrant	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People	It is meet and right so to do.

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.

Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

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



SANCTUS | S-114

Here may be added

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Officiant and People

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

The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept The choir will immediately sing the fraction anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM | S-158

(Fraction Anthem lyrics on next page)

BCP 364

BCP 364



Facing the people, the Officiant says the following Invitation. The Gifts of God for you, who are also gifts of God.

Persons wanting a blessing instead of receiving bread or wine at the Altar may cross their arms over their chest.

COMMUNION HYMNS

671 | Amazing grace! how sweet the sound



685 | Rock of Ages, cleft for me



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 339

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.**

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

For those attending remotely.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

SOLEMN PRAYER

The Celebrant says Bow down before the Lord

The people kneel and the Celebrant says the following prayers:

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL | 699

Jesus, lover of my soul

(Recessional lyrics on next page)

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE



ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar greenery today is given to the Glory of God by Janie Sellers in memory of Philip Larry McEwen, my oldest living first cousin on my mother's side, who passed away in January 2024.

OFFICIANT	The Greg Farrand
LAY MINISTERS VERGER	Steven Swanner
ORGANIST	Christin Baker
USHERS	8:15am - Paula Boyd 10:30am - Ed and Rene Burgess
READERS	8:15am - Curt Odem 10:30am - Larry Vellani, Martha Stewart
ACOLYTES	8:15am - Curt Odem 10:30am - Chalicist - Kathy Hykes Crucifer - Richard Parker Left Torch Bearer - Mourine Todd Right Torch Bearer - Gabriel Johnson Gospel Bearer - Lorenzo Johnson
VESTRY COUNTERS	Max Newbauer, Carol Thornell
CHILDREN'S CHAPEL	Maggie Holt, Cheryl Miner
FLOWER GUILD	Betty Brown, Julie Smith, Sandy Gerow
ALTAR GUILD	Joanne McClusky , Janice Davis-McAdams, Cheryl Miner, Tish Murray, Susan Ryan, Julie Smith, Nancy Smith
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE	Joanne McClusky, Paula Boyd, Rene Burgess, Sarah Moore, Jane Romer

COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY

COMMITMENT TO FAITHFULNESS MONDAY FEB 26 - SUNDAY MARCH 3

GENERAL FUND	\$895.00
PLEDGED	\$ 3.176.00
OTHER	\$ 900.44

MARCH 10, 2024 | LIFE TRANSFORMED - WEEK 4

The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death; then, we rise in hope to life transformed. This Lent, communities are invited to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life. Together, we will reflect anew on the loving actions of God as recounted in the Easter Vigil readings. Together, we will walk through the depths of salvation history into the fullness of redemption. Throughout Lent, come along with us as we explore Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent, produced by Hillary Raining and Jenifer Gamber. You can find resources mentioned below at *iam.ec/lifetransformed* or by scanning the QR code to the right.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Today's Practice: Watch the Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining's video at <u>iam.ec/lifetransformed</u> for Week 4. The topic is based on the practice "Bless" and is titled, "A New Heart and a New Spirit".

Read: Ezekiel 36:24-28

MONDAY, MARCH 11

Today's Prompt: What challenges are you facing today?

Read: "And you will have confidence, because there is hope; you will be protected and take your rest in safety." – Job 11:18

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Today's Prompt: How is the Jesus who walked the earth beckoning you to meet him?

Read: "They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way." – *Mark 10:46-52*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Today's Prompt: Try praying with Anglican prayer beads.

Read: "Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart." – *Luke 18:1*

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Today's Prompt: Where do you find joy and passion?

Read: "They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" – *Luke 24:32*

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

- Today's Prompt: Where might God be asking you to take your great love into the world?
- Read: "From this time forward I tell you new things, hidden things that you have not known." Isaiah 48:6

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Today's Prompt: How do you want to prepare people to remember you?

Read: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God." – 2 *Corinthians* 1:3-4

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WAYS TO CONNECT

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