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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OF THE  
**HOLY COMFORTER**

**8:15AM | 10:30AM | HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II  
SUNDAY, MARCH 02, 2025**

**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.

# **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.

# SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025 / TRANSFIGURATION

## PRELUDE

### OPENING HYMN / 497

How bright appears the morning star

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing  
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a  
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;  
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;  
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and  
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -  
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:  
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;  
Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,  
Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it  
A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.  
thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

**Presider** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

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

## GLORIA / S-280



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**Presider**  
**People**  
**Presider**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

## COLLECT

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

*Exodus 34:29-35*

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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

## THE RESPONSE / S-409

Psalm 99

*Dominus regnavit*



- 1 The Lord is King;  
let the people tremble; \*  
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;  
let the earth shake.
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion; \*  
he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; \*  
he is the Holy One.

4 "O mighty King, lover of justice,  
you have established equity; \*  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and fall down before his footstool; \*  
he is the Holy One.

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, \*  
they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; \*  
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

8 O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; \*  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds.

+ 9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill; \*  
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

## THE NEW TESTAMENT

*2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2*

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

**Reader  
People**

The Word of the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God.***

## SEQUENCE HYMN / 133

O Light of Life, love given birth



1 O Light of Light, Love giv - en birth; Je - sus, Re -  
2 Two pro - phets, who had faith to see, with your e -  
3 May all who seek to praise a - right through pur - er

deem - er of the earth: more bright than day your face did  
lect found com - pan - y; the heavens a - bove your glo - ry  
lives show forth your light. To you, the King of glo - ry,

show, your rai - ment whit - er than the snow.  
named, your Fa - ther's voice his Son pro - claimed.  
now all

*Final Ending*  
faith - ful hearts a - dor - ing bow.

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-43a

*The Presider or other clergy person reads the Gospel, first saying ...*

**Gospeler** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**People** *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

**Gospeler**    The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People**       ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

**SERMON** **THE REV. DR. RHONDA M. LEE**

**THE NICENE CREED** *BCP 358*

***Presider 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** *Form III | BCP 387*  
*The reader and people pray responsively*

<b>Reader</b>	Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
<b>People</b>	<i><b>That we all may be one.</b></i>
<b>Reader</b>	Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
<b>People</b>	<i><b>That your Name may be glorified by all people.</b></i>
<b>Reader</b>	We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Jennifer, our Bishops, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
<b>People</b>	<i><b>That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.</b></i>

**Reader** We pray for Donald, our President, Josh, our Governor, James, our Mayor, and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**People** ***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

**Reader** Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**People** ***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

**Reader** We pray for ... (\_\_\_\_\_). Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**People** ***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

**Reader** We pray for ... (\_\_\_\_\_). Give to the departed eternal rest;

**People** ***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

**Reader** We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**People** ***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

**Reader** Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The People may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud.  
The Presider adds a concluding Collect.*

## **GENERAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

### **Presider and People**

***Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.***

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

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

**Presider** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** ***And also with you.***

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

O Thou, the Central Orb

*Charles Wood*

O thou, the central orb of righteous love,  
Pure beam of the Most High, eternal light  
Of this our wintry world; thy radiance bright  
Awakes new joy in faith: hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine;  
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,  
As stars about thy throne, set in the height  
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight  
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin:  
Our nature all shall feel eternal day  
In fellowship with thee, transforming clay  
To souls, erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

### **DOXOLOGY / 380 V.3**

*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 B

*BCP 367*

*The people remain standing.*

<b>Presider</b>	The Lord be with you.
<b>People</b>	<b><i>And also with you.</i></b>

<b>Presider</b>	Lift up your hearts.
<b>People</b>	<b><i>We lift them to the Lord.</i></b>

<b>Presider</b>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<b>People</b>	<b><i>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</i></b>

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds with a proper preface*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## **SANCTUS / S-129**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Presider continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**Presider and People**

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [ \_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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

### **Presider 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

BCP 364

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The choir sings the fraction anthem.*

## FRACTION ANTHEM / S-155

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is

sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Facing the people, the Presider says the following Invitation.  
The Gifts of God, for the people of God.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion, and everyone is welcome to receive a blessing. Although it is traditional to drink from the common cup, you may choose to "intinct" by dipping your bread into the chalice. You may receive only the bread, if you prefer. Reception in one kind does constitute full communion. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please present your hands palms down. Persons wanting a blessing instead of receiving bread or wine at the altar may cross their arms over their chest. Communion can be brought to you at your pew; please ask an usher. If you are not baptized and are feeling God's call in that direction, please speak to the priest, who will be delighted to explore this with you.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

### 129 / Christ upon the mountain peak

1 Christ up - on the moun - tain peak stands a - lone in  
2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -  
3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came. God pro - claim - ing  
4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and pro - phets

glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,  
li - jah speak - ing. All the pro - phets and the Law  
in its thun - der Je - sus as his Son by name!  
fade be - fore him; first and last and on - ly One,

with the saints and an - gels praise him. Al - le - lu - ia!  
shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Na - tions cry a - loud in won - der! Al - le - lu - ia!  
let cre - a - tion now a - dore him! Al - le - lu - ia!

8

## 123 / Alleluia, song of gladness



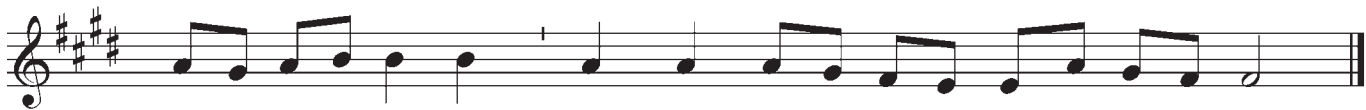
1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that  
2 Al - le - lu - ia thou re - sound - est, true Je - ru - sa -  
3 Al - le - lu - ia though we cher - ish and would chant for  
4 There - fore in our hymns we pray thee, grant us, bless - ed



can - not die; al - le - lu - ia is the an - them  
lem and free; al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful mo - ther,  
ev - er - more al - le - lu - ia in our sing - ing,  
Trin - i - ty, at the last to keep thine Eas - ter



ev - er raised by choirs on high; in the house of  
all thy chil - dren sing with thee; but by Bab - y -  
let us for a while give o'er, as our Sa - vior  
with thy faith - ful saints on high; there to thee for



God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.  
in his fast - ing plea - sures of the world for - bore.  
ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord, **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.**

## BLESSING

## **RECESSIONAL / 460**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

***(Recessional hymn lyrics on next page)***

## **DISMISSAL**

*The people respond*

**People      Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**



1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the  
 \*2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of Hea - ven, thou on  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the  
 \*5 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the



1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the  
 2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is  
 3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the  
 4 Lord of lords we own: Al - le - lu - ia! born of  
 5 scep - ter his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the




1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the  
 2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how; though the  
 3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -  
 4 Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne: thou with -  
 5 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the



1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a  
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty  
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,  
 4 in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our  
 5 songs of ho - ly Zi - on thun - der like a



1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery  
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his  
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the  
 4 great High Priest: thou on earth both Priest and  
 5 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery



1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.  
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 4 Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
 5 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.

# Altar Flowers

The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Gregg Lee  
in memory of Diana Lewis Lee and Thomas Edward Lee.

## Lay Ministers

### VERGER

Steven Swanner

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Christin Baker

### READERS

**8:15am** - Julie Smith  
**10:30am** - Jim McAdams, Meredith Patterson

### USHERS

**8:15am** - Tom McLean  
**10:30am** - Brad & Mary Collins

### ACOLYTES

**8:15am** - Curt Odem  
**10:30am** - CHALICISTS - Adriane & Max Newbauer  
CRUCIFER - Max Newbauer  
TORCH BEARERS - Adriane Newbauer, Annagrace Newbauer  
GOSPEL BEARER - Holden Newbauer

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

PRESENTER - Jocelyn Safrit  
ASSISTANT - Maggie Holt

### VESTRY COUNTERS

Pat House, Barbara Simpson

### FLOWER GUILD

Connie Griner, Brad Lingerfelt

### ALTAR GUILD

*Audrey Deadmon*, Leslie Haines, Elizabeth hood,  
Sandra Moulton, Jane Spencer, Bea Swajkoski

### SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

*Joanne McClusky*, Paula Boyd, Rene Burgess,  
Sarah Moore, Jane Romer

### MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

**March 6th** / Sid Little

### MEALS ON WHEELS

**March 3rd** / Stig Egede-Nissen  
**March 4th** / Frank Harris  
**March 5th** / Pete Glidewell  
**March 6th** / Jane and Jim Romer  
**March 7th** / Coral Erikson & Gretchen Peet

**All are welcome for Sunday hospitality  
in the parlor after the service.**

## What is Lent?

Today is the last Sunday in the season of Epiphany. In just a few days, the church will begin observing Lent. Ash Wednesday falls on March 5 this year, and marks the beginning of the season of Lent, the 40-day period before Easter.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on March 5. The period of 40 days, which traditionally does not include Sundays, commemorates the "40 days and 40 nights" (Matthew 4:2) that Jesus fasted in the desert and then resisted temptations from Satan.

The word "Lent" comes from an Old English word for "spring," and is derived from the German word "lang," meaning "long," because during this season before Easter, the hours of daylight become longer.



The Book of Common Prayer explains Lent in this way: "The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 264-265).

The Episcopal Church invites us to observe Lent "by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 265).



# If You Would Like To



Give us a ring, drop a line, scroll through our social media or visit our website...  
it's all listed below for your convenience.

320 East Davis Street (27215) | PO Box 1336 (27216) | Burlington, North Carolina

**OFFICE HOURS** | Monday-Thursday (8-2:30pm), Friday (8-12pm)

336-227-4251 | [info@hc-b.org](mailto:info@hc-b.org)

**[www.hc-b.org](http://www.hc-b.org)**

**FACEBOOK** | [holycomforterburlington](https://www.facebook.com/holycomforterburlington)

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**INSTAGRAM** | [holycomforterburlington](https://www.instagram.com/holycomforterburlington)

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## Contacts

**PRESIDING BISHOP**

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe / [sean.rowe@episditionc.org](mailto:sean.rowe@episditionc.org)

**BISHOP DIOCESAN**

The Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman / [sam.rodman@episditionc.org](mailto:sam.rodman@episditionc.org)

**ASSIST.BISHOP**

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson / [jennifer.brookedavidson@episditionc.org](mailto:jennifer.brookedavidson@episditionc.org)

**RECTOR**

The Rev. Dr. Rhonda M. Lee / [rlee@hc-b.org](mailto:rlee@hc-b.org)

**VERGER**

Steven Swanner / [jsswanner@gmail.com](mailto:jsswanner@gmail.com)

**PARISH ADMIN.**

Cat Sykes / [csykes@hc-b.org](mailto:csykes@hc-b.org)

**FINANCIAL ADMIN.**

Julia Buffington / [jbuffington@hc-b.org](mailto:jbuffington@hc-b.org)

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Christin Baker / [cbaker@hc-b.org](mailto:cbaker@hc-b.org)

**ASSISTANT FOR YOUTH & FAMILY PROJECTS**

Jocelyn Safrit / [safritr@bellsouth.net](mailto:safritr@bellsouth.net)

**SEXTON**

Kelvin Bradsher / [gareth.bradsher@yahoo.com](mailto:gareth.bradsher@yahoo.com)

**NURSERY COORDINATOR**

Jan Kelly / [jankelly159@gmail.com](mailto:jankelly159@gmail.com)

**NURSERY ASSISTANT**

Allison Murphy / [alybee9901@yahoo.com](mailto:alybee9901@yahoo.com)

**NURSERY ASSISTANT**

Elizabeth Hansen / [helizabeth7383@gmail.com](mailto:helizabeth7383@gmail.com)

**NEWLIN PARTNERSHIP ADMIN DIRECTOR**

Mindy Robinson / [newlinpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:newlinpartnership@gmail.com)

**RECTOR EMERITUS**

The Rev. David R. Williams / [david@davidrwilliams.org](mailto:david@davidrwilliams.org)

## Vestry Contacts

**SENIOR WARDEN**

Julie Swanner / [julieswanner@yahoo.com](mailto:julieswanner@yahoo.com)

**JUNIOR WARDEN**

George Blaisdell / [gblaisdell13@gmail.com](mailto:gblaisdell13@gmail.com)

**ASSISTANT JUNIOR WARDEN**

Steve Slott / [steveslott@gmail.com](mailto:steveslott@gmail.com)

**CLERK / PERSONNEL**

Pat House / [phousenc@gmail.com](mailto:phousenc@gmail.com)

**ASSISTANT TREASURER**

Sid Little / [dslittle48@gmail.com](mailto:dslittle48@gmail.com)

**PASTORAL CARE**

Derek Bates / [dbates@myhst.com](mailto:dbates@myhst.com)

**MISSION & OUTREACH**

Carol Thornell / [cthornell2001@yahoo.com](mailto:cthornell2001@yahoo.com)

**WORSHIP**

Elizabeth Hansen / [helizabeth7383@gmail.com](mailto:helizabeth7383@gmail.com)

**CHRISTIAN LIFE**

Kathy Hykes / [khykes@ec.rr.com](mailto:khykes@ec.rr.com)

**PARISH LIFE**

Barbara simpson / [bhutchins5@bellsouth.net](mailto:bhutchins5@bellsouth.net)

**COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY**

Alex Stevens / [alexanderforreststevens@gmail.com](mailto:alexanderforreststevens@gmail.com)

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