

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified, and risen, who was and is and is to come,

*We offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.*

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language, people, and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

At this time, Sunday School Children will return to the church.

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

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Prayer for those joining on-line

All In Union, O Lord with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I ask you to 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 the life to come. Amen.

Directions for receiving Communion

Approach the altar by the center aisle. Take a paper cup if you do not want to use the common cup and make a semi-circle. Receive a piece of bread to eat and offer your cup for the wine -OR- drink from the common cup. If you want only a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. If you desire a gluten free wafer hold up 2 fingers. Wait until the Celebrant says, "Go in peace." to return to your seats.

Communion Hymn: H-337 | *And now, O Father, mindful of the love*

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray:

All Creator of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying, and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gates of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Announcements

Remember our Snow Emergency Plan - An email with a zoom link will be sent before 7 a.m. if Church is closed due to dangerous weather. Please remember to check your email on Sunday mornings and remember that conditions in Westminster may affect Anne's+ ability to commute to St. Nicks! Thank you for your understanding.

Birthday Prayer - Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Prayer - Send your blessing upon these your servants as they begin another year of married life together, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness, patience, wisdom, and grace, that what they have begun together they may end in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Laredo Grill to Support El Hogar – Join us **Monday, March 2nd at 6:00 PM** for dinner at Laredo Grill, 347 Muddy Branch Road. Write "St. Nicholas" on the restaurant receipt and a portion (10%) of your purchase will be donated back to St. Nick's for our Educational Partnership at El Hogar.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND! Be sure to set your clocks forwards one hour before bed on Saturday night.

The Benediction

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

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.*

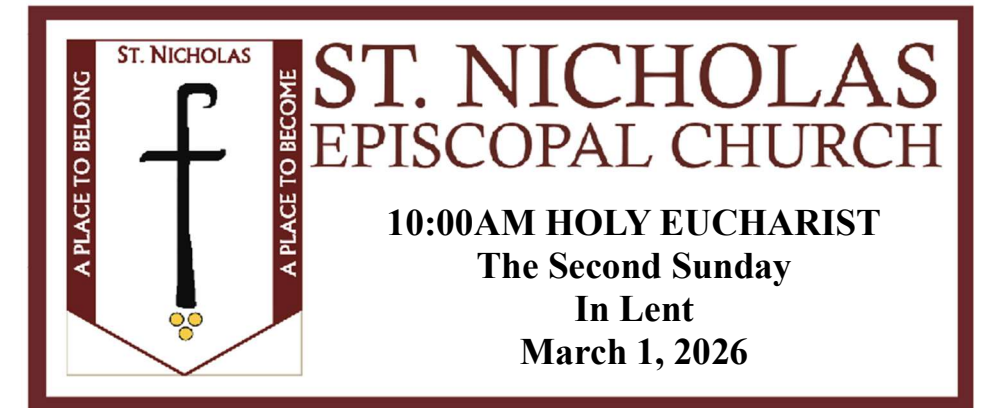
Recessional Hymn: H-637 | *How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord*

The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth to become a beloved community of God's grace where all belong.

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude



Prelude

Processional Hymn: H-448 | *How love, how deep, how broad, how high*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin,
All Whose mercy endures forever.

Kyrie: S- 96 | *Lord Have Mercy*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together. *(A moment of Silence)*

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

At this time, Sunday School Children will meet our Sunday School Team at the back of the church to walk together to the Roberta Miller Learning Cottage. They will learn about prayer and liturgy until we complete the Eucharistic Prayer. They will then rejoin us in the Lord's Prayer and remain until the end of the service.

Sunday School Song

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world; Stranger, friend, and neighbor too, He loves them as he loves you. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

The First Lesson

Reader: A Reading from the prophet **Genesis 12:1-4a**

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

Prayed responsively by whole verse

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, *the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved *and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The Lord himself watches over you; *the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Lesson

Reader: A Reading from Paul’s First Letter to the Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: H-393 | *Praise our great and gracious Lord*

The Holy Gospel

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John 3:1-17

***All:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into

heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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. ¹⁶“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. ¹⁷“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.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord!

***All:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon – The Rev. Anne Weatherholt, Supply Priest

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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 IV

In faith let us pray to God, responding with the words in italics.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer.*** Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer.***

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer.***

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer.***

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer.***

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer.***

Deacon: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

We pause for silent prayer as we recall our sins and failures

All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us

through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant 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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***All:* And also with you.**

The Offertory

We remember Christ’s offering & offer ourselves in return.

Offertory

I beseech you, friends, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1

Offertory music

Presentation of the Offering:

Bless the Lord, my Soul; and bless God’s Holy name.

Bless the Lord, my Soul: who leads me into life. (repeat)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People:* It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, Almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with the saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

Sanctus: S-130 | *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself, yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”