

# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, North Carolina

*Christ Church is an active, joyful, transforming, faith community that practices radical welcome.*

*Together we feed our minds, souls, and bodies with study, worship, and hospitality.*

*We are a growing fellowship of people who seek to love like Jesus.*



## The First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin  
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker  
Rector

# Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

We are delighted God has brought you to this special place. Our tradition is to invite newcomers to introduce themselves during the announcements, if they would like. Following the service, the ushers have guest cards we hope you will fill out so we can personally welcome you to the church community. Everyone is invited for refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall afterwards.

**What do you need to know about worship?** Everything you need for your worship today is in the booklet you are holding. Our service is based on the Book of Common Prayer, using music from sources including the Hymnal 1982 and Taizé.

**Are you worshipping with us for the first time?** We would love to get to know you! Please fill out one of the pew cards tucked into the pew in front of you. Let us know if we can call you, answer questions, or pray for you. And know that wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Christ Church.

**Home communion visits:** Do you know someone who isn't able to get to church, but would like a home communion visit? Please call the church office at 335.372.7983 to arrange a visit.

**Please wear a name tag.** No permanent one? Please use the blank name tags found in the church entryway at the bottom of the blue board. We're happy to make you a new nametag, a replacement, or simply a spare. For permanent name tags, email the church office at [ccepisopal@skybest.com](mailto:ccepisopal@skybest.com).

**Newsletter:** Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter, the weekly *Good News & Notes*. Email the church office at [ccepisopal@skybest.com](mailto:ccepisopal@skybest.com).

**Sermons available.** Recent sermons are available on our website: [www.christchurchallegghany.com](http://www.christchurchallegghany.com).

**Social media:** Please check out our website at [www.christchurchallegghany.com](http://www.christchurchallegghany.com), and "like" us on Facebook at Church Episcopal Church - Sparta, North Carolina.

**Adult Formation:** We have an Adult Forum series on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall downstairs.

We extend special thanks today to:

**Jo Ellen Carson**, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and

**The Altar Guild**, for providing the arrangement for the altar.

# The Gathering

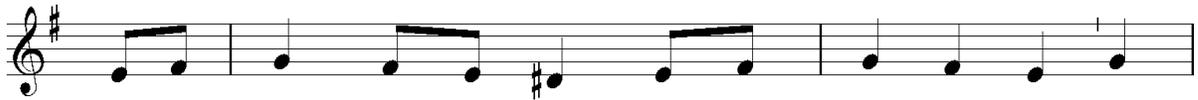
## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

*All stand, as able.*

## Processional Hymn #143

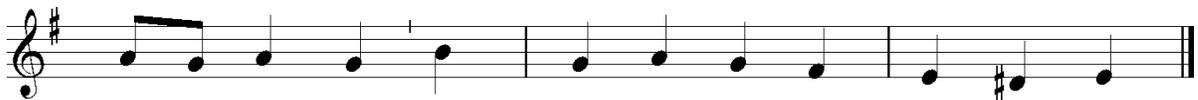
*The glory of these forty days*



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we  
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the  
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -  
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full  
\*5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en  
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.  
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

*All remain standing, as able.*

## Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Presider Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

## Confession of Sin

*Enriching Our Worship 1, pg. 56*

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A period of silent reflection.*

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.

Presider 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.

Taizé 9

*Bless the Lord*

*Bless the Lord, my soul,  
And bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
Who leads me into life. (Repeat one time)*

*Please remain standing, as able.*

## The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray,

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*All are seated.*

# Liturgy of the Word

## The 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.

Leader        Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

## The Response

### Psalm 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.

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."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## **The 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.

**Leader**      Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as able.*

**Gospel Hymn #120, vss 4-6**

*The sinless one to Jordan came*

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

## **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.

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

## **Sermon**

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

*A time of silence is kept following the sermon.*

*Please stand, as able, for the Nicene Creed.*

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Stand or kneel, as able.*

## Prayers of the People

*Form IV, BCP, pages 388-389, adapted*

Presider Let us pray for the Church and for the world.  
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right Spirit within us. Remind us of the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your love and grace.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,  
**Thank you for your mercy.**

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, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,  
**Thank you for your mercy.**

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 all people, friend and enemy, and serve the common good. We pray especially for the health of the global economy and for all people who are suffering the pain of poverty, war and violence.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,  
**Thank you for your mercy.**

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, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,  
**Thank you for your mercy.**

Open our eyes to see the destruction we cause by our careless consumption; open our ears to hear the groaning of all creation and the cries of your creatures without voice; open our hearts to feel remorse for our unfaithful care of your creation; inspire us to a greater love and wonder for the care of your natural world.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,  
**Thank you for your mercy.**

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, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,  
**Thank you for your mercy.**

We thank you for all the blessings of this life, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,  
**Thank you for your mercy.**

Presider O God, mercifully hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; grant that we may both see and know the things we need to do and that we may also have the grace and courage to do them faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling work in the world.*

### Offertory

Jo Ellen Carson

*Please stand, as able.*

### Doxology (sung by all)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Remain standing, as able.*

EOW, Eucharistic Prayer 1, pages 57-59

Presider The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful,  
to give you thanks, all-holy God,  
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You bid your 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 your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

### Sanctus: 129 (sung by all)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*  
*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*  
*Hosanna in the highest.*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

*Stand or kneel, as able, for Prayer of Consecration.*

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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL**            **Christ has died.**  
                    **Christ is risen.**  
                    **Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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.**

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

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

*A period of silence is kept.*

Fraction Anthem: S164 (*sung by all*)

*Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:  
give us your peace, give us your peace.*

## The Invitation to Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God...

*All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.*

*If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.*

Communion Music (*sung by all*)

Jo Ellen Carson

Breathe on me, Breath of God

Hymn #508

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love  
and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will  
to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
till all this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.*

Surely the Presence of the Lord

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace,  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,  
I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

*Stand or kneel, as able.*

## Prayer after Communion

BCP 366

Presider Let us pray,

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider Open your hearts and minds to God.

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.**

*Please stand, as able.*

Recessional Hymn #448

*O love, how deep*

## The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

### Coming Lessons

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

### Prayer List

**Intercessions:** Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Carolyn Duranko, Chuck Besaw, Fred Pfaender, Jonathan, and Julie Ottesen

**Departed:**

**Birthdays:** Rev. Stephanie (March 7)

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

### The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	Today	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith	Bruce Smith
Chalicer I	Ann Hazard	Nancy Wilson
Chalicer II		
Crucifer	Ann Hazard	Nancy Wilson
Lector I	Frank Hazard	Ann Hazard
Lector II	Ann Hazard	Jann Boggs
Prayers of the People	Bruce Smith	Jann Boggs
Oblations Bearers	Frank Hazard	Jann Boggs
Greeters/Ushers	Jeanne Green	Ann & Frank Hazard
Book Bearer		
Sanctus Bell	Ann Hazard	Nancy Wilson

## Schedule

### Sunday, March 1 – The First Sunday in Lent

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday, March 4

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, March 8 – The Second Sunday in Lent

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

## Announcements

**Adult Forum** – Adult Forum is held at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings.

**Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for March is: Deb Donaldson.** She can be reached at 336.372.7573 or [sld1400@aol.com](mailto:sld1400@aol.com).

**Vestry Person of the Month for March is Jann Boggs.** She can be reached at 727.641.4925 or [jeepers57peepers@gmail.com](mailto:jeepers57peepers@gmail.com).

**For any building or property issues, please contact: Phil Donaldson.** He can be reached at 336.372.7573 or [sld1400@aol.com](mailto:sld1400@aol.com).

## Upcoming Worship Notes

With another Liturgical Season beginning today, Liturgy will, of course, reflect some subtle changes that are demanded by the theme of the season. Lent is a time of repentance (which means a time to change our minds) and calls for fearless self-reflection to identify and heal those things within ourselves that create barriers between ourselves and God.

We fast from the Alleluia's in our hymns and Eucharists, drape and veil our crosses with cloths of mourning, and our flowers at the altar reflect a time of winter's sway before spring bursts forth in glorious flower.

We will begin our services with the confession of sin, the Gloria is replaced with the Taize' hymn Bless the Lord My Soul and we will speak the Nicene Creed.

Our Eucharistic Prayer is Prayer I from the supplement *Enriching Our Worship*. It at once focuses on the wideness of God's mercy while being clear about how sin in the human family leads us away from God's hope for us. A perfect prayer for Lent.

Join us on Sundays and let the mysterious beauty of worship guide you into a meaningful Lent.

# Holy Week Schedule

## **Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday**

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

## **Wednesday, April 8**

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

## **Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday**

6:00 pm – Maundy Thursday service & Agapé meal

## **Friday, April 10 – Good Friday**

12:00 pm – Good Friday service

## **Saturday, April 11 – Easter Vigil**

6:30 pm – Easter Vigil service

## **Sunday, April 12 – Easter**

NO Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

### **Christ Episcopal Church**

2543 US Highway 21 South, PO Box 1866

Sparta, North Carolina 28675

Office: 336.372.7983—Rector cellphone: 336.363.4141

Email: [ccepiscopal@skybest.com](mailto:ccepiscopal@skybest.com)

Website: [christchurchallegghany.org](http://christchurchallegghany.org)

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 11:15 am – 3:45 pm

*Music used by permission CCLI License #11138616.*