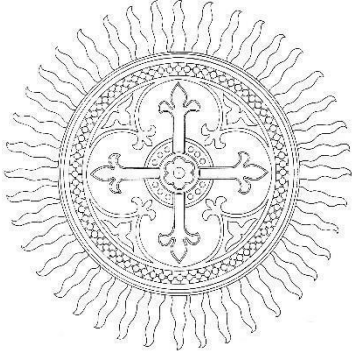


# St. John's Episcopal Church

Montgomery, Alabama



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The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO**

10.30 a.m. • March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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A Note to Guests and Newcomers to the Episcopal Church

*Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today.*

*In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion from the Lord's Table. If you have not been baptized and would like to learn more about this sacrament, please contact one of the clergy. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest. Guests are expected and welcome! Also, children's activity bags are available in the narthex and in the main hallway.*

**Opening Voluntary**      *Adagio (Trio in E-flat)*      Johann Sebastian Bach

**Welcome and Announcements** (*remain seated*)

## A Penitential Order

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

                                 Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins..  
*People*                      **His mercy endures for ever. Amen**

*The people kneel. The Celebrant begins the Decalogue as follows*

Hear the commandments of God to his people:  
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.  
You shall have no other gods but me. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

*The Deacon says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister 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 Celebrant 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.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*        Let us pray

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.*

## **The Lessons**

*The people sit.*

### **The 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.**

### **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

*Remain seated. The psalm will be sung by a vocalist.*

- 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.*

*At this time children are invited to follow the procession to Children's Chapel.*

*All stand.*

**The Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21**

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

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."

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

**The Sermon:** The Rev. John P. Leach

**The Nicene Creed**

*All stand, saying together*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:**

by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*The People kneel as they are able.*

#### **Prayers of the People (Form IV)**

*A deacon or other leader begins*

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. We pray especially for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda, our bishop; and John and Deonna, our clergy.

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. We pray especially for Joseph our President; Kay, our Governor; and Steven, our Mayor.

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.

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. We pray especially for all those serving in the armed forces, especially Jack Durkee, Johnathan Joyner, Ben Klein, and Curtis Buzard. We pray for our companion parish of Espiritu Santo in Tela, Honduras. We pray for all first responders and all healthcare personnel.

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. We pray especially for, \_\_\_\_\_.

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.

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

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask. Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All stand.*

### **The Peace**

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

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

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord in accordance with current health and safety protocols.*

# The Holy Communion

*The Celebrant says an offertory sentence. The People may sit while the table is being prepared.*

Anthem

*God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The People stand.*

*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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Sung by a vocalist*

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

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*The People kneel as they are able*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*At the Fraction, the 'Agnus Dei' below will be sung by a vocalist.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

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

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



*The Bread will be given to the communicants with these words.*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People kneel.*

**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.**

### **Seasonal Blessing**

*The Deacon says,* Bow down before the Lord.

*The people continue to kneel and the Celebrant says the following prayer:*

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.**

*Please stand as the clergy depart.*

### **Hymn Tune**

#### **Dismissal**

*Priest*                      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

#### **Postlude**

*Kyrie*

Nicolas deGrigny

## Announcements

### **Wednesday Night Lenten Speaker Series: The Role of a Downtown Parish @ 6.30pm**

Join us at 6.30pm on Wednesday via Zoom for a live discussion about the themes and topics discussed in the pre-recorded interview with our Lenten Speaker. The March 17th interview is with the Rev. Harrison McLeod, Rector of Christ Church, Greenville, SC.

### **Easter Flowers**

If you would like to send a donation for flowers to decorate the church for Easter, you may do so by scanning the QR code with your phone. There are also forms available at the back of the church and the church office. You may donate both in honor and in memory of people.



### **Palm Sunday**

This year for Palm Sunday, we encourage all parishioners, not just children, to gather in the parking lot before the 10:30am service. We will all follow our donkey, and process around the block and into the church. Children will go on to children's chapel after the processional.

### **Holy Week and Easter Schedule**

#### Palm Sunday March 28th

7.30 am: Liturgy of the Palms/HE Rite I

10.30 am: Liturgy of the Palms with Outdoor Procession/HE Rite II

#### Holy Week, March 29, 30, & 31

12:05pm: HE Rite II

#### Maundy Thursday, April 1st

6.00 pm: HE Rite II with Stripping of the Altar

#### Good Friday, April 2nd

12.05 pm: Good Friday Liturgy

6:00pm: Stations of the Cross in the church

#### Easter Sunday, April 4th

7.00 am: HE Rite I

9.00 am: HE Rite II with Children's Flowering of the Cross

10.15 am: Easter Egg Hunt

11.00 am: HE Rite II

## Today's Servers

**Lectors:** Fairley McDonald, Dudley Perry, Jr.

**Ushers/Greeters:** Will Hill Tankersley, Michelle Shaw, Kathleen Bradford, Emily Wise

**Musicians:** Lauren Simpson, *alto*; Barbara Shanks, *oboe*; Robert Scott, *flute*;  
David Simpson, *bassoon*.

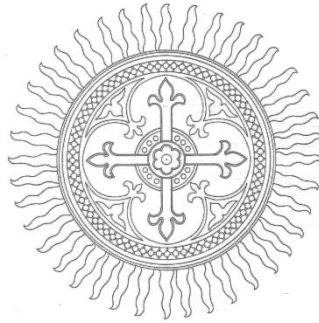
**Altar Guild:** Josie Eskridge

**Livestream Videographer:** Sam Collier

**Joy and Concern:** Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Bob Bradford, Karen Jarrell, Ken Mahan, Caroline Majors, Christopher Marshall, Eddie McDowell, Joe McGough, Marilyn Pickett, Sarah Stone, Fred Tyson, George Wakefield.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Larry Alsobrook, Betsy Arnold, Jack Campbell, Joe Carter, Vaughan Dozier, Pee Wee Kohn, Diane Kuehndorf, Shelley Garrison Lackey, Diane McWilliams, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Debbie Steindorff.

*Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care. The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.*



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama**

The Right Reverend Dr. Glenda S. Curry, *Bishop of Alabama*  
The Reverend John P. Leach, *Rector*  
The Reverend Dr. Deonna D. Neal, *Associate Rector*  
Joel Gregory, *Organist & Choirmaster*  
Sarah Collier, *Director of Children's Christian Formation*  
Joleen George, *Director of Youth Ministries*  
Heather Herring, *Financial Administrator*  
Victoria Krupka, *Parish Administrator*  
Anne Tippett, *Assistant to the Rector*  
Mike Jarrell, *Maintenance Superintendent*  
Myron Smoke, *Maintenance Staff*

*Vestry and Officers*

Radney Ramsey, *Senior Warden*  
Will Hill Tankersley, Jr., *Junior Warden*  
Richard Bradford, *Treasurer*  
Phillip Brown, *Assistant Treasurer*

Class of 2021:

John Carter, Will Gunter, Katie Keller, Mary Nelms Parsons, Nick Prillaman, Emily Wise

Class of 2022:

Betsy Cannon, Cissy Johnson, Brice Johnston, J.R. Marshall, Scott Mitchell, Dudley Perry, Jr.

Class of 2023:

Kathleen Bradford, Ellen Habermacher, William Haynes, Cam Hughes, Michelle Shaw,  
Wyatt Wells

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