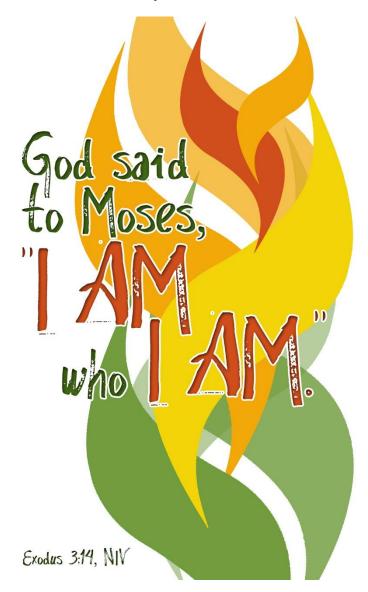
St. Charles Episcopal Church 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II



March 23, 2025 The Third Sunday in Lent Welcome! We are pleased you are joining us today. Please share this service with your family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you, and God bless you for your faithfulness.

Voluntary O Christ, Thou Lamb of God

Paul Kickstat (1893-1959)

The Ministers enter in silence, the People stand as they are able.

THE WORD OF GOD

Gathering Hymn 142

Opening Acclamation

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

The people may kneel or sit as they are able.

Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

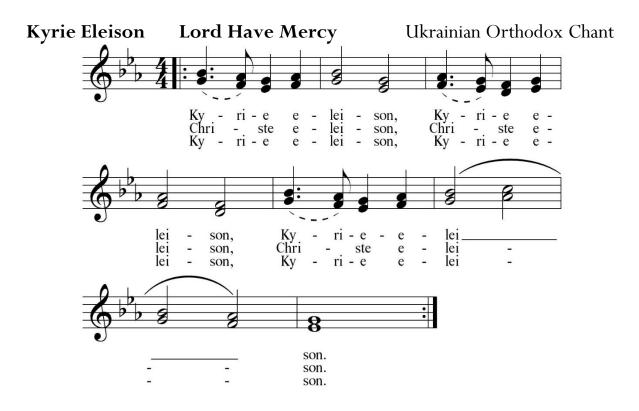
Silence is kept. The people kneel or stand as they are able.

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. St. Flavian

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.

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.People: Amen.



Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

The people sit.

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,

and this my title for all generations."

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

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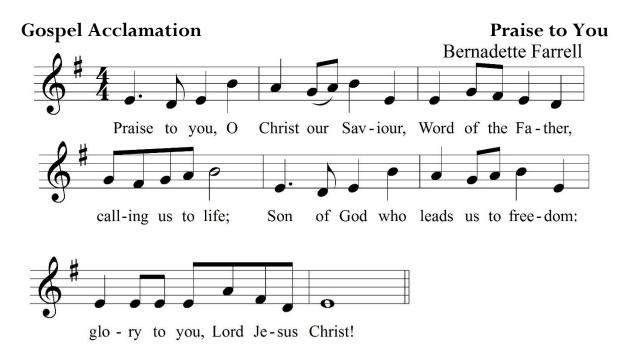
Second Reading

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twentythree thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

The people stand as they are able.



Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

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

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

The people sit.

Sermon

The Rev. Fran Holliday

A period of silence will be kept after the sermon.

The people stand as they are able for the reciting of the Nicene Creed.

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.

Prayers of the People (Form II)

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Paula, our Bishop; for Fran, our priest; for Steve, our Deacon; for all bishops, priests, and deacons; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the church.

Silence

Intercessor: I ask your prayer for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for all those in our community (names) Silence

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence* Intercessor: I ask your prayers for the departed, especially *(names)*. Let us pray for those who have died in our community and throughout the world.

Silence

Intercessor: Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

Intercessor: We pray for our Search Committee and our parish as we seek a new rector, that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit. Silence

Celebrant: 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.

All: Amen.

Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you. **People: And also with you.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Behold the Lamb of God

John Behnke (b. 1953)

Behold! Behold! Behold the Lamb of God! Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Behold, the Lamb of God!

The Great Thanksgiving

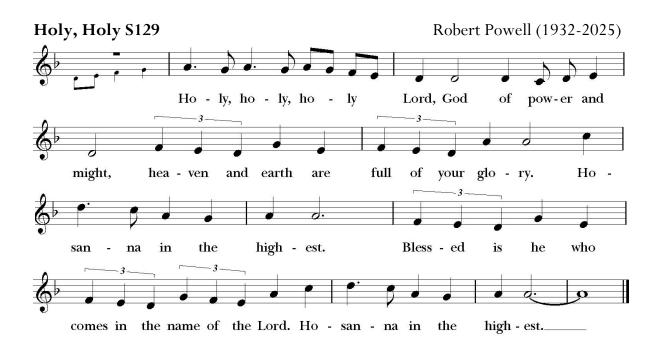
Eucharistic Prayer A

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.

Celebrant: 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Celebrant: Holy and gracious God: 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:

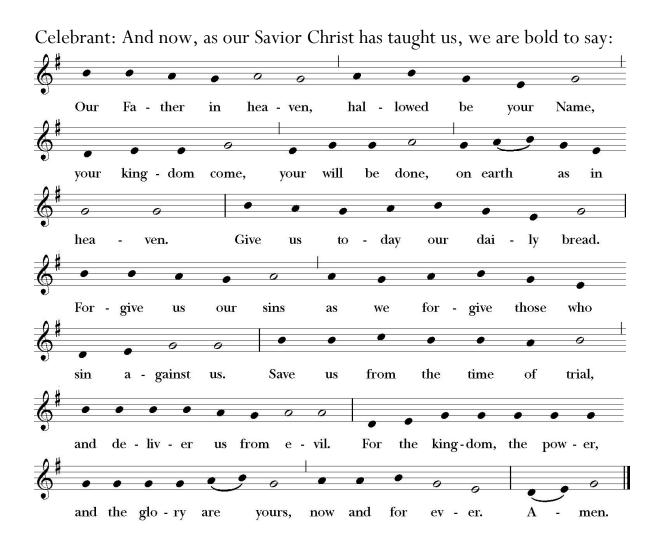
People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, 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 God, now and forever.

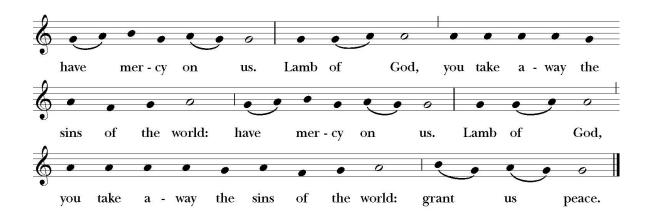
All: Amen.



Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated Bread. Silence is kept.





Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available as well as grape juice; please make your need known to the minister. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion, please indicate by crossing your arms when you approach the Celebrant.

Communion Meditation God is My Shepherd

Antonín Dvorák (1841-1904)

Susan Miller, Soprano

God is my shepherd, I want for nothing,

My rest is in the pleasant meadows.

He leadeth me where quiet waters flow.

My fainting soul doth He restore and guideth me in the ways of peace, to glorify His name.

And though in death's dark valley my steps must wander,

my spirit shall not fear,

for Thou art by me still. Thy rod and staff are with me, and they shall comfort me.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: 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.

Blessing

The Celebrant will offer a blessing.

Sending Forth Hymn 150

Aus der Tiefe

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Due to their festive nature, the Concluding Voluntary is omitted during Lent.

X

Upcoming Events 2025:

- ◆ Stations of the Cross Noon each Friday during Lent at the church
- Thursday, March 27 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Visitation for the Rev. Drury Green at Yurs Funeral Home in St. Charles
- ✤ Saturday, March 29 11:00 a.m. Funeral for the Rev. Drury Green at SCEC, with cake & coffee in Ludtke Hall following the service
- ✤ Sunday, March 30 4:00 p.m. Free Spaghetti Dinner
- ✤ Thursday, April 17 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
- Friday, April 18 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

See *The Pulse* for details on our events. Not receiving *The Pulse* weekly emails? Please contact our office to be added to our weekly email list: parishadmin@stcharlesepiscopal.org or 630-584-2596 Parish Office Hours: M-Th, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



St. Charles Episcopal Church

The Rev. Fran Holliday The Rev. Deacon Steve Lowe Katie Thomson, Sr. Warden Mark Downey, Director of Music Shellie Morgan, Parish Administrator RevFran@stcharlesepiscopal.org deaconsteve@theloweclan.net katie.thomson@sbcglobal.net mdowney807@gmail.com ParishAdmin@stcharlesepiscopal.org

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