

**Third Sunday in Lent  
Year C**

March 23, 2025  
10:30 a.m.



**CHRIST CHURCH  
EPISCOPAL**

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA  
ESTABLISHED 1733





Welcome to Christ Church! Today's service follows the form for Holy Eucharist Rite II, beginning on page 355 of the red *Book of Common Prayer* ("BCP"). The music may be found in the blue *Hymnal 1982*; numbers beginning with "S-" are service music, located at the front of the hymnal.

Our celebrant this morning is the Rev. Samantha K. McKean,  
and our preacher is the Rev. Dr. Bertice Berry.

**Welcome to Episcopal worship!** During Lent, you will find here brief explanations of different aspects of our Sunday services.

*Did you ever wonder how we choose scripture readings for Sunday?*

We follow a lectionary, which is a table of readings from scripture appointed to be read at public worship. The lectionary used in the Episcopal Church is called the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which developed out of a concern for the unity of the church and a desire for a common experience of scripture across denominations. Shared today by many denominations, it is a three-year cycle of readings that takes us through as much of the Bible as possible. The Sunday Eucharistic readings come from Matthew in Year A, Mark in Year B, and Luke in Year C, with some material from John read in each year. Can you guess which year we are in now?

This shared lectionary is yet another symbol and experience of the one body of the church, with many different members. It also helps us engage with the breadth of the Bible, even the parts we don't understand or like.



CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL  
SAVANNAH

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## Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Entrance Rite

Prelude *Variants on 'Wondrous Love'* Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

Processional Hymnal 401

*The God of Abraham praise* *Leoni*

*Children's Chapel follows the procession. Suggested ages are pre-K through fifth grade; younger children are welcome if accompanied by adults.*

Penitential Order BCP 351

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **His mercy endures for ever.**

Summary of the Law

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your 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 commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Confession and Absolution (*Kneeling*) BCP 352

**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.

Kyrie

Hymnal S-91

from *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena* Healey Willan (1880–1968)

Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)

Christ, have mercy upon us. (3x)

Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)

Collect of the Day (*kneeling*)

*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. *Amen.*

## The Word of God

**First Lesson**

**Exodus 3:1–15**

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Exodus.

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.**

**Psalm 63:1–8** *Deus, Deus meus*

**BCP 670**

*Sung by the choir.*

chant: plainsong, Tone II

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.

**Epistle**

**1 Corinthians 10:1–13**

*Reader* A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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 twenty-three 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.**

Sequence Hymn

*What wondrous love is this*

Hymnal 439

*Wondrous Love*

## **Holy Gospel**

**Luke 13:1–9**

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* **Glory 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.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People, Form I

The Peace

The Rev. Dr. Bertice Berry, *Deacon*

BCP 358

BCP 383



## The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem      *Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake*  
attr. Richard Farrant (ca. 1525–1580)

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives. To decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore. Amen. (*from Lidley's Prayers, 1566*)

Presentation of the Gifts      Hymnal 143, v. 5

O Father, Son and Spirit, blest,  
to thee be every prayer addressed,  
who art in threefold Name adored,  
from age to age, the only Lord.

The Great Thanksgiving, <i>Eucharistic Prayer A</i>	BCP 361
<i>Sanctus and Benedictus</i>	Hymnal S-114
from <i>Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena</i>	H. Willan
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 364
The Breaking of the Bread	
Fraction Anthem, <i>Agnus Dei</i>	Hymnal S-158
from <i>Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena</i>	H. Willan

*All Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You may stand or kneel at the altar rail, or receive from the floor station to the left of the chancel stairs. Please let an usher know if you need to receive from your pew. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. To receive a blessing, you may cross your arms over your chest.*

Hymns at Communion	Hymnal 152, 693
<i>Kind Maker of the world, O hear</i>	<i>A la venue de Noël</i>
<i>Just as I am</i>	<i>Woodworth</i>

Postcommunion Prayer	BCP 365
The Blessing	

Closing Hymn	Hymnal 598
<i>Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth</i>	<i>Mit Freuden zart</i>
Dismissal	
Postlude <i>Toccata on 'Wondrous Love'</i>	B. Portman

*Art Credit: page 5– God Appears to Moses in the Burning Bush, Eugène Pluchart. 1848. Saint Isaac's Cathedral, Saint Petersburg, Russia.*

*Art Credit: page 8– The Vine Dresser and the Fig Tree (Le vigneron et le figuier), James Tissot. Between 1886 and 1894. Brooklyn Museum, NY.*



### **Prayers of the People\***

**For** Gwendoline Decio, +Hue Thomas III, +Roger Moss

**For the Birthdays of** Betty Pember, Virginia Cann, Bobby Davenport, Mason Howington, Gary Radke, Zak Craig, Peter Larvan, Kristin Ott, Hamp Threlkeld, Chris Hallman, Stephen Rilee, Bill Lynch, Ernie Montford, EB Threlkeld, Peter Trussell, David Seyle, Mary Douglass Hallman, Jane Espy, Frank Brevik, Lora Reese, Nevin Patton, Patton Dugas, Jim Waterman

**For the Wedding Anniversaries of** Chris Hendricks and Brian Martine, Jess and Sam Mikell, Sandra and Jay Eberle, Liz and Simon Macfadyen

**For Those Who Have Died and the Comfort of Their Families:**  
Scot Ritchie

\*The full prayer list may be found on our website and in our weekly email.

## **Altar Greens**

The greens on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Betty Jane Webster, W. Beaumont Whitney, III and Peyton Randolph Gray by the Webster family.

## **This Week at Christ Church**

### **Sunday, March 23 - Third Sunday in Lent**

9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Forum:

*The Spiritual Wisdom of the Enneagram*, Choir Room

9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School, Chapel

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

12:00 p.m. Foundations of Confirmation

6:00 p.m. Choral Compline and Sunday Evening Forum:

*The Journey to Easter*

### **Monday-Friday, March 24-28**

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Docent Tours

### **Monday, March 24**

5:30 p.m. In the Spirit, *Holiness*

### **Wednesday, March 26**

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Prayers for Healing

12:30 p.m. Mid-day Music: Musicians from First Baptist Church

5:15 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, March 27**

5:00 p.m. Bible Study in the Choir Room

## **Next Sunday at Christ Church**

### **Sunday, March 30 - Fourth Sunday in Lent**

9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Forum:

*The Spiritual Wisdom of the Enneagram*, Choir Room

9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School, Chapel

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m. Choral Compline and Sunday Evening Forum:

*The Journey to Easter*

## Announcements

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

#### Choral Evensong for Lent

*Wednesday, April 2, 6:15 p.m.*

Led by our choristers and professional singers of Christ Church choir, this introspective liturgy is almost entirely sung, allowing the congregation to relax, reflect, and recharge surrounded by beautiful music in this sacred space.

#### Choral Compline and Sunday Evening

*Sunday During Lent, 6:45 p.m.*

*The Journey to Easter*

The Holy Week liturgies are the heart of the Christian year, containing some of the deepest and most profound acts in our worship life together. Journey with us from Ash Wednesday to Easter Vigil in this evening series, led by George Fergus and Cathy Zappa, exploring the rites and music of this sacred season, delving into their history and significance, and listening for how they shape our faith and lives today. Each session concludes with a service of Choral Compline sung by the Staff Singers of Christ Church.

#### Lenten Quiet Day

*Saturday, April 12, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

*The Passions of the Soul*

Rest, pray, and reflect in this retreat-like setting. We will be using Rowan Williams's The Passions of the Soul as a meditative guide for this quiet day, but familiarity with the book is not required. Please RSVP to Rev. Samantha.

## **Pergolesi: Stabat Mater**

*Sunday, April 6, 4:00 p.m.*

Giovanni Pergolesi's Stabat Mater is considered one of the masterworks of the Italian Baroque period, its achingly beautiful phrases evoking the pain and anguish of the suffering and death of Christ. Rest, recharge, and bathe in the pathos of this music from the heart of the Baroque. Free ticket reservations are available via our website or our Facebook page.

## **GATHER**

### **In the Spirit**

*2nd and 4th Mondays, 5:30 p.m., Sandfly 5-Spot*

*In the Spirit* is a discussion group for those who seek to deepen their faith through meaningful conversations. Join us each second and fourth Monday at The 5-Spot in Sandfly (7360 Skidaway Road), where you can grab something to eat or drink as we spend time together. We gather at 5:30 p.m. and begin our discussion at 6:00. Join us this Lent on March 24 and April 14 as we discuss themes of faith, courage, and what it means to be a people set apart.

### **Soup and Grilled Cheese Supper**

*Wednesday, April 2, 6:15 p.m.*

Following the Choral Evensong for Lent on April 2, join us for a supper of grilled cheese sandwiches, tomato soup, and fresh salad—no preparation required! The choir members will also be joining us before their rehearsal, so this is a wonderful opportunity for different church groups to join together in fellowship. No cooking and no cleaning—just nourish your bodies and souls.

## Christ Church Book Group

*April 10, 10:30 a.m., Undercroft*

Love to read? This Lent, join Deacon Patti Davis and the Christ Church Book Group as they read and discuss An Unfinished Love Story, by D. Kearns Goodwin.

## LEARN

### Sunday Morning Forum

*Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Choir Room*

*The Spiritual Wisdom of the Enneagram*

Lent is a season of self-examination and repentance, which draw us back to the God who created and loves us. One vehicle of self-examination is the Enneagram, an insightful spiritual personality-typing system that contains deep wisdom about human nature, sin, and spiritual growth. It's fun, too! Many Christians have found it to be a helpful resource for understanding—and developing compassion for—themselves and others, as well as reflecting on the nature and love of God. Join Reverends Cathy Zappa and Samantha McKean and others for what promises to be a rich study and lively conversation.

### Lenten Bible Study

*Thursdays, 5:00 p.m., Choir Room*

*The Gospel of Luke*

As we experience the Gospel of Luke in Sunday services during Lent, continue your exploration of this rich text with lively group discussions led by Rev. Cathy. All are welcome, and there is no preparation required.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

### **Children's Sunday School**

*Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Chapel*

Children of all ages are invited to gather at 9:30 in the Chapel every Sunday during Lent for Godly Play lessons and crafts. Through engaging stories, thoughtful discussions, and hands-on activities, children will have the opportunity to explore and experience God in a creative and meaningful way.

### **Foundations of Confirmation**

*Sunday, March 23, 12:00 p.m., Choir Room*

All 6th and 7th grade students are invited to join us for a series of fun sessions to begin preparation for Confirmation. During five monthly sessions we will be building the group's identity and laying a spiritually substantive foundation for the official Confirmation classes, which will start in Fall 2025.

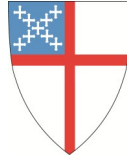
### **Youth Learning Series**

*Sunday, April 6, Saturday, April 15, and Sunday, April 16*

*Choir Room and Temple Mickve Israel*

*Faith in Harmony: Being a Christian in a World of Religious Plurality*

This series explores how Christians can engage with and understand other faith traditions while deepening their own beliefs. Our first session focuses on Judaism, beginning with an introduction to Jewish beliefs, practices, and history during a lunch session on April 6. On April 15, we will attend a Shabbat service to experience worship in a different faith tradition. Finally, during a concluding lunch session on April 16, we will re-gather for a follow-up discussion to reflect on our experiences and explore how interfaith understanding enriches our Christian faith.



## CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

The Right Reverend Frank S. Logue, *Bishop of Georgia*

The Reverend Cathy Zappa, *Interim Rector*

The Reverend Samantha K. McKean, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Patricia Rhoads Davis, *Deacon*

The Reverend Dr. Bertice Berry, *Deacon*

George H. Fergus, *Director of Music*

John Audette, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

Suzanne Phillips Smith, *Parish Administrator*

Charles L. Epps, *Sexton*

The Reverend Canon Todd D. Smelser, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Liam G. Collins, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Richard "Max" Maxwell, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend David C. Seyle, *United Methodist Pastor-in-Residence*

### Vestry

Washington C. Dender, *Senior Warden*; Paul H. Threlkeld, *Junior Warden*;

Lindsey A. Eberle, *Clerk of the Vestry*; Stephen R. Rilee, *Treasurer*;

Catherine M. Gussler, *Assistant Treasurer for Stewardship and Finance*;

Patton Dugas; William C. Gruver;

Elizabeth L. Macfadyen; Rosemary W. Mackey;

Richard C. Nelson; Paul D. Reddick; Sarah B. Smith;

Polly C. Webster; Susan H. Wetmore

### Sundays

9:15 a.m. Nursery, located on the 2nd floor of the Parish House at 18 Abercorn

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Church building is located at 28 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401

The telephone number is 912-236-2500

[www.christchurchsavannah.org](http://www.christchurchsavannah.org)

Christ Church, the "Mother Church of Georgia," was founded on February 12, 1733 and is a member of the Diocese of Georgia which, in turn, is one of 110 Dioceses which composes The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and abroad. The Episcopal Church is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, a fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of those duly constituted dioceses, provinces, and regional Churches in communion with the See of Canterbury. The fellowship upholds and propagates the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. The current church building was constructed in 1838 and is the third one on the original site.