

**The Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
The Second Sunday in Lent – March 1, 2026  
St. James Episcopal Church, Woodstock, Vermont  
10:00 am**

**Prelude**

Dr. James E. Lorenz, Director of Music

**Hymn 401 The God of Abraham Praise**

*Leoni*

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love;  
the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed:  
we bow and bless the sacred Name for ever blest.

2. He by himself hath sworn: we on his oath depend;  
we shall, on eagles-wings upborne, to heaven ascend:  
we shall behold his face, we shall his power adore,  
and sing the wonders of his grace for evermore.

3. There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Righteousness,  
triumphant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;  
on Zion's sacred height his kingdom he maintains,  
and, glorious with his saints in light, for ever reigns.

4. The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,  
and "Holy, holy, holy," cry, "Almighty King!  
Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be:  
eternal Father, great I AM, we worship thee."

5. The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;  
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" they ever cry;  
hail, Abraham's Lord divine! With heaven our songs we raise;  
all might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.

**A Penitential Order**

**BCP, page 351**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

## The Decalogue

BCP, page 350

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

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Honor your father and your mother.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not commit murder.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not commit adultery.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not steal.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not be a false witness.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

*The Celebrant may read one of the following sentences*

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*

If we say that 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*

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

*The Deacon or Celebrant then 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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, 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.*

*When this Order is used at the beginning of the Liturgy, the service continues with the Gloria in excelsis, the Kyrie eleison, or the Trisagion.*

***Kyrie Eleison (S91, The Hymnal 1982)***

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.

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.*

## **Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a**

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. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I 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.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

## **Psalm 121 (BCP, page 779)**

- 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.

## **New Testament Lesson: 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.

### **Gradual Hymn 440 Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word**

*Liebster Jesu*

1. Blessed Jesus, at thy word we are gathered all to hear thee;  
let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear thee;  
by thy teachings pure and holy, drawn from earth to love thee solely.
2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
till thy Spirit breaks our night with the beams of truth unclouded;  
thou alone to God canst win us; thou must work all good within us.
3. Gracious Lord, thyself impart! Light of Light, from God proceeding,  
open thou our ears and heart, help us by thy Spirit’s pleading.  
Hear the cry thy Church upraises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

### **The Gospel: John 3:1-17**

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People: 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.

“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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon: The Rev. Amy Spagna**

*On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing*

**The Nicene Creed**

**(BCP, page 358)**

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 Prayers of the People, Form II (BCP, page 385)**

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

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, Shannon; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.  
Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.  
Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

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*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.  
Pray that they may find and be found by God.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially\_\_\_\_\_].  
Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

*Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present*

I ask your prayers for\_\_\_\_\_.

I ask your thanksgiving for\_\_\_\_\_.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially  
\_\_\_\_\_ whom we remember today].  
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **The Holy Eucharist**

Offertory Anthem: *The Fairest Lord Jesus* - Jamie Apgar

**The Doxology: Hymn 380, vs. 3 (Old 100th)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A (BCP, page 361)**

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

	The Lord be with you.
<b>People</b>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<b>People</b>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<b>People</b>	<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b>

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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 and People (S114, The Hymnal 1982)*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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.*

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
***Therefore let us keep the feast.***

### **Agnus Dei (S158, *The Hymnal 1982*)**

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

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*and may add*           Take them in remembrance that Christ died for  
you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Those unable to receive communion in person today are invited to say the following  
Prayer of Spiritual Communion.*

*In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where  
your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly my own  
parish and those worshiping there, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for*

*creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.*

*And particularly for the blessings given me.... I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.*

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

**BCP, page 366**

#### *Celebrant and 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.**

#### *Prayer over the People and Dismissal*

*Celebrant:* Bow down before the Lord.

*Silence is kept.*

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Hymn 473 Lift High the Cross

*Crucifer*

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred Name.

1. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine. [*Refrain*]

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. [*Refrain*]

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. [*Refrain*]

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory. [*Refrain*]

**Dismissal**

**BCP, page 366**

*Celebrant:* Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

**Postlude**

Dr. James E. Lorenz, Director of Music