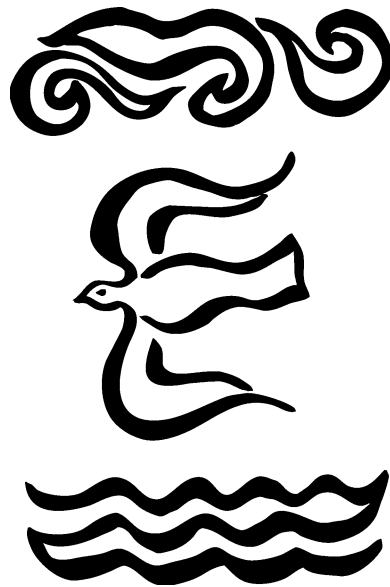




*A growing, faithful, inclusive,
and caring community
committed to the ministry
and teachings of Jesus Christ.*

285 South 208 Street 402-289-4058
www.facebook.com/st.augustine.omaha



The Second Sunday In Lent
Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, March 1st, 2026
8:30 AM

PRELUDE *Instrumental*

ENTRANCE *Bless His Holy Name* Andraé Crouch

♩ = 84

CHORUS

D D[♯]7 A⁷/E A⁷ D A⁷/E D⁷/F[♯]

Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is with -

VERSE

4 G² G Gm(maj7) Gm⁶ D/A B[°]/A A A⁷ D D Bm⁶

-in me, bless His ho - ly name. He has done great

9 A Bm/A A A^{SUS}/B A⁷/C[♯] D Em/D D D/F[♯] D⁷/F[♯]

things, He has done great things, He has done great

CHORUS

13 G Gm²/E Gm/E D/A A⁷ D D D[♯]7

things; Bless His ho - ly name. Bless the Lord,

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God, who forgives all our sins.

People God's mercy endures for ever.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God 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.*

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8–16

A Reading from the First Book of Kings

The people sit.

⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁹ “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there, for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹² But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” ¹³ Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said, but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make

something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” ¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111:2-10

2 Great are your deeds, O God; *

they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 Your work is full of majesty and splendor, *

and your righteousness endures for ever.

4 You make your marvelous works to be remembered; *

you are gracious and full of compassion.

5 You give food to those who fear you; *

you are ever mindful of your covenant.

6 You have shown your people the power of your works *

in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; *

all your commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *

because they are done in truth and equity.

9 You sent redemption to your people;
you commanded your covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is your Name.

10 The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
God's praise endures for ever.

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6–13

The people sit.

A Reading from the Second Letter to the Church in Corinth

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Benedict Varnum

THE CREED

All stand.

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

All remain standing.

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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.

Silence

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 John, Recia, Barbara, Elle, Brendan & children, Chris, Carol, Jill, Danette, Ben, Lorraine, Shirley, Zoey, Don, Sandy, John, Geno & family, Irene, Jean, Tom, Carol, Norma, Kevin, Jan, Will, Carla & family, Avery, Austin, Bruce, Debra, Easton, Jack, Mike, Marie, Vicki, and Hayden & family. Are there any others who need our prayers?

Silence

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.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
 in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
 the evil we have done,
 and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

All stand.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: Paul Ahrens, Joel Armitage, Lorraine Coufal, Asher Ryan-Simkins, Scott Sladek, Danica Suhr, Steve Swanson

Anniversaries:

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY

We Are So Blessed

Gaither and Nelson

♩ = 76

VERSE

F/G

G⁷

C

Em/G

C⁷

B \flat /C

C⁷



1. We are so _____ blessed by the gifts from Your
(2. We are) so _____ blessed by the things You have

4

F

C/E

Dm⁷

C/G

Am⁷

D⁹

Bm/D

D⁷



hand— I just can't un - der - stand _____ why You've loved us so
done, — the vic - t'ries we've won, _____ and what You've brought us

8

G⁷

F/G

G⁷

C

Em/G

C⁷

B \flat /C

C⁷



much! We are so _____ blessed— we just can't find a
through! We are so _____ blessed— take what we have to

12

F

C/E

Dm⁷

C/G

D⁷

G⁷



way, — or the words that can say, _____ "Thank You, Lord, for Your
bring, — take it all, ev - 'ry - thing, _____ Lord, we bring it to

CHORUS

16 C B♭/C C⁷ F C/E Dm⁷

touch." When we're emp - ty _____ You fill us _____ 'til we o - ver -
You.

20 C B♭/C C⁷ F D⁷ Am⁷/D D⁷

-flow; When we're hun - gry _____ You feed us _____ and cause us to

24 G^{9sus} G⁷ F/G G⁷ C Em/G

know _____ we are so _____ blessed- take what

28 C⁷ B♭/C C⁷ F C/E Dm⁷ C/G

we have to bring, _____ take it all, ev - 'ry - thing- _____ Lord, we

32 D⁷ G⁷ 1. C F/C C F/G G⁷ 2. F C/E Dm⁷ C

love You so much! _____ 2. We are much! _____

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA

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.

PROPER PREFACE

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:

SANCTUS

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.

the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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."

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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all

things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St Augustine and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of all of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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

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

Fraction Anthem

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

COMMUNION HYMN

The Way That He Loves

W Elmo Mercer

F Am Dm Dm7 Gm Gm7(b5) F/C F°7 C7sus/F C7/E C9

1. The way that He loves is as fair as the day that bless - es my way with
 2. The way that He loves is as deep as the sea, His Spir - it shall be my

4 F B♭/C C7 F Am Dm Dm7 Gm Gm7(b5) F/C F°7 C7sus/F C7/E C7

light. The way that He loves is as soft as the breeze ca - res - ing the trees at
 stay. The way that He loves is as pure as a rose, much sweet - er He grows each

8 F F7 E♭/F F7 B♭ B♭9/A♭ G7 Dm7 G7

night. So ten - der and pre - cious is He! Con - tent - ed with Je - sus I'll
 day. His peace hov - ers near like a dove; I know there's a heav - en a -

12 C7sus C7 F Am Dm Dm7 Gm Gm7(b5)

be. The way that He loves is so thrill - ing be - cause His
 bove. To Je - sus I'll cling, life's a won - der - ful thing be -

15 F/C F°7 C7sus/F C7/E C7 F

love reach - es e - - - ven me! _____
 cause of the way He loves! _____

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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 Christ,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

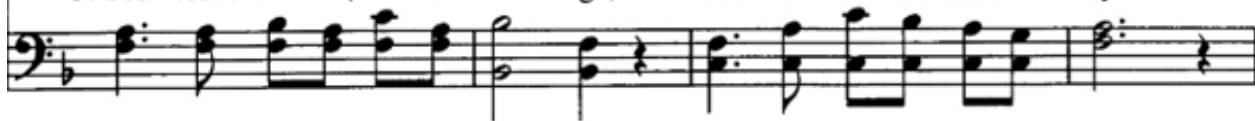
The Priest blesses the people, saying

May the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you, this day and always. *Amen.*

POST-COMM. HYMN *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*



1. What a priv - i - ledge to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
2. We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, Take it to the Lord in Prayer.



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



1. Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need - less pain we bear,
2. Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
3. Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



1. All be-cause we do not car-ry Ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer!
2. Je-sus knows our ev-'ry weak-ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. In his arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

DISMISSAL

Deacon

Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February Outreach

In February, our special collection (collected in the wicker baskets on Sunday mornings) will go to the parish Youth program! A special event that particularly supports this will be the Shrove Tuesday pancake feast (see separate announcement) on Tuesday, Feb 17th. Our youth program is a hugely important part of the ministry of our church, providing faith formation and fellowship for children and youth from 0 to 18 as we help them grow into a firm foundation.

Join Us for a Newcomer Brunch

Sunday, March 1st at 9:30 AM

In between services, Sunday, March 1st, we will be hosting a brunch in the parish hall to welcome newcomers to the church. In addition to a fabulous brunch and fellowship, we'll do a very brief presentation on how everyone can become involved in the life of our vibrant parish community. We'll have an area for younger youth to enjoy a supervised activity, and everyone will have a chance to participate in a story sharing exercise led by Mother Lisa. The brunch is welcome to all members of both services. We hope you join us and get to know someone you haven't met yet!

Mailbox Vandalism Update

We have a bit more information about the vandalism of our mailbox last week. We believe that the break-in attempt took place overnight Wednesday 2/18 into Thursday 2/19, both at our location and Lord of Life Lutheran church (down the hill from us). The locking mailbox we purchased several years ago largely held, and some mail was secure inside it; unfortunately, it isn't clear whether the vandals were able to remove any mail beyond what remained there. We have now received a police report acknowledgment from details filed online: that case number is AA20802, if people need it to discuss any check stoppage with banks. Fr Ben will be picking up mail from the post office twice a week as we

replace the damaged mailbox, and the Vestry will be reviewing best options and practices for mail safety in the future. Our police report filing also requested additional overnight presence, and invited officers to stage in our parking lot during patrols, so if you see cruisers parked here at St A's, please know that they are responding to that invitation and helping us project our security.

Outreach Committee Notes from February

Our Outreach Committee works with ministries of mercy (direct relief) and justice (awareness of how needs accumulate), and meets monthly. Our February meeting was held on Sunday, February 1st, and reviewed upcoming Blood Drive details, plans to host more cookouts with COPE (Christian Outreach Program of Elkhorn), and some early dates for Pride in July. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8th at 11:45 am, and all are welcome to join the group or attend and participate!

Vestry Notes for January

The Vestry (the parish board) met on January 18th to review our regular reports and conduct some annual business. The January meeting traditionally involves a review of the full prior-year financials and current year budget (which often has some slight adjustments as we work from a fully concluded previous year) and this year we also reviewed the status of our door project; the Finance Committee joined for these components. The Vestry prepared for Annual Meeting and thanked and heard comments from our members completing terms. The next meeting will be held Feb 15th from noon to 1:30; meetings are open to the whole parish; questions can go to Fr Ben or any Vestry member.

Up For Some Trivial Fundraising?

Want to help support our youth? We're planning a Trivia Night fundraiser! Jimmy Ellsworth will be leading a small team to plan for an event after Easter this coming Spring, here in our parish hall. We'll need volunteers to help hire a host, coordinate some hospitality and prize support, publicize for community

friends and family groups, and host on the day! If you'd like to help with the planning committee, please contact the parish office or staff, and we'll put you in touch with Jimmy! First meetings will be on **March 1st at 11:45am**. Jimmy can be contacted at jellsworth@bottlesandbarrels.com

Camp Canterbury – Calling Counselors and Campers! July 13-17

Mark your calendars for July 13th-17th for Camp Canterbury in Fremont, NE! Do you feel called to invest in the youth of our diocese in a meaningful and lasting way? Consider joining us as a volunteer this summer. All youth who are entering 4th through 12th grades are invited to save the date and be prepared for another faith and fun-filled week. Our theme this year is **Feast with God**, as we look at ways that we encounter God through the metaphor of food. Please contact Mother Lisa (lisa@sainta.net) for more information.

Lent Madness

Since 2010, Lent Madness has offered a fun way to pray and learn through Lent. Each day, two saints or holy people are paired against one another, with "celebrity bloggers" from throughout The Episcopal Church writing reflections about their life and example. People from throughout the church can vote (you included!) on the website, with the popular winner of each day advancing towards the "Golden Halo" award ... don't think too hard about potential idolatry; this is for fun! We'll have a bracket up at church to track things week by week as we learn more about the saints of God! Please see the newsletter for a link with more information

Walking the Mourner's Path – April 12-June 7, 1-2:30 PM

We will be offering the small group called Walking the Mourner's Path on Sunday afternoons during Easter season (April 12th to June 7th, skipping Memorial Day Weekend). This workshop is for those who have lost a loved one and would like to honor and remember them in a faith setting. This small group will create norms together and use a workbook to guide conversations to help

provide a safe setting with the same group. This is a good place for processing grief and remembering a loved one with trusted others. Deacon Rebecca Smith, Mother Lisa Aguilar and Barb Hall will be our facilitators for this session. The group is open to friends of the parish, as well, if you know someone who would benefit. For more information, please contact Mother Lisa (lisa@sainta.net) or one of the other facilitators.

Wednesday Evening/Thursday Noon Program: Lent in Jerusalem

March 4th: Teachings on Palm Sunday. What did it mean for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem? How did he and the disciples prepare beforehand? What was happening in Jerusalem that week? What did the disciples fear, understand, or hope for?

March 11th: Teachings in Jerusalem. Between his entrance on Palm Sunday and the Last Supper, Jesus spent days in Jerusalem, visiting the Temple and teaching the disciples. What were these lessons, and how did they fit into all that happened that week?

March 18th: Teachings on Maundy Thursday. "On the night before he died," as our Eucharistic prayers say, Jesus did quite a bit. He offered the "farewell discourses" to his friends. He instituted the Eucharist. He gave a New Commandment. He identified Judas as his betrayer. He withdrew with the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane, and prayed his most human prayer to God. Come, take some time with all of this, and learn about this night both fraught and hopeful.

March 25th: Teachings on Good Friday and the Tomb. As Pilate and Herod put Jesus on trial, his Passion puts everyone around him on trial in turn. What is at stake for the disciples, for Peter, for Nicodemus, for the crowds, for Mary, for Herod, and for Christ himself, as the world offers God a cross in response to an

Incarnate Son? We will look ahead to the traditions of the tomb as our Lent nears the coming of Holy Week and Easter.

Blood Drive Success!

Thanks to everyone who made our Amy Churchill memorial blood drive on Valentine's Day a big success. We exceeded our goal with 26 units collected; three more than our last drive. We had 22 donors; 18 whole blood and four Power Red (double donors). We've seen an uptick in the outside community donors. However we've lost a few longtime regular St. A donors who cannot give any more. Our challenge to St. A's is to replace those donors AND MORE at our next drive Sat., June 27. There is a critical need for blood.

- Cohosts Mary Mullen-Ferzely and Mike Ferzely

Worship During Lent

2/17: Shrove Tuesday, 5 - 7 pm. This "Feast before the Fast" meal of pancakes and sausage is a celebration of the good things we're setting aside as we begin Lent disciplines. Our youth lead this and take up a freewill donation to help fund their ministries through the year.

2/18: Ash Wednesday, 12 Noon or 6:30 pm. We offer two opportunities to begin Lent with worship at Ash Wednesday. This service traditionally reflects on our need of God, and includes marking our foreheads with ashes.

3/29: Palm Sunday, 8:30 and 10:30 am. Our Palm Sunday worship services include gathering in the Parish Hall and processing our way towards the sanctuary, remembering Jesus's entry into Jerusalem. We hear the story of the cross at this service, and prepare for Holy Week.

4/2: Maundy Thursday, 6:30 pm. From the Latin "Mandatum" for "Commandment," this Thursday evening service begins the 3-day connected

worship called the "Triduum." On Thursday, we remember the new commandment Jesus gave to be known as his followers by our love, and the creation of the Eucharist through the Last Supper. The service ends quietly, marking the time Jesus departed with his friends for the garden of Gethsemane, to pray until he was arrested.

4/3: Good Friday, Noon and 6:30 pm. On Good Friday, we will walk the Stations of the Cross at Noon; this is a brief and traditional service marking the steps of the crucifixion. At 6:30, we will hold the Good Friday service, which includes a reading of the Passion of Jesus. This continues the Triduum, and again ends in silence as we move to the third service.

4/4: Holy Saturday, 6:30 pm. The Holy Saturday service and the Great Vigil of Easter moves us through scriptures that foreshadow the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We kindle a new fire for the Paschal (Easter) Candle, chant an ancient hymn called the Exsultet, and move from darkness into light. The first proclamation of the Easter comes midway through, and we celebrate the resurrection together again.

4/5: Easter Sunday, 8:30 and 10:30 am. We celebrate the Easter mass by proclaiming that Christ is Risen! We do hold an Easter Egg Hunt In Between Services.

Practicing Gratitude in Lent with UTO

The United Thank Offering is a longtime ministry of the Episcopal Church, using "little blue boxes" made of cardboard to collect coins at home. The invitation is simple: as you feel grateful for something, put a coin in the box as an act of thanks and prayer. We will have boxes available throughout Lent, and invite people to keep them near a stash of coins at home to pray.

On Sunday, April 12th, we'll have Ingathering prayers at both Sunday services, give thanks for our collected boxes, and send them on to UTO. These

funds go to support ministries throughout the world — up to one per diocese — with grants small and great. Locally, Magdalene Omaha started up with support from a UTO grant of over \$30,000 several years ago ... little offerings from our thanks add up to big projects! Our diocesan coordinator is St A's member Barb Hall, so please reach out to her with more questions or to help with the coffee hour celebration on 4/12!

Save the Date

March

Sunday, March 1st

Newcomer's Brunch

Sunday, March 8th

Outreach Committee Mtg -11:45 am

Tuesday, March 24th

Elaine Randall Book Club -11:30 am

Sunday, March 29th

Palm Sunday

April

Thursday, April 2nd

6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3rd

Noon Stations of the Cross

Friday, April 3rd

6:30 PM Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 4th

6:30 PM Holy Saturday Service

Sunday, April 5th

Easter Sunday

Wednesday, April 15th

All Parish Grillout!

May

Wednesday, May 6th

Parish Potluck and Talent Show!

Ministers of the Day	This Week 3/1/26	Next Week 3/8/26
Musicians 8:30am:	Joyful Noise	Joyful Noise
Musicians 10:30	Gilbert Ward	Dirk Lindner
Deacon:	Rebecca Smith	Rebecca Smith
Liturgical Shepherd:	Erin Vest	Pam Wright
Acolytes 10:30am:	Luciana, Luke, Ben	Danica, Gage, Nathan
10:30 am Greeter:	Richard Krueger	Richard Krueger
8:30 am Lector:	Alan Freiberg	Judy Tomanek
10:30 am Lector	TBD	Nick Early-Gerjol
Altar Guild 8:30 am:	Kathy Lake	Mary Jane Smith
Altar Guild 10:30 am	Kathy Pospichal	Carol Ott
A/V Tech 8:30 am	Rich Hill	Dave Wright
A/V Tech 10:30 am	Rich Hill and Joe Threlkeld	Joe and Alice Threlkeld