



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Called to be Christ Centered

Touching Lives + Transforming Hearts + Teaching God's Word

Holy Eucharist Rite I The Fifth Sunday in Lent March 22, 2026 – 9:30

Prelude

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Silent Procession

The Word of God

BCP pg. 323

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.
People **His mercy endureth for ever.**

The Collect for Purity

BCP pg. 323

The Kyrie

BCP pg. 324

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

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

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

The Epistle

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

The Sequence Hymn “Breathe on me, Breath of God” Hymnal #508

The Gospel John 11:1-45

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to thee, O Lord.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness

does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit

and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Allan McCaslin

The Nicene Creed

BCP 326

The Prayers of the People – Rite I

BCP 328

Confession and Absolution

BCP 331

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

The Announcements

Birthday Prayer

BCP 830

Anniversary Prayer

BCP 431

Offertory

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer I	<i>BCP 333</i>
Sanctus	<i>BCP 334</i>
The Lord's Prayer	<i>BCP 336</i>
The Breaking of the Bread	<i>BCP 337</i>
The Fraction Anthem <i>O Lamb of God</i>	<i>Hymnal S158</i>
The Prayer of Humble Access	<i>BCP 337</i>

Ministration of Communion

All baptized persons are welcome to receive the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ. Gluten free bread is available. Communion also may be brought to you in the pew. Let an usher know if that is needed.

Communion Hymns

“I am the bread of life”	Hymnal #335
“Come with us, O blessed Jesus”	Hymnal #336

Post Communion Prayer	<i>BCP 339</i>
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Recessional Hymn “We walk by faith, and not by sight”	Hymnal #209
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Dismissal

Postlude

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God.

Announcements

Altar Flower Sponsorship: Please sign up to sponsor altar flowers on your special dates in 2026. You can sign up online via our website and receive an email reminder or you can use the sign-up notebook located at the portico doors.

***** During Lent, altar flowers will be greenery.
Please select a date after March 29th for amazing bouquets. *****



If you have a child or grandchild who would like to attend Camp Henry this summer, please let us know soon. This helps us to plan our Camp Henry scholarship budget.

We will be posting a link to our Sunday bulletin each week on our website, www.stmarksgastonia.org. Look for the link to the left of the navigation bar.



Intercessory Prayer Available: During communion, or after the service, the chapel will now be open on Sundays for intercessory prayer, with Steve Thomas serving as intercessor.

To Our Guests

If you are traveling or visiting family and friends from out of town, we wish you a safe and peaceful journey. If you are seeking a church home and looking for a new or deeper relationship with God, we hope that you will take some time and just be among us. We want to learn who you are and share with you our spiritual journey.

CHURCH STAFF

The Ven. Brenda M. Gilbert.....*Archdeacon, Dio. of Western NC*
The Rev. Deacon Cathy Wesson.....*Deacon*
Ms. Dionne Browning.....*Business Administrator*
Ms. Debbie Brake.....*Nursery*
Ms. Beverly Bieker.....*Office Assistant*
Mr. Kris Kiser.....*Church Sexton*

CURRENT VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Mr. Eric Lampke, '27.....*Senior Warden, Bldgs-Grounds*
Mrs. Judy Jackson Malina, '26.....*Junior Warden, Outreach*
Dr. Blaine Rudisill, '26.....*Pastoral Care*
Mrs. Suzanne Whatley, '26.....*Parish Life*
Mrs. Fe McLaughlin, '26.....*Parish Life, Newcomers*
Ms. Marilyn Walters, '26.....*In-reach*
Mr. George Sowersby, '27.....*Buildings and Grounds*
Mrs. Pat Townsend, '27.....*In-reach*
Ms. Dionne R. Browning.....*Vestry Clerk*
Mr. Steve Campbell.....*Treasurer*
Mrs. Kenna Watts.....*Assistant Treasurer*