



The Reverend Robert W. Fisher
Rector

The Reverend Jane Milliken Hague
Interim Associate Rector

The Reverend William Morris
*Assisting Priest for Engaging
Faith and the Workplace*

The Reverend Savannah Ponder
*Deacon for Ministries to
Children, Youth, and Families*

Kaye Edwards
Assistant for Church Growth

Brent Erstad
Acting Director of Music

Samantha Scheff
Assistant Organist

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 26, 2020 • 7:30 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square.

All who seek God are welcome at God's table.

Hearing assistance devices are available from the Ushers.

Service participants enter in silence.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Please stand.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

Please be seated.

Read by Andrew Tomlinson.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:8-14

Said in unison.

- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Read by Andrew Tomlinson.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive;

as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

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

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

Please be seated.

Preacher and People:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

THE LENTEN EXHORTATION

Please stand.

Priest: Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

(Silence, all kneeling.)

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Please come forward if you wish to receive ashes.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Please stand or kneel.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest and People:

Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Priest: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Priest: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Priest: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Priest: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Priest: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Priest: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Priest: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Priest: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Priest: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Priest: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Priest: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Priest: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Priest: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Priest: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:

Priest and People:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand or kneel.

Priest: 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.

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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Priest and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Priest: 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.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Priest and People:

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

Priest: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our tradition is to receive both the bread and the wine, sharing in the common cup. Please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the cup to your lips. You may also intinct by dipping the wafer into the chalice. Receiving the bread only is a valid and acceptable way to share in Holy Communion. After consuming the wafer, cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available on request from the communion minister. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. Children may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand or kneel.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest 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.

THE BLESSING

Priest: Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please depart in silence.

ASSISTING AT THE 7:30 A.M. SERVICE TODAY: Andrew Tomlinson, *Reader and Chalice Bearer*; Richard Metzger, *Assistant Head Usher*.

RECYCLING of Order of Service Bulletins paper is good stewardship. If you wish, please leave them at the end of the pew after the service.

THE 2020 SPRING ADULT INQUIRERS' CLASS
Saturdays, March 14 and March 21
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If you would like to be baptized, confirmed, or received into membership in the Episcopal Church at St. John's, we invite you to join the 2020 Spring Adult Inquirers' Class. The two-day class will meet on two Saturdays, March 14 and March 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. both days. The Rev. Rob Fisher, Rector of St. John's, will lead the sessions. Anyone – newcomer or longtime parishioner – interested in learning more about our Christian faith and life, the Episcopal tradition, and the ministry of St. John's Church, is encouraged to attend. **For more information or to register, please contact Kaye Edwards at 202-347-8766, ext. 317 or by e-mail at kaye.edwards@stjohns-dc.org.** Those who participate in this class, or have completed another inquirers' class, may attend a Service of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows at Washington National Cathedral on Saturday, May 9.

SUBSCRIBE TO ST. JOHN'S DAILY EMAIL: PATHWAYS THROUGH LENT

Pathways Through Lent, St. John's daily online devotional, is now live and will run through Easter Day. Published and produced by members of our greater church community, the reflections offer opportunities to meditate on Lenten themes through lectionary readings and shared experiences. **To receive the daily email, please subscribe at <https://stjohns-dc.org/category/pathways>.** Note: if you were subscribed to Pathways in 2019, you should automatically begin receiving devotionals today.

2020 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday	April 5
7:45 a.m.	Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms
9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms
11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms
Monday-Wednesday	April 6-8
12:10 p.m.	Holy Eucharist
Tuesday	April 7
7:00 p.m.	Seder Dinner
Maundy Thursday	April 9
12:00 noon	Choral Holy Eucharist
7:00 p.m.	Choral Holy Eucharist, Stripping of Altar, and Foot Washing
Good Friday	April 10
12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.	Good Friday Liturgy with Choir
Easter Day	April 12
7:45 a.m.	Holy Eucharist with Hymns
9:00 a.m.	Festival Holy Eucharist
11:00 a.m.	Festival Holy Eucharist



Welcome!

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

ST JOHN'S WAS ORGANIZED IN 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

BROCHURES DESCRIBING PARISH LIFE, the history of St. John's, and the Episcopal denomination can be found in the church entrance. If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

ST JOHN'S WEBSITE WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG has up-to-date information about the Church including the weekly calendar, the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, the music calendar and newsworthy events.

Vestry

Paul Barkett, *Senior Warden*

Jeff Hantson, *Junior Warden*

Laurie Adams, Andrew Clarke,
Carolyn Crouch, Lauren Edwards,
Martha Ellison, Peter Odom, Anthony
Pegues, Scott Raab, Nora Rigby,
Jessica Sanchez, Desirée Stolar, and
Carl Ward.

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*

Andrew Tomlinson, *Secretary*

Christopher R. Wall, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

Staff

Kim Carlson

Director for Operations

Evangeline Gravina

Operations Assistant

Preston Cherouny

Financial Secretary

Sharlyne Griffin

Receptionist

R. J. Gravina

Program Coordinator

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa,

Assistant Sextons

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