

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**10:00 AM + March 30, 2025**



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**Welcome!**

You are invited to participate fully in our worship. Whoever you are,  
wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome!

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## The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

### The Word of God

**Prelude:** Hymn Tune Voluntary on *Melcombe* Alec Rowley

**Opening Hymn:** "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah" Blue Hymnal 690

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

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

**Gloria:** Lord have mercy Blue Hymnal S 96

*Celebrant:* Lord, have mercy.

*People:* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* Lord, have mercy.

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

### The Collect

*Said in unison*

**Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

### A Reading from the Book of Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

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

## Psalm 32

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.

6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## **A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 5:16-21**

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

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

**Sequence Hymn:** "O Spirit of the living God" Blue Hymnal 531  
(vv. 1&2 before the Gospel; vv. 3&4 after the Gospel)

## **A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

*People's response before the Gospel*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and

went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

People's response after the Gospel

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

Rev. Sean Maloney

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Spoken by all, standing.*

**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.**

**Prayers of the People** – [from Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for the Revised Common Lectionary] *The Leader and People pray responsively*

Forgiving Father, you watch for us with a loving heart, welcoming us home to you. Give us the grace to see our path clearly and correct our course when we are led astray. Hear and answer our prayers to you as we say; Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Send your message of love to the world through us, that we might be examples of your good news to those who know us. Use our hearts and hands to your purpose. Open our mouths to advocate for the poor. Give us ears that hear the cries of the lonely, the forgotten, the imprisoned, and the poor. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn our foolish hearts from hate and division and unite us in a bond of love that will not tolerate persecution, violence, or waste. Give our leaders the desire for true service to your people and a passion for bringing peace to all nations. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give strength to those who are afraid, to those who are facing diagnoses, disaster, or loss. Comfort them with your spirit of hope and restore those things which have been lost. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn us away from bitterness and hopelessness. Give healing to those who are ill, peace to those of anxious heart or defeated spirit, that they might find wholeness of body, mind, and soul. [Especially we pray for...*prayer list*.] Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give comfort to those who grieve and care to those who have died, and grant that we might all know resurrected life in your new age. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, you rejoice when what is lost becomes found in you; search our hearts and keep them ever focused on the abundant life we find in you, your Son and in the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



## **Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins to God. (Silence may be kept.)

**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.**

## **Absolution**

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*

*Celebrant:*     The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:*        **And also with you.**

## **Announcements:**

# **The Holy Communion**

## **Eucharistic Prayer A**

**BCP 361**

**Offertory Anthem:** Sicut cervus

Words: Psalm 42:1-3; Music: Giovanni Palestrina

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Sanctus**

Blue Hymnal S 130

**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.**

### *The people stand*

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 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.**

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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, 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,

**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**

**Fraction Anthem:** My flesh is food indeed                      Blue Hymnal S 169

**Communion Music:** Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Words: Charlotte Elliott; Music: *Woodworth*; William Batchelder Bradbury

### *Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** "Come thou font of every blessing"                      Blue Hymnal 686

### **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant:*                      Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

**Postlude:**                      Voluntary in A minor                      Anonymous

**Thank you for joining us today!**

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if you would like to receive our weekly e-bulletin, please contact the church office (aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org) To learn more about us, visit <https://www.allsaintschelmsford.org> or call us at 978 256 5673.

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