



AN ORDER FOR
THE CELEBRATION OF

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 2026



WITHIN THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF MISSOURI



WELCOME! BIENVENIDOS! KARIBU!

Scattered in the world we gather together as God's people in worship. We bring the fragments of our lives to be healed and made whole in Christ as we gather in community.

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as God's people. One of the glories of the Episcopal/Anglican Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words and actions through which public worship is conducted.

As we gather, we bring our diverse gifts: gifts of music, dance, prophecy, teaching, preaching, and friendship. We present these gifts in the form of our most precious offering to God, our very selves, that all that we do may be for God's glory in the unity of Christ's church.

ABOUT THE SEASON OF LENT



Early Christians observed "a season of penitence and fasting" in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (Easter). The season now known as Lent, from an Old English word meaning "spring," the time of lengthening days, has a long history. Lent was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly.

In the western church, the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Today, Lent has reacquired its significance as the final preparation of adult candidates for baptism. Joining with them, all Christians are invited "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."

ABOUT THE HOLY EUCHARIST



"When God finds us, there is always a celebration. In the Eucharist, we gather to celebrate God finding us in Jesus Christ. If you're feeling lost, when you come to receive Jesus in bread and wine, ask to be found. If you know what it is to have been found by God, when you come to receive Jesus in bread and wine, give thanks – thanks to the one who came looking for you, and found you."

-Br. Geoffrey Tristram

Society of Saint John the Evangelist

In the Episcopal Church the Holy Eucharist is the sacrament of Christ's body and blood, and the principal act of Christian worship. The term is from the Greek, "thanksgiving." Jesus instituted the Eucharist "on the night when he was betrayed." At the Last Supper he shared the Bread and cup of Wine at a sacred meal with his disciples. He identified the Bread with his body and the Wine with his blood of the new covenant. Jesus commanded his disciples to "do this" in remembrance of Jesus.

For Episcopalians, the Holy Eucharist becomes the very Real Presence of Christ, his Body and Blood, the ordinary made also extraordinary, sacred by Jesus' own words and by the Holy Spirit.

In the Episcopal Church, we seek to adapt ancient liturgy for today. If you grew up in a less formal church, worship may feel pretty traditional. If you grew up in a formal church, our worship may deconstruct that formality, and ask you to pray using more modern words, or sing new songs. We seek to balance tradition and culture in our worship. When we hold the tension well between the ancient and the modern, the Holy Eucharist comes alive.

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson

We begin by praising God through song, silence, and prayer.

THE PENITENTIAL RITE

We are invited to share the breath of the Spirit as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sin.**

Presider 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

THE CONFESSION

As we enter in to worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we may be reconciled to each other and to God.

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept for a time.

Presider 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.

People **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.**

Presider Our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People **We confess to you, O God.**

Presider Our self-indulgence, and our exploitation of other people, our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People **We confess to you, O God.**

Presider 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, O God.**

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

People **Accept our repentance, O God.**

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

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

DECLARATION OF PARDON & FORGIVENESS

The Presider prays the declaration of forgiveness, and the people respond Amen.

Presider May the Eternal God forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PENANCE: KYRIE *(spoken)*

Presider Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin: Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Presider Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me: Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Presider Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me: Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The collect is written to go along with both the season of the church year and the readings for the day. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scripture for the day.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

BCP, pg. 218

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.**

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

THE FIRST READING

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM OF THE DAY

- 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.

THE SECOND READING**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Please rise in body or in spirit.

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

3:1-17

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.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We remain seated for the sermon. Having someone comment on the scriptures read goes back to the earliest days of Christianity and to the Jewish Synagogue worship which preceded it

THE SERMON

The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Presider leads the assembly in an affirmation of faith. Originally the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. But, since the Sixth Century, the Church has recited either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle’s Creed at the Eucharist. The word creed comes from the Latin credo for “I believe” or “I lend my heart to.” Creeds tell a deeper “truth” that goes beyond “facts.”

THE NICENE CREED

Presider Please rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God, by saying together the Nicene Creed.

***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

In our prayers, we collectively and individually offer the hopes and desires of our hearts to God.

Leader We pray to the Eternal One for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves in service to Christ.

Silence is kept for a time.

Leader Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Deon, our Bishop; Lu-Anne, our Priest; and all members of the clergy. May the wounds of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation. Lord, meet us in the silence;

People ***Give us strength and hear our prayer.***

Leader Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for those in authority in all nations of the world. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People ***Give us strength and hear our prayer.***

Leader Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People ***Give us strength and hear our prayer.***

Leader Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People ***Give us strength and hear our prayer.***

Leader Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith, especially Bill Rueweler, who died on Monday. May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People ***Give us strength and hear our prayer, both now and for eternity. Amen.***

Leader In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for those who receive supplies through LINC. Bless us as we shop for bar soap or body wash this month and bless those who collect and transport these items. May our offerings of bar soap or body wash this month be a blessing of love and compassion to our neighbors. We pray for those who serve the students of Wright City Schools through Care to Learn and the students who benefit from this program. May the compassion offered and experienced overflow into the classrooms for the benefit of all.

We also pray for those who prepare, serve, and participate in First Tuesday. May this ministry of worship, fellowship, and fun bless us as we grow together in love.

In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and ministry of the Episcopal Church of St. John & St. James in Sullivan and Jim, their Lay Associate Minister.

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Mission of the Epiphany in Maricao.

We pray for those on our prayer list: **Karen, Joey, John, Maureen, Kathy, Kensie, Karen, Peggy, Laura, Barb, Bill, Papa, Lisa, Virginia, Kathleen, Lisa, Brad, Patrick Elizabeth, William, Steve, Jerry, Toni, Megan & John, Dillon, Regina, Penny, Janet, Christina, Kathy, Roger, John, Sandra, Margene, Kathy, Stephen, Mary, David, Sherry, Sue, Mary, Tracy, Ray, Desirée, Malcolm, Pam, and Rachel.**

Are there others?

after a moment of silence, the Leader continues:

We give thanks for birthdays: Zack Rogers, Ron Howden, Kerri Robertson, Hope Schaeffer, and Judy Ducar.

Concluding prayer led by the Presider:

Lord Jesus, you taught your disciples that you must undergo great suffering and be killed before rising again; grant us the strength and wisdom to be your followers and to take up our cross to follow you, this day and always. **Amen.**

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

As we enter the most sacred portion of our worship, we exchange a sign of God's promised peace. There are no set words to use in greeting each other, but "Peace be with you," "God's peace," and "Shalom" are all commonly used.

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

*We are a community of reconciliation and peace;
therefore, we greet each other with a sign of our desire for peace.*

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

*Having been nourished from the richness of God's love in sacred story
and reconciled to each other through prayer and peace,
we gather at Christ's table to offer ourselves to be transformed for service in the world.*

THE OFFERTORY

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

When Christ was lifted from the earth

Hymnal, #603

Once the Holy Table or Altar is prepared, the Presider and people give thanks to God for the many gifts we have been given.

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Eucharistic Prayer, or Great Thanksgiving, is the prayer of the Church to invite Christ to be present in the elements of bread and wine. Now we come to the second act in the drama with the Liturgy of the Table. It is based on Jewish Fellowship meals, particularly the Passover observance. But this second half of the service is not communion in and of itself. It is the whole service, both acts of the drama, that make up the Eucharist.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR LENT

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds.

Presider Blessed are you, God of everlasting covenant, for your promises are steadfast and your provision is sure. Through the forty years of your people's desert wanderings you were constant in fire and cloud; with manna and mercy you sustained every step. You made Jesus' temptation of forty days a theater of truth where your Word stood strong.

In every age you have shaped your people through times of wilderness and wandering, of temptation and trial, and brought them into the land of promise and the life of covenant.

And so we give you humble thanks for your forgiveness and our new life, with angels and archangels and the company of heaven, singing your unending praise.

Presider 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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider

Enduring God, as you sustained Jesus in hunger and thirst, through this meal strengthen us to keep our Lenten fast. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we remember Jesus' saving passion; transform our insatiable desires into hunger for the feast of this table. Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ;

Who at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Presider

Great is the mystery of faith:

People

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Presider

Forgiving God, in this season of repentance, make your mercy sufficient for every need. Come to your children who are in their own wilderness and make their wanderings holy paths of learning your truth. Strengthen all who face the threshold of temptation or the tumult of trial. Seek those whose hearts are contrite and meet them with grace.

Come alongside your children who suffer under the sin of another and give them the power to live as your beloved sons and daughters. Renew your church from the depths of your heart, where justice and mercy meet. Bring us, with all your saints to the day when all who watch and pray for your kingdom behold your salvation and meet you in your resurrection.

Infuse your church with Spirit and truth, walk with your beloved people as they seek security, companionship and freedom in your world, and fill your saints with the hope of eternal life, that all may come to praise your name, and every grain of sand and star in the sky be stirred with the wonders of your grace.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (TRADITIONAL)

The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection. In the Lord's Prayer we ask for daily bread, meaning the things we need to get through each day. But as a part of that, the bread also symbolizes God's presence.

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray.

***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 Presider breaks the consecrated bread in view of the assembly.

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

People ***Have mercy upon us.***

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

People ***Have mercy upon us.***

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

People ***Grant us your peace.***

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We partake in the Eucharist and are spiritually nourished, but it is not for our benefit alone. Communion enables us to return to the world with renewed vigor for proclaiming the Gospel in our words and in our lives. In the Eucharist, Christ's presence both nourishes us and challenges us.

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God. *Then may be added:* Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

SHARING THE SACRED MEAL

This is Christ's table; all are welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Eucharist, or a blessing if preferred. Please note that you may drink directly from the chalice – we do not allow self-intinction. If you do not wish to drink from the chalice you may simply return to your seat after receiving the bread. Please wait for the Usher to release the section where you are seated.

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *(while those present are coming forward to receive the bread, a leader addresses those who are watching the livestream feed)*

Leader: The Resurrected Christ has gathered us to feast at the Table of Remembrance, yet circumstances make it difficult for some to gather physically around Christ's altar and receive Christ's eucharistic body. Wherever you are, you are offered God's grace by spiritually receiving Christ in your heart.

Please pray with me *(prayed by those who are watching the livestream feed)*

In union, O Lord,

with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.

I present to you my soul and body

with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.

And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.

I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul.

Let nothing ever separate you from me.

May I live in you, and may you live in me,

both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The Presider invites the congregation to rise in body or in spirit, saying:

Presider God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Together, let us pray.

Eternal God,

you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;

by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope,

and strengthen our love:

teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,

and enable us to live lives grounded in service to you

and to one another;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LENTEN PRAYERS OVER THE PEOPLE

The Presider prays over the people as a reminder of God's extravagant love and invites us to go into the world to be God's blessing.

Presider Let us bow our hearts before the Lord our God.

The Presider offers the prayer over the people.

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN

O love, how deep, how broad, how high

Hymnal, #448

We end our time of worship by praising God through song and prayer.

DISMISSAL

As the celebration ends, we are charged to "Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord." The Eucharist is therefore not an exclusive gathering that separates us from the world, but a challenge to reach out beyond our own church to the world around us.

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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The Invitation to and Prayer of Spiritual Communion takes its central meaning from the Order of Service for the Renewal of Baptism and Ordination Vows, and the Blessing of the Oils Service from March 30, 2021 by the dioceses of Kansas, Western Kansas, Missouri, West Missouri, the Central States Synod of the ELCA and Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, and is adapted by Rev. Dr. Marshall Crossnoe.

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