



Sunday, March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome to The Beloved Community at The Trees, an Episcopal faith community exploring together what a life of faith “outside of a church” may be. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe that all people are God’s beloved and all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual identity, ability, faith background, or belief.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. To remember our baptismal promises, that all are God’s beloved, and that we are all one in Christ, we begin each worship gathering with the “Blessing of the Water.”

Blessing of the Water

Adapted from Prayer Over the Water, The Church of England

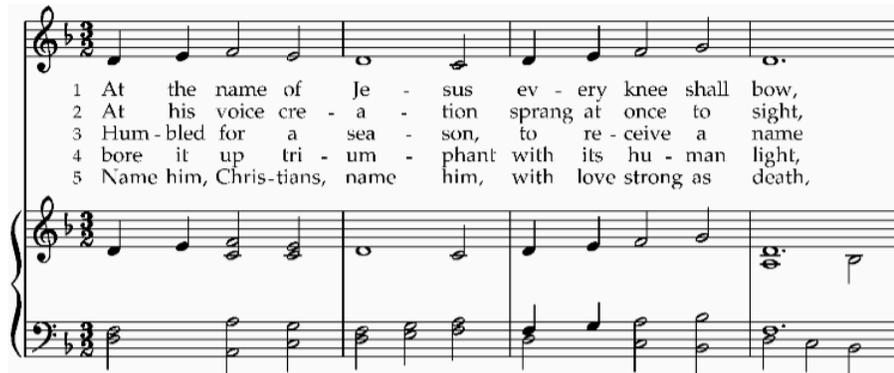
Reader We praise you, loving God,
for the gift of your Son Jesus.
He was baptized in the River Jordan,
where your Spirit came upon him
and revealed him as the Son you love.
He sent his followers
to baptize all who turn to him.

Celebrant Now, loving God, we ask you to bless this water,
that those who are baptized in it
may be cleansed in the water of life,
and, filled with your Spirit,
may know that they are loved as your children,
safe in Christ for ever. ***Amen.***

Opening Song

At the name of Jesus

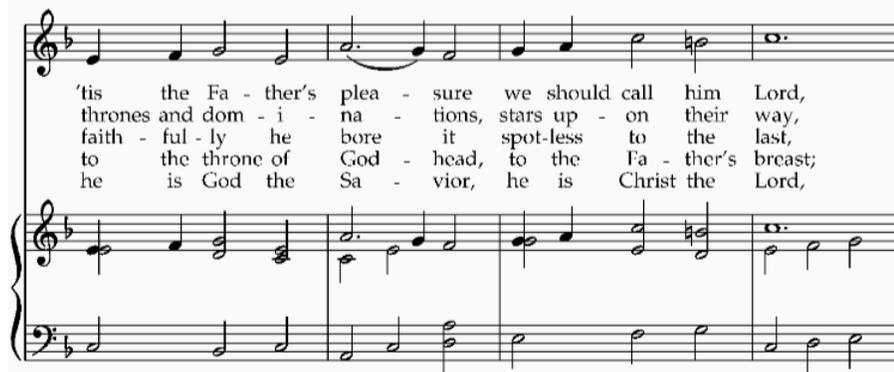
Voices Found, #135



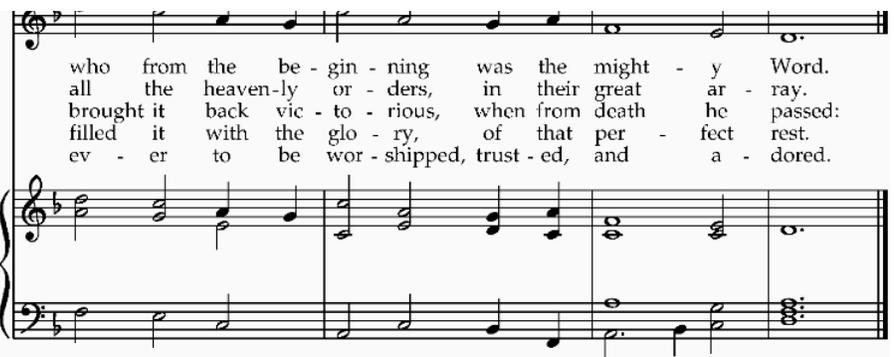
1 At the name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a name
4 bore it up tri - um - phant with its hu - man light,
5 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,



ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now:
all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
but with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath:



'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
all the heav - en - ly or - ders, in their great ar - ray.
brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed:
filled it with the glo - ry, of that per - fect rest.
ev - er to be wor - shipped, trust - ed, and a - dored.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation:
People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Salutation

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

Celebrant Gracious God, 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.**

Narrative Lectionary Theme ~ Jesus and Pilate

The First Lesson

Psalms 145:10-13 ~ First Nations Version Psalms and Proverbs: An Indigenous Bible Translation

All creation gives thanks to you, Grandfather. Your people who walk in a sacred manner speak well of you.
They speak of the beauty and shining-greatness of your good road and tell stories of your power.
They will make known to all human beings the powerful things you have done and your shining-greatness as you lead us down the path of your good road.
Your good road goes on and on, guiding people from generation to generation.
Grandfather's path of life never fades away, and his love remains faithful and true toward all he has made.

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Gospel

John 18:28-40

Deacon The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

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

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a rebel.

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

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

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

Lectionary Discussion

What did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention? What good news did you hear?

During this time you are invited to share your thoughts, questions, or insights about our readings.

The Nicene Creed

People

We believe –

In the One God:

Source of all,

ruler of all,

maker of heaven and earth:

of all things seen or unseen.

And in one Lord:

Jesus of Nazareth,

Christ the Messiah,

the only-born Word of God;

eternally issued of that of the One:

God of God, light of light, true God of true God;

issued, not made:

the same being as the One;

and through whom all things are made;

That for us mortals

and for our salvation

came down from heaven;

and was made flesh

of the Holy Spirit

and the Virgin Mary;

and became human;

Was also crucified, for our sake,

under the reign of Pontius Pilate:

and suffered, and was buried;

and arose on the third day,

in accordance with the scriptures,

and went back up into heaven;

and sits in power beside the One:

and shall come again, in glory,

to judge those living and dead;

and whose presence shall have no end.

And we believe in the Spirit:

the Holy,

the Lord,

and the lifegiving;

that pours forth of that of the One:
that with One and Word together
we worship and glorify as God;
that speaks in the prophets.
In one holy, universal, and missionary church:
we accept one baptism for the forgiveness of sins;
we await the raising of the dead,
and the life of the age soon to come.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers to God. We remember those among us and those we love in our prayers; especially Alayna, Anthony, Chris, Gregory, Kerry, Lera, Marie, Maureen, Nikki, and Patty.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said. You are also invited to share your prayers on a prayer card and place it in the offering basket next to the baptismal font. Someone from The Beloved Community will take your card home and pray for you over the coming week.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

After all prayers have been shared.

Celebrant God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God.

A moment of silence for private prayer.

All **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

Celebrant 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

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

Announcements

During this time we will share announcements for The Beloved Community at The Trees and others.

The Offering

Celebrant But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

You are invited to share your gifts, financial or other, with the gathered community. During this time of preparation for the Holy Community, you are also invited to remember your baptism.

Peace before us

Wonder Love and Praise, #791

1. Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us,
2. Love be - fore us, love be - hind us,
3. Light be - fore us, light be - hind us,
4. Christ be - fore us, Christ be - hind us,

peace un - der our feet. _____ Peace with - in us,
love un - der our feet. _____ Love with - in us,
light un - der our feet. _____ Light with - in us,
Christ un - der our feet. _____ Christ with - in us,

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

peace o - ver us, let all a - round us be peace. _____
love o - ver us, let all a - round us be love. _____
light o - ver us, let all a - round us be light. _____
Christ o - ver us, let all a - round us be Christ. _____

The image displays a musical score for a hymn. It consists of six systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand. The vocal line is in a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are: "6. peace. Let all a - round us be peace. 6. Let all a - round us be peace." The score is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature.

The Presentation of Our Offerings to God

Celebrant All things come of Thee O Lord,

People **And of Thine own have we given Thee.**

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 2, Enriching Our Worship 1

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels

in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,

lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

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.

Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table,
O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts

that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Pauli and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory,
and praise, for ever and ever.

All **Amen!**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Time for Prayer and Reflection

We will observe a few moments of quiet for personal prayer and reflection following the Eucharist. You are invited to pray where you are or move about the space. Deacon Dan is available for healing prayers and anointing during this time.

Eat This Bread

709

The musical score for 'Eat This Bread' is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is irregular. The lyrics are: 'Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.' and 'Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.'

Text: John 6; adapt. Robert Batastini, b. 1942, and the Taizé Community
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1994 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

BERTHIER
irregular

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant You are one in whom Christ delights and dwells.
You live in the strong and unshakeable kingdom of God.
The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither are you.

And the blessing of God almighty,
our most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity,
be among you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayer for Our Shared Meal

From The Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada

Deacon Creator of the universe, you give us this gift of food to nourish us and give us life. Bless this food that you have made and human hands have prepared. May it satisfy our hunger, and in sharing it together may we come closer to one another. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

You are invited to join our community for a shared meal of soup/salad and bread immediately following our worship service.

We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, who supported The Beloved Community with their presence, prayer, and resources for our first year.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham. We also give thanks to St. Philip's for the gift of flowers and printing. Each Sunday, St. Philip's shares their flowers with The Beloved Community so that we too may enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral territory of the Eno, the Tuscarora, the Occaneechi, and others.

We are grateful that you are with us. Your presence is a gift to The Beloved Community at the Trees, and that is enough. If you would like to support our community financially, you can do so by leaving your offering in the basket.

The Beloved Community at The Trees

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Jesus was taken before Pilate, the Roman governor, for His sentence. Pilate tried to release Him, but the crowd demanded the prisoner, Barabbas, instead.