



March 5, 2025, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

108 West Broad Ave + Berlin, NJ 08009

A Mission in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey.

Where Love Abounds and Hope is Found!

Our Vision: *To be a faithful and growing Church that connects people to Jesus Christ.*

Our Mission: *To know Christ more fully,
To love and serve Him more faithfully,
To make Him better known to others.*

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Please enter and sit in the Sanctuary quietly in reverence to our Lord and others meditating. Kindly turn off or silence cell phones for the duration of the service.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The service begins in silence. Please stand as the procession enters.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Collect for Ash Wednesday

Celebrant Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

First Lesson (Joel 2:1-2,12-17)

Cynthia Griffin

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near--
a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains

a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
"Where is their God?"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103 (*read responsively by verse*)

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, * and all that is within me,
bless his holy Name.

**2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, * and forget not all his
benefits.**

3 He forgives all your sins * and heals all your
infirmities;

**4 He redeems your life from the grave * and crowns
you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

5 He satisfies you with good things, * and your youth is
renewed like an eagle's.

**6 The LORD executes righteousness * and judgment
for all who are oppressed.**

7 He made his ways known to Moses * and his works to
the children of Israel.

**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.**

15 Our days are like the grass; * we flourish like a
flower of the field;

16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, * and its place shall know it no more.

17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear him, * and his righteousness on children's children;

18 On those who keep his covenant * and remember his commandments and do them.

19 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, * and his kingship has dominion over all.

20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, * and hearken to the voice of his word.

21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, * you ministers of his who do his will.

22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; * bless the LORD, O my soul.

Second Lesson (2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10) Andrew Listman/
Gail Cecchini

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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 as you are able.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Deacon ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to *Matthew*.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

Fr. Russell A. Griffin, SSC

Invitation to the Observation of a Holy Lent

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant says:

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.

A Period of Silence for Personal Reflection

Please kneel as you are able.

Blessing of Ashes

Celebrant proceeds:

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. **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

All are welcome to receive the imposition of ashes. People receiving ashes are invited to come to the altar rail, then kneel or stand, to receive the imposition of ashes.

The ashes are imposed with the following words:

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Psalm 51 (*said by all, kneeling as you are able*)

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; * in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness * and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, * and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned * and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak * and upright in your judgment
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, * a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, * and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; * wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, * that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins * and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, * and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence * and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again * and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, * and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, * and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, * and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling if able:

Most holy and merciful Father: 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.

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

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

People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

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

Celebrant Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
People **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Celebrant By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
People **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Celebrant:

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. *Amen.*

The Peace

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST

Please stand as you are able.

The Offering of the Bread

The Celebrant takes the bread to be consecrated and places it on the corporal. The following may be said:

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands

have made. It will become for us the Bread of Life.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Offering of the Wine

The Celebrant takes the wine to be consecrated and places it on the corporal. The following may be said:

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us our spiritual drink.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Celebrant may address the community with these words.

Celebrant: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my Sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People: **May the Lord receive the Sacrifice at your hands, to the praise and glory of His Name, both to our benefit, and that of all His holy Church.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Please stand as you are able.

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant proceeds:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.*

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus

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 or kneel. Celebrant continues:

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:

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

The Celebrant continues:

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 Mary, the Virgin Mother of God; Joseph her spouse, with the apostles, the martyrs, and 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. **AMEN.**

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Breaking of The Bread

[Fraction Anthem]

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
People **have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
People **have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
People **grant us peace.**

Celebrant:

✠ 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.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [**Amen.**]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [**Amen.**]

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

Blessing for Ash Wednesday

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; may our blessed Lady, blessed Joseph and all the saints pray for you; and the blessing of God Almighty, the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

***Please Observe Silence
When Exiting the Church!***

The Ministers of the Liturgy

The Rev. Fr. Russell A. Griffin, SSC
Celebrant and Homilist

The Rev. Bruce Cecchini
Deacon

Andrew Listman
Eucharistic Minister

Louis Durham
Music Minister

Cynthia Griffin
Gail Cecchini
Andrew Listman
Lay Readers

FREE Wi-Fi (Internet)

Network: **19150226**

Password: **church4108**

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS! You may be new to us, but you are known and loved by God. Please fill out the visitor's card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate. We look forward to meeting you and having you worship with us again soon.

Prayer List (please let us know when your loved one should be removed).

Current Military Service:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Aiden Borden | Jonathan DeMaria |
| Andrew Miller | Joseph Hodges |
| Carter Smyth | Keith Taylor |
| Charles Devoll | Mason Smiley |
| Dalton Anders | Roman Mealey |
| David Daniels | Ted Chavis |
| Dave Niglio | |
| Dominique Trappey | |
| Felix Perez | |
| Francois Trappey | <u>Expectant Mothers and their Babies</u> |
| Jacob Listman | Camille Bartnikowski (June) |
| Jessica Smyth | |
| Jimmy Sheridan | |

Comfort & Healing

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Albert Spinelli | Hailey Mikula | Mr. & Mrs. Moe |
| Barbara Alber | Jack Rogers | Mrs. Simon |
| Barbara Hill | Jason | Norman Rogers, Sr. |
| Barbara MacLeod | Jerry Hathaway | Pat Knott |
| Barbara Peters Villari | Jim Jackson | Paul Paine |
| Bernice Finkbeiner | John Collier | Paul Williams |
| Betsy Richards | John Rankin | Pauleen Williams |
| Bob Nottle | Joseph Wright | Regina Listman |
| Carlos Guemes | Joyce Foster | Richard Mealey |
| Celiann Santiago | Judi Hathaway | Ricky Beam |
| Dave McMichael | Linda Mulero | Robert Bratty |
| Dona Smith | Lisa Gallagher | Robert Huster |
| Donna Vandy | Lori Gantz | Robert Kebler |
| Doris Elaine Philips | Mackenzie Wister | Tom Knott |
| Edna Krug | Mary Corson | Sheila Williams |
| Gary Spinelli | Mary McGrath | Stefanie Brown |
| George Phelps | Mary Smith | Steven Ireland |
| Ginger Phelps | Meredith Del Rosi | |