**St. Anne’s Episcopal Church**

**March 23, 2025**

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# Third Sunday in Lent

**March 23, 2025**

**HYMN: “Take my life and let it be” #707,** vs. 1-2

Priest:  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***All: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

Priest:  Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.  **Amen**.

Priest: Lord, Have Mercy.

***People: Christ, Have Mercy.***

**All: Lord, Have Mercy.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Priest: Let us pray:

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***All: Amen.***

**THE WORD OF GOD**

### A Reading from the Book of Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”

The Word of the Lord.

***All: Thanks be to God.***

### Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.

**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 10:1-13**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord.

***All: Thanks be to God.***

### Luke 13:1-9

### Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke

### *All: Glory to you, Lord, Christ*

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

**SERMON**

**NICENE CREED**

***All:    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**

Intercessor: Believing and trusting in Jesus will bring us life.

We pray for the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Bethlehem, Bishop Kevin, and all the clergy. May they continue to spread the message of Christ during this Lenten season.   
Glorious God,

***All: Hear our prayer***.

Help our leaders make wise decisions in our communities and in our nation.  
Glorious God,

***All: Hear our prayer***.

During times of doubt, help us to cling to our faith and Your promises.  
Glorious God,

***All: Hear our prayer***.

We pray for those that lack adequate resources. May we be generous in our help and support.   
Glorious God,

***All: Hear our prayer***.

Restore the sick to good health. Give eternal rest to the dying.  
Glorious God,

***All: Hear our prayer***.

Priest: Lord keep us in your love, preserve our community, and do not let us become separated from one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

**CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION**

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***All: Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.***

*Priest:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all  
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you  
in eternal life. *Amen.*

**THE PEACE**

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

***All: And also with you.***

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Offertory Sentence**

**Hymn for Reflection**:

*“*Let us break bread together”

Priest:  All things come of thee O Lord.

***All:  And of thine own have we given thee.***

**Eucharistic Prayer C**

Priest:The Lord be with you

***All: And also with you.***

Priest:Lift up your hearts.

***All:* *We lift them to the Lord.***

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

***All:* *It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Priest: God of all, creator of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***All: Glory to you forever and ever.***

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

***All: By your will they were created and have their being.***

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason and skill.

You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

***All: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law.

And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman to fulfill your Law, to open to us the way of freedom and peace.

***All: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.***

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

***All: 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.***

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the blood, now celebrate his gift to us. We now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

***All: Come Holy Spirit, Breath of Eternal Life.***

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this bread and this cup, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,

***All: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

God of our holy Ancestors; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Deborah, Ruth and Esther; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; For power only, and not for compassion; For pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

***All: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.***

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor, glory, worship, and praise, now and forever.

***Amen.***

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

**The Lord’s Prayer**

***All: 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,***

***forever and ever. Amen.***

**The Breaking of the Bread**

Priest: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

***All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.***

**Prayer of St. Alphonsus:**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.   
I love You above all things,   
and I desire to receive You into my soul.   
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,   
come at least spiritually into my heart.   
I embrace You as if You were already there   
and unite myself wholly to You.   
Never permit me to be separated from You.

All: ***Amen***

**COMMUNION REFLECTION:**

“There Is a Green Hill Far Away”

**Post Communion Prayer**

***All: 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**

Priest: May the blessing of almighty God descend upon you and remain with you always. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

**DISMISSAL**

Priest: Go in peace to love & serve the Lord

***All: Thanks be to God.***

**HYMN: “Lord, who throughout these 40 days” #142 vs. 1&2**

Lectors: Counters: Lock Up: Altar Guild: Acolyte:

**8:00 a.m.**  8:00 a.m.

Nancy G. Angi Jan P. Cathie M Linnae

**10:00 a.m.**  S. Searfoss  10:00 a.m.

**Steve O. Lizzy**



**Birthdays Anniversaries**

**David Rice 3/12**

**The Kindness Project (TKP)**

**Beginning Sunday September 8, 2024, we launched a new outreach endeavor “The Kindness Project”. TKP provides support to foster families and the children across eastern PA by supplying clothing, shoes, furniture, and other essential items-free of charge. Foster children are often placed with no personal items, sometimes leaving their homes with only the clothing they are wearing.**

**At their boutique, The Kindness Exchange in Emmaus, babies, children and teens are provided with stylish new or like new clothing and personal items to help meet their most immediate needs.**

**A box is available in the parish hall for any donations you care to make. Monetary donations can be made by putting a check in the offering plate on Sunday or mailing a check. Please put “Kindness Project -Fund 64” in the memo line.**

**We know you will support this very worthy Outreach ministry with the same enthusiasm, generosity and love that St. Anne’s always does.**

**\*\*\*\*\*Immediate Need**

**Most in need of the following items (brand new):**

**- Toddler socks**

**- Crib sheets**

**- Bassinet sheets**

**- Pack and Play sheets**

**- Crib mattress protectors**

**- Baby towels**

**- Burp cloths**

**- Baby hygiene for sensitive skin (baby wash, baby shampoo, baby lotion)**

**FELLOWSHIP EVENTS**

**Fellowship and fundraising team thanks all the helpers and donations for our Pre lent breakfast that was enjoyed by all! Thanks for all who came to join and eat the delicious food!**

**4/7 St. Anne’s fundraising eat in or take out on Monday April 7 @ Anthony’s coal fire pizza, Trexlertown! All you have to do is mention St. Anne’s when paying your receipt and we get 20% back! Please join the luncheon group, or go for dinner or take out on this day! Our goal is to make $500! Hours are 11am-9pm. Bring back your receipt to church the following Sunday and place in the raffle jar with your name and telephone number on back for a chance to win a prize!  
  
4/13 Egg hunt at 11 am rain or shine!**

**Seeking baked goods donated for the egg hunt on 4/13 as this event is open to public and will serve coffee and baked goods. Please see sign up sheet, if you can contribute a new or baked good and drop off on or before 4/13. Thank you!**

**Fundraising team is asking for raffle baskets for our annual summer picnic raffle! Please help us reach 20 baskets to raffle off for our church! Can be gifts cards, theme baskets, etc. Please see Robin or Caroline to drop off by 5/4.**

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| **UPCOMING EVENTS - SIGN UP SHEETS ARE IN PARISH HALL** |
| 3/26 Lenten Forum “The impossible dream” |  |
| 4/4 Stations of The Cross |  |
| 4/7 Anthony’s dine in or take out fundraiser |  |
| 4/13 Egg Hunt |  |

***Church Services***

**Sunday, March 23rd Sunday, March 30th  Sunday, April 6th**  *8:00 & 10:00 a.m. 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.*

**ST. ANNE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**6667 Lower Macungie Rd., P.O. Box 368**

**Trexlertown, PA 18087**

[**www.stannesepiscopal.net**](http://www.stannesepiscopal.net)

**PARISH STAFF**

**Office** **8:30am – 2:30pm Monday - Thursday** **610-398-3321**

[administrator@stannesepiscopal.net](mailto:administrator@stannesepiscopal.net)

**Rector**  **The Rev. Don Schaible** office 610-398-3321

[rector@stannesepiscopal.net](mailto:rector@stannesepiscopal.net)cell 610-349-3551

**OFFICERS OF THE VESTRY**

Senior Warden………

Junior Warden

Connie Archer, Secretary………… 610-751-6907

Treasurer

**VESTRY MEMBERS**

Robin Netwall……….610-730-2438

Donna Bennett……  484-894-0607

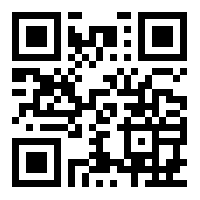
Steve O’Hara .……… 610-573-0925

Connie Archer………610-751-6907

Sharon Searfoss ……610-844-6648

Nancy DalPezzo……610-360-0225

Jan Podlesny………484-951-5002



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