



Episcopal Church of the Cross
9:30 AM; March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Ecclaketravis.org
512-695-2803

The mission of the Episcopal Church of the Cross is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and soul, and strength, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. We are the ECC: Loving God and our Neighbors.

Welcome to Church of the Cross!

If you would like to learn more about the life and future of Church of the Cross, please scan the code below and we'll be in touch later this week. Thank you!



Collect for Purity

All: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures for ever.

Opening Song: For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the Church which evermore lifteth holy hands above
Offering up on every shore thy pure sacrifice of love,
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to the world so freely given,
Faith and hope and love divine, peace on earth and joy in heaven
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Presider: Lord, have mercy;

People: **Christ, have mercy;**

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: Let us pray: 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.

The First Reading: Psalm 23

Psalm Leader: The Lord is my shepherd;

People: **I shall not want.**

Psalm Leader: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

People: **he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

Psalm Leader: He restoreth my soul;

People: **he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.**

Psalm Leader: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

People: **for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**

Psalm Leader: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

People: **thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

Psalm Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

People: **and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

The Gospel: John 9:1-41

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light

of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

President: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Message

The 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 Community

Prayer Leader: Loving God, we are your people gathered in prayer; and we love you. We pray for your Church. May we be filled with truth and love and hope. We pray for the bishops and people of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. We pray for all the local congregations. We pray that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you are one. Help us, we pray, to grow in love towards you and our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: We pray for the world. We pray for peace in the Ukraine and among all the nations, and for righteousness and justice. Increase among all peoples and nations a spirit of respect and forbearance. Grant wisdom to those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person. We pray for all who live and work in this community, and place before you our own households. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: We pray for the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer. We pray for all refugees, prisoners, and captives, and those who care for them. We pray for all who have lost homes; who live in places of violence and fear; and all who are in danger. Grant them, we pray, relief and protection. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: We pray for all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal. We thank you for the promise of your heavenly banquet table. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: We pray for all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families and friends, for neighbors and strangers; that we may live in joy, peace, and health.

And now, either silently or aloud, we place before you what rests upon our hearts...

An open space to offer our own supplications and thanksgivings...

Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: 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 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.**

Presider: Almighty God has mercy on you, forgives you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's Peace...

The Offering:

*Offerings made by check or in cash may be placed in the offering basket near the back of the worship service. Offerings can also be made by texting ECCLAKETRAVIS with your amount to **73256**.*

Song of Offering: The King of Love

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
And oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

People: **It is right give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right to give you thanks and praise, Loving God, at all times and in all places, but especially at this table. In your Son, Jesus Christ, you suffered with us and for us, offering all humanity the riches of salvation and calling us to freedom and holiness.

Therefore with people of every nation, tribe, and language, with the whole Church on earth and in heaven, joyfully we give you thanks and 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.**

Presider: All glory and honor to you, God of grace, for you gave your only Son Jesus Christ once for all on the cross to be the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

The night before he died, he took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me."

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me."

Therefore heavenly Father, in this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Presider: Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness, we were far off until you brought us near and our hands are empty until you fill them. As we eat this bread and drink this wine, through the power of your Holy Spirit feed us with your heavenly food, renew us in your service, unite us in Christ, and bring us to your everlasting kingdom.

O the depths and riches of your kingdom, O God; how unsearchable are your judgments and untraceable your ways.

All: **From you, and through you, and for you are all things. To you be the glory for ever.
AMEN!**

The Lord's Prayer:

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.

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast!**

Presider: 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.

Please come forward to receive communion as you are led to do so.

Songs during Communion: Let us Break Bread Together on Knees

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a soul like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Prayer of Sending:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Closing Song: Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Blooming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother:
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Presider: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

The Episcopal Church of the Cross

www.ecclaketraavis.org; www.facebook.com/ecclaketraavis; 512-695-2803

The People of Church of the Cross, Ministers of the Gospel

The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, Bishop; Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher and the Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan, Suffragan Bishops; The Rt.

Rev. Hector Monterroso, Assistant Bishop

Niki Taylor-Jeff, Office Administrator; office@ecclt.org; Dave Madden, Director of Music;

dmadden82@gmail.com; Mary Allen Smith, Minister of Children's and Youth Formation;

formation@ecclt.org; Paul Johnson, Vicar; paul@ecclt.org

Guest Musicians: Weiwei Wang; Susanna Lee