



Episcopal Church of the Cross
9:30 AM; March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent
Ecclaketraavis.org
512-261-4300

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.

Church of the Cross Welcomes You!

If you're with Church of the Cross for the first time today, or close to the first time, please scan the code to let us know you've been with the community this day! Thank you!



Welcome and Announcements

Opening Song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea:
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy: there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Presider: Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

Presider: 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: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

People: Have mercy upon us.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider: 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 and deeds 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. Amen.

Children's Sermon and Prayer

The First Reading: 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.'

Gradual Song:

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 Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **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.'"

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Message

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.

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. And we pray for our enemies. 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:

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not,
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

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 at which we gather this morning. You bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast, in thanksgiving for the fullness of your grace and presence in our lives day by day.

And so we join the saints and angels proclaiming your glory as we 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: We thank you for how you are always revealing yourself among us: in Creation; in the Scriptures; through your people, gathered and sent; and fully in your Son, Jesus, in whom your love was embodied and who has reconciled us with You, one another, and our very selves—a love so full that His death on the cross was not the end, but a new beginning for us with You then and always.

An so with those throughout the ages who have loved you, sought you, and followed you, we pray the ancient story that we have told through the ages: that on the night Jesus was handed over to suffering and death, He took bread; and when he had given thanks to You, He broke it, and gave it to us, 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."

Recalling now his suffering and death, and celebrating his resurrection and ascension, we proclaim the great mystery of faith, that:

People: **Christ has died.**
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

Presider: Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise, this memorial of our redemption.

And send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts as they may be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and wholeness.

In this holy meal, we pray you renew us by your Spirit, and send us into the world in peace.

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.

All: **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, with thanksgiving.

Please come forward to receive communion. Gluten free wafers are available; please ask if you would like one. Wine in the white cup is non-alcoholic wine, and wine in the blue cup is regular wine.

Songs during Communion: **I am the Bread of Life**

I am the bread of life
They who come to me shall not hunger;
They who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father draw them.
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,
And I will raise them up on the last day.

The Bread that I will give
Is my flesh for the life of the world,
And they who eat of this bread,
They shall live forever, they shall live forever.
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,
And I will raise them up on the last day.

I am the resurrection
I am the life.
All who believe in me,
Even if they die, they shall live for ever.
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,
And I will raise them up on the last day.

Yes, Lord we believe
That you are the Christ,
The Son of God
Who has come into the world.
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,
And I will raise them up on the last day.

You Say

I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough
Every single lie that tells me I will never measure up

Am I more than just the sum of every high and every low
Remind me once again just who I am because I need to know
Ooh-oh

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
And you say I am held when I am falling short
And when I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours
And I believe (I)
Oh, I believe (I)
What You say of me (I)
I believe

The only thing that matters now is everything You think of me
In You I find my worth, in You I find my identity
Ooh-oh

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
And you say I am held when I am falling short
When I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours
And I believe (I)
Oh, I believe (I)
What You say of me (I)
Oh, I believe

Taking all I have, and now I'm laying it at Your feet
You have every failure, God, You have every victory
Ooh-oh

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
You say I am held when I am falling short
When I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours

And I believe (I)
Oh, I believe (I)
What You say of me (I)
I believe

Oh, I believe (I)
Yes, I believe (I)
What You say of me (I)
I believe

Presider: Let us pray.

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.

Prayer of Sending:

People: 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.

The Blessing

Closing Song:

Rejoice! The Lord is King!

Rejoice, the Lord is King: Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice; Rejoice!
Again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Savior, reigns, the God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice; Rejoice!
Again I say, rejoice!

His Kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heav'n
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice; Rejoice!
Again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come
And take His servant up to their eternal home:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice; Rejoice!
Again I say, rejoice!

Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Episcopal Church of the Cross

www.ecclaketravis.org; www.facebook.com/ecclaketravis; 512-261-4300

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, Bishops Suffragan; The Rt. Rev. Hector Monterroso, The Rt. Rev. Bryan Seage, Bishop Assistants

Jesse Johnson, 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

The Rev. Nathan Speck-Ewer, Long Term Supply Priest; nathanse@gmail.com

Holy Week Services

Coming Up...

April 5 - 9:30 next work day on the land

Sunday, April 13th—Palm Sunday

9:30am

Thursday, April 17th—Maundy Thursday service with Footwashing (optional)

7pm @ Church of the Cross

Friday, April 18th--Good Friday Stations of the Cross

3PM @ the land location

Sunday, April 20th—Easter Sunday

9:30am

@ the land location

Rain location/Plan B: Church of the Cross