



Episcopal Church of the Cross
9:30 AM; March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Ecclaketravis.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.

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!



Welcome and Announcements

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: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **God's 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: Lord, have mercy;

People: **Christ, have mercy;**

Presider: Lord, have mercy. The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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 32

Psalm Leader: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

People: **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

Psalm Leader: While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

People: **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Psalm Leader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

People: **I said, " I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

Psalm Leader: Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

People: **You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me
with shouts of deliverance.**

kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Presider: 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, the Middle East, 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 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

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: Sing the Almighty Power of God

I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his Word, and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
And everywhere that I could be, thou, God, are present there.

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 wholeness.

Therefore with people of every nation, tribe, and language, with the 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 in your love for us and all of your creation your son Jesus chose to offer himself, his life, even to death on a cross, that all who know him might find you, the Source of all Life and Love.

On the night before he died, Jesus 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 of wine, 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, 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: Our Creator and Redeemer, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness, we were far off until you brought us near. 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. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please ask the priest when you come forward to receive. If you would like non-alcoholic wine, please drink only from the white chalice.

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.

Beautiful Things

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found in You

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

You make me new, You are making me new
You make me new, You are making me new

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

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:

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; 512-261-4300

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

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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

