



Episcopal Church of the Cross  
Bishop Ryan's Visit  
4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM;  
March 15th, 2026  
ecclaketravis.org

*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 feel free to scan the code below so our clergy can welcome you personally.

Thank you!



Welcome

Opening Song

**"Were You There?"**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?  
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

**Bishop** Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
**People** **His mercy endures forever.**  
**Bishop** There is one Body and one Spirit  
**People** **There is one hope in God's call to us;**  
**Bishop** One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
**People** **One God and Father of all.**  
**Bishop** The Lord be with you.  
**People** **And also with you.**  
**Bishop** Let us pray

*Bishop* 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 people sit.*

### **Children's Message and Prayer**

*Then, one or two Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying*

#### **A Reading from 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for

myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

**Today’s Psalm is Psalm 23. We will read responsively by whole verse.**

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;\*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my  
life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Song**

**“Be Still My Soul”**

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly friend  
Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul! the hour is hast'ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still my soul! when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 9:1-41**

*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 worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan

**Presentation and Examination  
of the Candidates**

*The Bishop says*

The Candidate(s) will now be presented.

*Presenters* I present *these persons* for Confirmation.  
*or* I present *these persons* to be received into this  
Communion.  
*or* I present *these persons* who desire to reaffirm  
their baptismal vows.

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*The Bishop asks the candidates*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidate* I do.

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*Bishop*

Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidate*

I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior  
and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to  
support *these persons* in their life in Christ?

*People* We will.

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*The Bishop then says these or similar words*

Let us join with *those* who are committing *themselves*  
to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

### **The Baptismal Covenant**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

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*People* I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

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*Bishop* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

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*Bishop* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and  
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the  
prayers?

*People* I will, with God's help.

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*Bishop* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever  
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* I will, with God's help.

---

*Bishop* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* I will, with God's help.

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*Bishop* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* I will, with God's help.

---

*Bishop* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* I will, with God's help.

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### **Prayers for the Candidates**

*The Bishop then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for *these persons* who have renewed *their* commitment to Christ.

*Leader* Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

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*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

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*Leader* Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

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*Leader* Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

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*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

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*Leader* Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

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*Leader* Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

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*Leader* Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

---

*Leader* Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

---

*A period of silence follows.*

*Then the Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in *these* your *servants* the covenant you have made with *them* at *their* Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before *them*; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **For Confirmation**

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. *Amen.*

*or this*

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

### **For Reception**

*N.*, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. *Amen.*

### **For Reaffirmation**

*N.*, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. *Amen.*

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Peace is then exchanged*

*Bishop*           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...*

### **Announcements**

## The Offering

Today's loose plate offerings will be given to the Bishop's Discretionary fund. 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.

## Offering Song      "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ, my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

## The Doxology

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Bishop*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*      **And also with you.**

*Bishop*      Lift up your hearts.

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

*Bishop*           Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is a right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*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.**

*Bishop*           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:

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

*Bishop*        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 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.

*All*            **AMEN.**

*Bishop* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

*Bishop*        Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

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

*Bishop*        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.*

## Songs during Communion

### **“Forty Days and Forty Nights”**

Forty days and forty nights  
thou wast fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Should not we thy sorrow share  
and from worldly joys abstain,  
fasting with unceasing prayer,  
strong with thee to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press,  
Jesus, Savior, hear our call!  
Victor in the wilderness,  
grant we may not faint or fall!

So shall we have peace divine:  
holier gladness ours shall be;  
round us, too, shall angels shine,  
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,  
ever constant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.

### **“Let Us Break Bread Together”**

Let us break bread together on our knees.  
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink the cup together on our knees.  
Let us drink the cup together on our knees. [Refrain]

Let us praise God together on our knees.  
Let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

#### Post-Communion Prayer

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.

#### The Blessing

#### Closing Song                    “The Glory of these Forty Days”

The glory of these forty days  
we celebrate with songs of praise,  
for Christ, by whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw  
the loving God who gave the law.  
And to Elijah, fasting, came  
the steed and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight,  
delivered from the lion's might.  
And John, the Savior's friend, became  
the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant, O God, that we may, too,  
return in fast and prayer to you.  
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,  
And give us joy to see your face.

## Dismissal

*Priest*          Worship is over, but our service has just begun. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

*People*          **Thanks be to God!**

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**The Episcopal Church of the Cross**

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