

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Worship Aid for March 30th, 2025 at 10:15 am



Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

Nativity: an inclusive faith community, following the way of Jesus to nourish the body, mind, and spirit of the people of our south metro communities and beyond.

Nativity Episcopal Church is committed to practice the way of love. We follow Jesus' example of radical hospitality as we celebrate God's presence in all people. We welcome all persons, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic or marital status. All are invited as full participants in the life and ministries of our community.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR LENT

Spiritual disciplines are part of Christian life year-round and enhance our Lenten journey. Here are some suggestions:

- **DAILY PRAYER:** Begin or end the day with Morning or Evening Prayer, found in the Book of Common Prayer. For your convenience, there's even an online version (written or audio format) of The Daily Office at <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/index.html>
- **DEVOTIONALS:** Establish a set time during Lent to read and then sit silently or pray. Find Episcopal Relief & Development's Lenten Meditation book on the Welcome Table or go to <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/>
- **FASTING & REFLECTION:** Fasting is a spiritual discipline that Jesus practiced. Hunger pains can remind you to pray for others and enter self-reflection. If you have health concerns, please consult a doctor before a fast.
- **SELF-DENIAL:** Giving up favorite foods, drinks, or bad habits is an alternative to fasting that forces you to be mindful of the hunger of others each time you crave that item or revert to a certain behavior.
- **GIVING TO OTHERS:** How do Lenten sacrifices bring you closer to God? Consider giving the money you would have spent on those items/habits to a charitable organization or cause. Or donate your time & talents!
- **ATTEND COMPLINE:** Join us for our weekly Compline Service on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. This ancient monastic service is held in the Sanctuary and led by clergy or a lay person.
- **PERSONAL CONFESSION:** A practice for Christians to seek Christ's healing power through guided self-reflection, admission of sins, and reconciliation with God through forgiveness. Consult with Rev. Dana about opportunities for personal confession.
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** This devotion allows us to follow in Jesus's footsteps from his condemnation by Pilate through the streets of Jerusalem to Calvary, the Cross, and the tomb. Walk and pray the stations on Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- **ATTEND A CLASS:** "To Live More Fully: Making Peace with Death" is a series of Adult Formation sessions on End-of-Life planning. These sessions are held in the Fellowship Hall Sundays from 9-9:50 a.m. You may also join online for the session. Consult your Nativity Notes for the Adult Forum Link. Links to the recordings of the sessions will be posted in the Nativity Notes.

Nativity Episcopal Church Leadership
The Rev. Dana Fath Strande, Rector
The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Chloe Hrbacek Parish Office Coordinator
Clayton Heidbreder, Music Minister
Charlotte McLendon, Organist

Nate Gooden, Senior Warden
Andrea Thermos, Junior Warden
Steve Grier, Treasurer

15601 Maple Island Road, Burnsville, MN 55306
nativitymn.org; 952-435-8687
Office email: nativity@nativitymn.org

Liturgical Ministers:
Lector: Tamera Loerzel
Prayer Leader:
Eucharistic Ministers:
Ushers:
Announcements: Nate Gooden
Tech: Nate Gooden

Next Week: April 6th

Lector	
Prayer Leader	
Eucharistic Ministers (x2)	
Usher (x2)	
Announcements	Theresa May
Tech	

PRELUDE
INTROIT

Charlotte McLendon
God, Be in My Head (Hymnal 694)

Please remain seated.

BELL TOLL

Please stand if you are able.

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER

Presider: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

All: **God's mercy endures forever.**

Presider: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

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

Observe an extended period of silence during Lent as we prepare ourselves for confession.

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.**

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.

All: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Kyrie Eleison

Musical score for Kyrie Eleison, featuring three staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of three flats. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e, ky - ri - e. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e, ky - ri - e, Ky - - - ri - e e - lei - - - son.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Living Mystery, whose way is not ours, whose name cannot be bought or sold: lead us from justice without compassion and sacrifice without mercy to a love which nurtures and a grace without price; through Jesus Christ, the true Bread.

All: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Joshua 5:9-12

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32

The psalm will be read responsively. The pulpit side will begin and the choir side will respond.

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

6 I said," I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

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

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

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

THE EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

BELL TOLL

THE GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

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

The Gospel is read.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

BELL TOLL

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE TIME

All children and youth are invited to go with a Children & Youth ministry volunteer during the sermon and prayers for response time.

SERMON

The Rev. Diane Luther

NICENE CREED

Presider: Let us declare our faith in God.

Presider and 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

Ostinato Chorale

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system concludes the piece with a final vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O"

Deacon: In this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, free us from all wrongdoing, help us, Jesus, to heal our world through your holy message of reconciliation.

Silence may be kept.

Leader: We pray for your holy Church: Bless all in the Anglican Communion, especially the Anglican Province of Congo. Bless all in the Episcopal Church, especially Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop and Craig Loya, Bishop of Minnesota. Bless all the faithful of Good Shepherd Parish in Windham. In our Nativity Community, we pray for all leaders and people, for our many ministries, our continued faith, and to be held in God's love. Guide all who work with Building Our Future and continue our mission as an open, welcoming, and inclusive body for preaching your Good News. We ask this of you

All: **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

Leader: Gracious God, hold all with authority in the world to their duty to their people. Remind these leaders and all under them of your enduring mercy. Teach the powerful a way to ease the sufferings, to undo harm done, and to find in their hearts the truth of your justice and love. Bless us as stewards of your creation. Teach us to heal our earth and to see your goodness in all of creation. We ask this of you

All: **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

Leader: We pray for those in danger and need: for all those hungry, homeless, imprisoned, and oppressed. We remember before you all migrants, refugees, and our LGBTQ+ siblings. Give your strength to all living in fear. And we ask that your healing mercies be lovingly poured onto everyone suffering from physical or mental strain, especially...are there others?

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: We pray for those dying and their caregivers, especially... are there others?

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: For those dear to us who rest in Christ, and for all the departed, especially...are there others?

The people may add their own petitions.

Leader: We ask this of you.

All: **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

Deacon: Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to do good in this world. Help us to find the holiness which you have implanted in each of us and to see the face of Jesus in all whom we meet. We ask this in the Name of your beloved Son who with you and the Holy Spirit are one God now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

All: **And also with you.**

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OR ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR A BLESSING
ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

The Presider invites the gifts of the congregation, with these or other words

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy,” by Raymond H. Haan

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Presider: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
 might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Presider: Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith

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

Presider: Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your children, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Presider: Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All: **AMEN**

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

Presider and 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

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

Agnus Dei (Hymnal S164)

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

INVITATION

Presider: So come to this table,
 you who have much faith
 and you who would like to have more;
 you who have been here often
 and you who have not been for a long time;
 you who have tried to follow Jesus,
 and you who have failed;
 Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION HYMN

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling



1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
 2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,
 3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing,
 4. Oh! For the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised,



1. Call - ing for you and for me; — See, on the por - tals He's
 2. Plead - ing for you and for me? — Why should we lin - ger and
 3. Pass - ing for you and for me; — Shad - ows are gath - er - ing,
 4. Prom - ised for you and for me; — Though we have sinned, He has



1. wait - ing and watch - ing, Watch - ing for you and for me. —
 2. heed not His mer - cies, Mer - cies for you and for me? —
 3. death beds are com - ing, Com - ing for you and for me. —
 4. mer - cy and par - don, Par - don for you and for me. —



Come home, come home,



Ye who are wea-ry, come home! — Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home! —

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and All:

**O God, you made us
from the dust of the earth.
You have fed us with earthly
elements at your table.
Now raise us up, help us
turn toward you with open hearts,
that by your grace we may
receive life everlasting.
Amen.**

BLESSING

Presider: Go in safety, for you cannot go where God is not.
Go in love, for God's love alone endures.
Go in peace, for that is God's gift to those whose
hearts and minds are in God's Son Jesus.
Go in hope for it is the Spirit that enlivens us and spurs us onward.
The power of this One God, God the Father, and God the Son,
and God the Holy Spirit Bless you and remain with you for ever more

All: **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (Hymnal 690)

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sacrament of Healing: If you are seeking health and wholeness in body, mind, or spirit, we invite you to come and sit in a front pew directly after service to receive the Sacrament of Healing.

LENT

Stations of the Cross

6pm – Fridays

Adult Forum

To Live More Fully: Making Peace with Death

9am – Sundays, Mar. 9th - Apr. 6th

Sacrament of Healing

After Service – Sundays during Lent

WEEKLY AT NATIVITY

Community Café

5-6pm – Wednesdays

Handbell & Choir

5 & 6pm – Tuesdays

Evening Prayer

6pm – Wednesdays

UPCOMING:

Parish Potlucks

After Service – April 13th and May 18th

Donations for Easter Flowers

Please help contribute to our flower fund.
We will be noting donations in memory of someone, or in thanksgiving for something.
Look for envelopes in the pews on Sundays,
or let the office know the intention of your donation.

