

# Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

1305 Thomas Dr. Bellevue, NE 68005



**March 15, 2026**

**9:30 am**

***“Laetare Sunday”***

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Rite II**

**WELCOME EVERYONE**

If you are a guest today or are a member who has been away for a while, we are glad you joined us for worship today. Please let us know if you are joining us online by leaving a comment, or by emailing us so that we can say thank you.

God Bless

CHS Office: (402) 291-7732  
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Website: <http://chsepiscopal.org>

## The Holy Eucharist Rite II

### Opening Hymn

*I Want to Walk as a Child*

Hymnal 490

Welcome

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* And Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever Amen.

*Celebrant and People:*

**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 Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant and People*

**Glory be to God on highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you**

**We worship you, we give thanks to you, we praise you for your glory,**

**Lord Jesus Christ only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**You that seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One; you alone are the Lord; you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

### The Collect of the Day

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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Old Testament – 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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

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

### **Psalm 23**

- 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.

### **The Epistle: Ephesians 5:8 - 14**

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **Sequence Hymn**

*“Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness*

**Hymnal 339**

### **The Gospel: John 9:1-13**

*Deacon:* 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."

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Message**

*"Live as children of light"*

**Mthr Margaret**

## The Nicene Creed

*Celebrant:* Please stand as we affirm our faith in the words of 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 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 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 *(Form VI)*

*Please kneel, stand or be seated]*

*Reader:* In peace, we pray to your, Lord God.

*A moment of Silence*

In the Anglican Cycle of prayer, we pray for \_\_\_\_\_ ; in the Diocesan Cycle of prayer, pray for \_\_\_\_\_ in the DR for \_\_\_\_\_ . In the Parish Cycle of pray \_\_\_\_\_ .

For all people in their daily life and work;  
**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For those in positions of authority, including our President, Joe Biden, our governor, Jim Pillen, the elected and appointed officials in our community, the nation, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Scott, our Bishop; Bob our supply priest; for Terri and Ted our deacons; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.  
We pray that you stay with and strengthen all those who are ill; \_\_\_\_\_; Are there others?  
For those who serve our country at home and abroad; especially those who are deployed \_\_\_\_\_: are there others? We pray that you will stay with them and their families Lord, giving them comfort and hope until they are once again reunited in peace.

For those in our community who travel, that you watch over them and keep them safe, especially: \_\_\_\_\_; are there others?

For all those with special concerns, especially; \_\_\_\_\_; are there others?

Hear us Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you Lord, for all the blessings of this life; and we pray that you continue to pour out your blessings on those who are celebrating birthdays this week, especially; \_\_\_\_\_; are there others? We pray also for those who are celebrating anniversaries this week, especially, \_\_\_\_\_; are there others?

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, [especially for \_\_\_\_\_] are there others? That they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Leader and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

For 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**

**Peace**

Almighty God, whose will it is to hold heaven and earth in the peace of your kingdom, give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Announcements

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Offertory Sentence

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

## Offertory Hymn

*O for a 1000 Tongues to Sing*

**Hymnal 493**

## Doxology

**Spoken**

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## The Great Thanksgiving *(Prayer D)*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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.”

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ’s death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past.

We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **Fraction Hymn**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following invitation:*

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

### **Communion Hymn**

*One Bread, One Body*

**CHS 36**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

# The Blessing

## Going Forth Hymn

*If Thou but Trust in God*

**Hymnal 635**

*Deacon:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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



The Chapel Presence Candle is given Dave & Kitty Kentsmith in Memory of our son Blake W Kentsmith. The Nave Presence Candle is given by Dave & Kitty Kentsmith in Thanksgiving for family, friends, & good health.

<b>Birthday/Anniversary Prayers</b>
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**Birthday Prayer:** O God, our times are in your hands: Look with favor, we pray, on *this* your servant, as *they* begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness, all the days of *their* life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Anniversary Prayer:** O gracious and ever living God, look mercifully on these who have been joined together. Grant them your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their promises and vows; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

**Birthdays:**

Eric G  
Kevin P

**Anniversaries:**

Alex & Dan W

<b>WEEKLY MINISTRY TEAMS</b>			
		<b>March 15</b>	<b>March 22</b>
VPOD		Kristi S	Vince C
Hospitality		Team 2	Team 3
Altar Guild		Team 3	Team 4
Spirit Hub		Hospitality - Coffee	Hospitality - Greeters
Altar Bread		—	—
LEMs	5:00 pm	Charlotte A	Kristi S
	8:00 am	Cindy P	Doug A
	9:30 am	Vince C Michele H	Grace W Jen W
LEV		Team 1	Team 2
Recycle		Susan H	Karen G
Acolytes 9:30 am	C T T	Vincent C Olivia H Mya H	MacKenzie C Evelynn C Kyper M

## This Week's Highlights

**Lent Soup Supper and Lessons:** There are two Sunday Lenten soup suppers and study left. There are soup and bread signup sheets at the Spirit Hub.

**Name Tags are Back.:** Please look for your nametags next weekend. We will begin to use them again. It will be a helpful aid for me to be able to put a name with your face and definitely a welcome sign for any visitors we have coming to the church! Please try to wear them at every service and event we have from now on. Also, please return them to the alphabetical sections before you leave the building. Thank you!!

**Easter Lillies:** If you would like to donate towards Easter Lillies or Flowers for the Altar of Repose, in thanksgiving or memory of a loved one, please pick up a donation form from the Narthex or at the Spirit Hub or email: [holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org](mailto:holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org) by Monday, March 23.

**DOK Day of Prayer and Meditation:** On Saturday, March 21 the DOK will host their Lenten Day of Prayer here at CHS between 10am-2pm. All are invited to walk our indoor labyrinth (or our outdoor, one weather permitting) or spend time in silent reflection in our Chapel or Sanctuary. Members of the DOK will be here to assist those who may have questions about the labyrinth.

**Palm Folding:** Our Journeys youth invite members of the parish to join them on Wed, March 25 at 7pm as they fold palms for Palm Sunday. Anyone interested in learning how to fold palms is welcome.

**Mission DR:** Teams are now forming for DioNeb's May and June mission trips to the Dominican Republic. Sign-up sheets are at the Spirit Hub so Fr Tom and Fr John will have a head count.

Our 11-18 May trip is for adults only. We will be traveling to the city of San Francisco de Marcos where we will continue the work we have been doing at The Good Samaritan church and school. We would like to firm up the team by mid-April. If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please contact Fr John Schafer ([jschaefer3@gmail.com](mailto:jschaefer3@gmail.com)) or Fr Tom Jones ([frtom.chs@gmail.com](mailto:frtom.chs@gmail.com))

In June we will offer two trips. The first trip (20-26 Jun) is our family trip. On this trip youth 12-15, accompanied by a parent, will work at the camp and adjacent church outside of Jarabacoa in the north-central part of the Dominican Republic. Our second trip (27 Jun – 5 Jul) is for youth 16-22. On this trip we will continue the work we are doing in San Francisco de Marcos. We would like to finalize our teams for both of these trips by the end of May. If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please contact Fr Tom Jones ([frtom.chs@gmail.com](mailto:frtom.chs@gmail.com)) or Fr John Schafer ([jschaefer3@gmail.com](mailto:jschaefer3@gmail.com)).