



GRACE CHURCH
IN NEWARK

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 23, 2025

HIGH MASS AT 10:30 AM

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Prelude – “Barcarolla” Op. 24, No.10 (arr. Kiviniemi)
Wolff von Roos

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Entrance Hymn 393

Praise our great and gracious Lord

Please stand at the sound of the bells and join in singing the hymn. After the procession, the Priest sprinkles the people with holy water as a sign of their baptism.

Introit – Oculi mei

Adapted by Samuel F. Weber (b. 1947)

The Cantor sings the Antiphon. The Priest kisses and censes the altar with frankincense and myrrh, the gifts of the Magi at Jesus’s birth, in honor of Christ’s sacrifice, and presence among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor. *Ps.* O To you, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul. In you, O my God, I put my trust; let me not be put to shame. *Psalm 25*

Kyrie – Litany of the Saints

Adapted by Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

Please remain standing and join the Cantor in singing the Kyrie.



Cantor Lord, have mer - cy. *All* Lord, have mer - cy.



Cantor Christ, have mer - cy. *All* Christ, have mer - cy.



Cantor Lord, have mer - cy. *All* Lord, have mer - cy.

Collect of the Day

Please sing ‘Amen’ on a monotone throughout the service unless otherwise indicated. This prayer sets the theme for the day, reflected in the Gregorian Chant, as well as the readings and post-communion prayer.

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest 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 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.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

Please be seated for the Readings and the Psalm.

Reader A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

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: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.'"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual – Psalm 103:1-11

Kellow Pye (1812-1901)

The Cantor sings the Gradual alone.

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.

- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Reader A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Tract – Sicut cervus

Adapted by Bruce Ford (1947-2025)

Please stand. The Cantor sings the Tract alone.

As the deer longs for the water brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God. My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God: when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

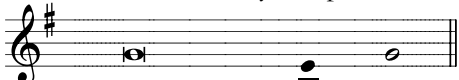
My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long they say to me, “Where now is your God?” I pour out my soul when I think on these things: how I went with the multitude, and led them into the house of God, with the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who keep holy day. *Ps.* Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? And why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God. *Psalm 42*

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Please remain standing for the Gospel, which is censed with frankincense and myrrh as a way of giving honor to the ancient account of the life, death, and resurrection of Our Lord. It is customary to make three small signs of the cross with one's thumb on the forehead, lips, and heart, asking God for the Gospel to be in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

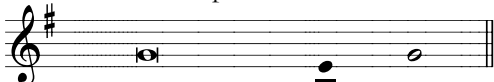
Priest The ✠✠✠ Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.



People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.’”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.



People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

Egan Pemberton, Aspirant for Holy Orders

Please be seated when the homilist says ‘✠ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’

Nicene Creed

Please stand for the Creed. The music can be found inside the back cover of the blue Hymnal.

Prayer Biddings

The Priest makes special prayer biddings.

✠ **The Church:** Pray for *Stephen Cottrell*, Archbishop of York, *Sean Rowe* our Primate, *Carlye Hughes* our Bishop, and *Bartholomew* and *Francis*, primates of the other branches of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. Pray for the growth and sustainability of our parish

and for our ministries: The food pantry, coffee hour, choir, choristers, acolytes, ushers and readers, altar guild, virtual grace and bible study, 20s/30s, the ministry fellowship, those who worship online, and our leadership, the Members of Vestry, *Darriea* and *Andre*, our Wardens, *Egan* our Ministry Fellow, *Wolff* our Director of Music, *Eleanor* our Postulant for the Priesthood in seminary, and *Brent* our Rector.

- ☛ **The Nation & World:** Pray for *Donald*, the President, Members of Congress, Justices of the Supreme Court, *Phil*, the Governor, and *Ras*, the Mayor. Pray for the people of the nations of the world, especially Palestine, Israel, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Haiti, Ukraine, and Russia. Pray for peace and justice in the Middle East, for those who are suffering, and all who have been killed.
- ☛ **Parish Prayer List:** Pray for our parishioners, *Oladele & Comfort Abogan*, *Ethelyn Washington*, *Alman Clarke*, *Dolores Carter-Brown*, *Beverly Brathwaite*, and *The Elisée Family*; and our family and friends, *Louisa DeSousa*, member of Rosemary Kearney's Girl Scouts troop, *Frank Barber, Jr.*, friend of Courtney Dover, *Madihab Brown*, daughter of Tony Kearney, *Trisha Ferguson*, cousin of Judith Alexander-Edwards, *Orlan Springer*, friend of Keith Beckles, *Damion H. Arthur*, son of Pat Arthur, *Brandon Bates*, brother of Fr. Bates, *Geraldine Clarke*, wife of Alman, *Andrew Svekla*, brother-in-law of Allie Ulrich, and his wife and children, *Joanne Murray*, mother of Andre Murray, and *Robert Alexander*, brother of Judith Alexander-Edwards.
- ☛ **Birthdays:** Give thanks for those whose birthdays are this week, especially, *Wolff von Roos* (3/26) and *J.L. Bates* (3/29).
- ☛ **Departed:** Pray for the departed, especially, *Clarence Barnes* (3/10/25), brother of Willa Barnes, *Bruce Ford* (2/28/25), former parishioner, and *Mary E. Johnson* (3/23/13), mother of Rosemary Kearney.

Prayers of the People

The appointed minister leads the Prayers of the People.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Here and after every petition the people respond:



People Lord, have mer- cy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace. In the communion of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.



People To you, O Lord our God.

The Priest adds a concluding Collect

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Please kneel or bow profoundly for the Confession and say

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.

The Priest proclaims God's absolution of sin saying

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

Please stand for the peace.



Priest The peace of the Lord be al- ways with you. *People* And al- so with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Please be seated during the preparation of the Altar, stand for the hymn, then stand or kneel for the Eucharistic Prayer. All baptized Christians of any tradition are welcome to receive the Blessed Sacrament; Speak to the priest to discuss baptism. Please receive the bread on the tongue or folded hands with palms up. Wine may be sipped, but dipping bread is not allowed. If you need the Blessed Sacrament brought to your pew, please signal an usher.

Offertory Antiphon – Iustitiae Domini

Adapted by Samuel F. Weber (b. 1947)

The Offertory Antiphon is sung by the Cantor.

The justices of the Lord are right, rejoicing hearts, and his judgements are sweeter than honey and the honeycomb, for your servant keeps them. *Ps.* The law of the Lord is perfect; it revives the soul. The decrees of the Lord are faithful, giving wisdom to little ones. *Psalm 19*

Offertory Hymn 148

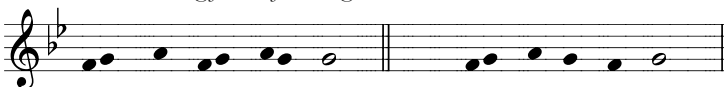
Creator of the earth and skies

Please stand and join in singing the hymn.

Eucharistic Prayer A

Sanctus – Te Deum Tone, arr. James McGregor (1930-2022)

Please remain standing for the following.



Priest The Lord be with you. *People* And al- so with you.



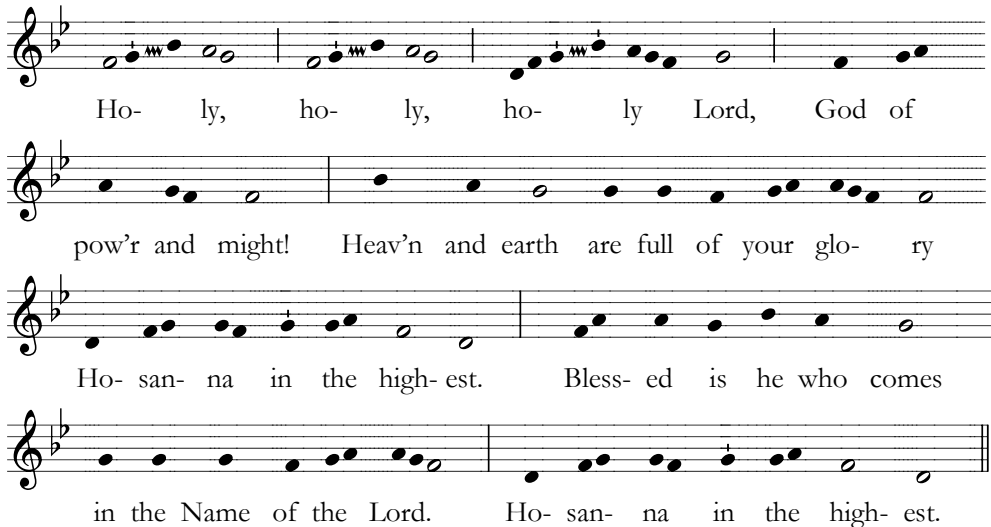
Priest Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.



Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin.

By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil,
and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.
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:



Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord, God of
pow'r and might! Heav'n and earth are full of your glo- ry
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.

Please kneel or remain standing as the Priest continues.

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:

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

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.

Please affirm the consecration of the Bread & Wine as the Body & Blood of Christ by exclaiming the Great Amen.



People A- MEN.

The Lord's Prayer

The Priest begins



And now as our Sa- vior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Please continue



Our Fa- ther, who art in hea- ven, hal- low- ed be thy Name,



thy king- dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in



hea- ven. Give us this day our dai- ly bread, and for- give us our tres-



pass- es, as we for- give those who tres- pass a- gainst us. And lead us

not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e- vil. For thine is the
king-dom and the pow'r and the glo- ry, for ev- er and ev- er. A- men

The Fraction

The Priest breaks the bread.

Priest Christ our Pass-o- ver is sac- ri- ficed for us.

People There-fore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei – Mass 18 Anaphora Chant

Mason Martens (1933-1991)

Please join the Cantor in singing the Agnus Dei.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Receive the Blessed Sacrament

Please come forward immediately after the following invitation in order to receive the Blessed Sacrament. Please be seated after receiving the Blessed Sacrament.

✠ Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

The people may privately say the Prayer of Humble Access for preparation to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have

mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion for all who worship remotely or do not want to receive the Blessed Sacrament

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

Communion Antiphon – Passer invenit

Adapted by Samuel F. Weber (b. 1947)

Please be seated as the Cantor sings the Communion Antiphon.

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. *Ps.* How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts, my soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. *Psalms 84*

Communion Hymn 439

What wondrous love is this

Please stand, join in the singing of the hymn, and remain standing until the dismissal.

Postcommunion Prayer

After any remaining Sacrament has been consumed and the Altar has been cleared, the Priest says

Almighty and everlasting God, you have fed us here on earth with the bread of heaven and given us a pledge of joys that surpass our understanding: grant that we who have received these holy mysteries may show forth your praise in virtuous and godly living and by your grace may attain to your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Solemn Prayer over the People

Please bow as the Priest offers a solemn prayer.

Bow down before the Lord.

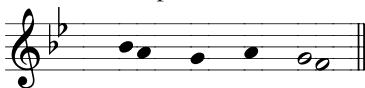
Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord.



People A- men.

Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.



People Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Improvisation on “St. Flavian”
Wolff von Roos

GRACE NOTES

MARCH 23, 2025

Welcome to our visitors this morning. We hope you will fill out a visitor’s card located in your pew. All are welcome to join us at Coffee Hour upstairs in the Parish House after Mass. We are very glad to have new families worshipping with us! If you are in need of childcare, ask an usher.

Online giving is easy at bit.ly/GraceOnlineGiving, Venmo (@GraceNewark) or CashApp (\$GraceNewark).

THE BISHOP’S VISITATION & COFFEE HOUR RECEPTION NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, Bishop of the Diocese of Newark, will make her official visitation to Grace Church. Bishop Hughes will celebrate and give the homily at the usual 10:30 a.m. The Bishop requests that the whole congregation gathers for the same service, as such the 8 a.m. Said Mass will be canceled. After the Mass, there will be an opportunity for our congregation to have a photo taken with her and enjoy a common meal together at coffee hour.

If you haven’t already signed up to do so, please consider bringing a favorite small dish, treat or beverage to the coffee hour reception. The sign-up sheet can be found upstairs in the Parish Hall.

This week, make sure to visit the diocesan website (dioceseofnewark.org) to learn more about the Bishop, her staff, and our diocese. Bishop Hughes also sends out monthly vlogs, included in the diocesan e-newsletter *The Voice*. You may sign-up to receive future newsletters by visiting this webpage (dioceseofnewark.org/e-news) and all the Bishop’s previous vlog posts may be viewed here (dioceseofnewark.org/bishops-vlog).

LENTEN ROSARY PRAYER GROUP TODAY

The Lenten Rosary Prayer Group returns today! After visiting coffee hour in the Parish Hall, bring your pastries & coffee back down to the parlor and join us for this brief, Scripture-rooted devotion. All are welcome, no matter your experience with praying the Rosary. There will be a short “guide” provided to help during the group. Rosaries will also be provided, or you may bring your own. The Rosary Prayer Group will meet one other time during Lent on Sunday, April 6. See Egan Pemberton for more information.

COLIN MARK ANDREWS ORGAN CONCERT
“A TALE OF THREE CITIES”
SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Our organ concert series continues with Colin Mark Andrews’ “A Tale of Three Cities: London, Leipzig & Parish”, Sunday, April 6 at 5:00 pm. Mr. Andrews has performed on various pipe organs all around the world. He is known for his recordings of Olivier Messiaen’s works. Join us for an evening of music from English, German and French composers.

“PLANNING FOR THE END OF LIFE” LENT 2025
MEDICAL DIRECTIVE ASSISTANCE CONTINUES

Dear Members and Friends of Grace Church in Newark,

On Ash Wednesday our liturgy invites us to contemplate our mortality - “remember that we are but dust.” Last year in the spirit of the penitential season of Lent, Grace Church began a 3-year “Planning for the End of Life” series to consider making certain decisions now, before the time comes for us to depart from this life. We began last year by writing out what our desires are for our funerals. This year we will focus on medical directives and representatives. Next year we will consider our wills.

This planning is not only for our own peace of mind, but it is also a gift to our family and church. While we are of sound mind, we can consider what kinds of medical treatment we wish to accept or refuse in various circumstances. During serious illnesses, comas, or near the time of death, we can become unconscious and unable to communicate with medical teams and family. Would we like various interventions, such as CPR, ventilator, transfusions, nutrition and hydration, or major surgery? In these circumstances we need our family and a healthcare proxy to communicate to medical professionals on our behalf. Our wishes won’t be known, unless they have been written down beforehand.

A medical directive, also called an advance directive, or living will, lays out our wishes for medical care given at the end of life. We also are able to appoint a healthcare representative, or proxy, who can ensure your wishes are implemented, and be guided by the principles you lay out beforehand in making unforeseen decisions. The wishes outlined in the advance directive, of course, only go into effect, if we are unconscious or otherwise unable to make a clear decision.

This Lent, we will have presentations at coffee hour by two of our own parishioners, Darriea Pigott and Allie Ulrich. Darriea is a nurse and Allie is a healthcare chaplain. During their presentations they will go into greater depth about how to complete a medical directive and will be able to assist in completing one. We will be utilizing the materials from the Five Wishes program (fivewishes.org) and will have sample copies of the official booklets available at coffee hour. These samples can be taken home for you to look over and consider prayerfully in consultation with family. You will be able to complete an official one with Darriea, Allie, or Father Bates, who will be available at coffee hour on Sundays in Lent, excluding the Bishop’s Visit next Sunday, March 30.

It is also never too late to put together your funeral plans, if you were unable last year. I will again have planning forms and can provide guidance, so you can decide things such as what hymns and readings you would like, whether or not you want your body at the funeral, and whether you want to

be cremated or buried. I also will provide further information about pre-purchasing a single or double niche and bronze name plate in the parish's columbarium underneath the High Altar.

This Lent, please join me in making a Medical Directive. Many of us may not want to think about our deaths, but the truth is that we never know when life may end. Church is where we are called to contemplate such things as life, death, and eternity. We are never alone in making difficult decisions such as these, because we are doing them together as a community and with God's help.

Faithfully,
Fr. Bates

FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS & BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FOLLOWED BY A SIMPLE SOUP SUPPER

On Fridays during Lent, Grace Church gathers at 7:00 pm for Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, two ancient devotions of the Church. During Stations, we make a "pilgrimage" throughout the church, stopping at 14 stations to prayerfully reflect on the events of Christ's Passion. Benediction follows Stations, where the people adore and are blessed by the Blessed Sacrament, in which Christ's presence is real among us. A simple soup supper in the Parish Hall follows the service.

SPONSORS FOR HOLY WEEK SINGERS

The chant and music of Holy Week is a large part of what makes our observance solemn and reverent. Much of the music, such as the Passion chant and the Reproaches on Good Friday, requires additional voices. To help defray the cost, we are asking parishioners to consider sponsoring a singer for \$115 each. Please let us know by using the sheet at the sign-up table at coffee hour. Please also make sure to include the memo "Holy Week singer" in your donation and you may also wish to indicate if it is given in memorial. Wolff von Roos would also be glad to chat about our volunteer choir and tuition-free Choir School.

FORWARD MOVEMENT'S "LENT MADNESS"

"Lent Madness" has begun! Developed by the Rev. Tim Schenck to be a fun and engaging way for Episcopalians of all ages to learn about the people who make up our Church's Calendar of Saints, "Lent Madness" is an online tournament-like single elimination bracket featuring 32 saints. Yes, like basketball's March Madness, except the Church's Holy Men & Holy Women are competing against each other. Participants vote online for their favorite of the two saints "competing" that day by selecting their favorite of the saints' biographies that are provided. The winner of the tournament is given "The Golden Halo," the prize awarded to the "saintliest" saint of the year's line-up. Voting takes place Monday-Friday during Lent and finishes on Holy Wednesday.

If you haven't already, visit the Lent Madness website (lentmadness.org) to subscribe to the emails that will contain the online voting links. The parish has also purchased a few of the physical scorecard booklets for those who would like to follow along offline. As promised, Egan has been dutifully updating the large bracket poster in the Parish Hall. Stop by the sign-up sheet table to see how the tournament is progressing. May the holiest win!

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Services

8:00 am - Said Mass

A simple spoken service celebrated at a side altar

10:30 am - High Mass

An elaborate sung service with choir, organ, acolytes, and incense

Weekday Services –Tuesday through Friday

9:00 am – Morning Prayer

12:10 pm – Midday Mass

Anointing for Healing offered Thursdays

5 pm – Evening Prayer

Stations of the Cross & Benediction of the Bl. Sacrament

Fridays during Lent – 7:00 pm

Followed by a simple soup supper

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The Rev. Fr. J. Brent Bates, PhD, *Rector*

Wolff von Roos, *Director of Music*

Egan Pemberton, *Ministry Fellow*

Eleanor Andersen, *Postulant for the Priesthood*

Darria Pigott & Andre Murray, *Wardens*

Comfort Abogan, Shevon Armstrong, & Ottie Blamah-Sah, *Vestry Class of 2025*

Tracy Cummings, Luis Sanchez, & Peter Woolley, *Vestry Class of 2026*

Rosemary Kearney, Allie Ulrich, & Jeff Ulrich, *Vestry Class of 2027*