

**Christ Episcopal Church  
Norwalk, Connecticut  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
April 6, 2025**

**Morning Prayer: Rite II**  
*Lent Season*

**(BCP 75-102)**

*BCP 76*

*Officiant: Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.  
Joel 2:13*

**Confession BCP 79**

*Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor*

**Officiant and People:**  
**(All kneeling, if possible)**

**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.**

**Officiant and People:** Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

**Opening Versicle**  
**All stand**

**BCP 80**

**Officiant:** Lord open our lips.

**People:** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Officiant and People:**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

**Officiant :** The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

**Response:** Come let us adore him.

**Jubilate**    *Psalm 100*

**BCP 82**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*

**serve the Lord with gladness**

**and come before his presence with a song**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*

**he himself has made us, and we are his;**

**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise; \*

**give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; \*

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**The Lessons**

**A Reading From Isaiah 43:16-21**

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Reader: The Word of the Lord  
People: Thanks be to God

**Psalm: Psalm 126**

- <sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
**then were we like those who dream.**
- <sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
**and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
- <sup>3</sup> Then they said among the nations, \*  
**“The Lord has done great things for them.”**
- <sup>4</sup> The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
**and we are glad indeed.**
- <sup>5</sup> Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
**like the watercourses of the Negev.**
- <sup>6</sup> Those who sowed with tears \*  
**will reap with songs of joy.**
- <sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
**will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**Epistle**

**A Reading from Philippians 3:4b-14**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

**Canticle 13 A Song of Praise** *Benedictus es, Domine*  
**Read By Half Verse**

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \*

**you are worthy of praise; glory to you.**

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \*

**we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \*

**on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.**

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \*

**we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Glory to you, beholding the depths; \*

**in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.**

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*

**we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

**GOSPEL: John 12:1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE SERMON**

**The Apostles Creed  
Officiant & People Together, Standing**

**BCP 96**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**The Prayers of the People Form III  
Standing or kneeling**

**BCP 387**

Officiant: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**Response:** *That we all may be one.*

Officiant: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and  
humbly serve you;

**Response:** *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Officiant: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**Response:** *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and  
Sacraments.*

Officiant: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations  
of the world:

**Response:** *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Officiant: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**Response:** *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Officiant: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**Response:** *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Officiant: Give to the departed eternal rest; especially praying for Maria

**Response:** *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Officiant: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy:

**Response:** *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

**Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (silence)**

**Especially for: Sandy, Suzanne, Joan, Ron, Blaize, Shannon, Sarah, Norma, Kelly, Albert, Bruce, Heath, Alan, Franco, Graham, Stephen, Mary, Stephen, Ray, Meg, Linda, Irene, Barbara, Brent, Audrey, Sindy, Ruth, Dave, Kim, Chris, Tracy, Ben, Barbara, the Norton Family, and the Cappuccia and Vozzo families.**

**ECCT CYCLE OF PRAYER:** With the Episcopal Church of Connecticut, today we pray for:

**St. George's, Middlebury; Holy Trinity, Middletown; St. Andrew's, Milford**

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:** Together with the Anglican Communion throughout the world, today we pray for:

**Iglesia Anglicana de Chile**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Eloise and Mary Lucas by their sister, Sarah French.

**VIGIL LIGHT:** The vigil light burns this week in memory of Maria Vozzo and with prayers for her family.

## Suffrages

**Officiant says V, People say R**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

**R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray

*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*

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**The General Thanksgiving  
Officiant and People (Read in Unison)**

**BCP 101**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

**A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

**BCP 102**

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen

**Dismissal**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



## **WHAT'S NEW AT CCEN?**

### **From the Women's Group:**

We still need donations for our Angel Food Pantry. Looking in particular for hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and still need the typical non perishable food items, such as rice, evaporated milk, pasta, sauce, soup, canned fruit and vegetables and tuna, etc. We have been supplying people in need that have contacted us and appreciate all your donations which allows us to help the community. If you know of someone in need, please contact Lisa Helwig in the church office at 203-866-7442 or at [secretaryccen@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryccen@gmail.com)

### **From the Altar Guild:**

As Lent begins the altar guild shifts to concentrate on palms for Palm Sunday and Easter flower orders and memorials. Please let us know if you would like flowers in memory of loved ones on the altar for Easter. Orders have already gone in for palms and we will soon place orders for Easter flowers. We rely wholly on contributions from you to make our church beautiful for Easter and appreciate all the help you have given us in the past and look forward to your help again. You can either email Lisa at [secretaryccen@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryccen@gmail.com) with your message or fill out the form in the front of the church and give to Lisa/place in the offering plate.

### **BOOK BUNCH:**

The April selection is How To Read A Book by Monica Wood and we are meeting on April 16. Our May selection is Three Hours by Rosamund Lupton and we plan to meet on May 14.

### **DETOUR INFO**

Strawberry Hill Avenue, under the railroad bridge, will be closed in both directions, between Fitch Street and Winfield Street, from April 7, 2025, to October 2025. Traffic to points south of the bridge will be detoured via Fitch Street to East Avenue; traffic to points north of the bridge will be detoured via Winfield Street to East Avenue.

**THE CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU!**

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[www.christepiscopalnorwalkct.org](http://www.christepiscopalnorwalkct.org)

**Vestry**

**Liz Conti Senior Warden, Ruth Lovallo Junior Warden**

**Debbie Ross Treasurer. George Helwig Clerk of the Vestry**

**Barbara Judson Vestry Member, Kim Harris Vestry Member**

**Organist: Betty Belcher**

**What is the mission of the Church?**

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. *Book of Common Prayer, Page 855*