



# Celtic Evensong and Communion

## The Fifth Sunday in Lent

22 March 2026 4:00 pm

*We come from many places to be together for a little while.  
Each of us brings our own experience and traditions to this gathering.  
So here in this place, let us take time together to encounter the holy.  
Please remember to silence all devices.*

### The Opening Rite

#### Opening Musical Meditation

*Citi Na gCumann*

#### Opening Meditation

How great is the power of prayer!....  
To be heard it is not necessary to read from a book  
some beautiful formula composed for the occasion....  
I do like children do who do not know how to read:  
I say very simply to God what I wish to say,  
without composing beautiful sentences,  
and He always understands me.  
For me, prayer is an aspiration of the heart,  
it is a cry of gratitude and love  
in the midst of trial as well as joy;  
finally, it is something great, supernatural,  
which expands my soul and unites me to Jesus.

~ From *Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux*, p. 242.

#### The Confession

**Lord Jesus, you come into our lives when we are least prepared for you. As you enfolded your betrayers so embrace us who struggle to love. Reconcile us with our sisters and brothers, and, for the sake of your love, forgive us all our sins.**

#### The Absolution

As far as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is Christ's loving response to those who are humble; so far does the Spirit's enduring strength uphold those who face the darkness within. As parents are concerned for their children, God comes to those who reach out in faith. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who offered himself for us, forgives our sins by the grace of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

#### The Invitatory and Psalter

Renew and strengthen us, eternal God,  
**as we prepare for resurrection.**

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;  
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.  
Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation, as it was in the beginning, is now and  
will be for ever. Amen.

**Song to the Light** (*to Erhalt uns, Herr*)

**O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.  
Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you his holy Son.**

**Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.  
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.**

**Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, life-giving Lord;  
Wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.**

**Psalm 130**

**1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**

**2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?**

**3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.**

**4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.**

**5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.**

**6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;**

**7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

Glory to the Holy Trinity, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

## **The Lessons and Reflection**

Listen now to the Word of God

### **The First Lesson**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the

breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Musical Response**

*Boyne Water*

## **The Second Lesson**

**John 11:1-45**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and

said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, and for the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection**

**Mary Kay Klein**

**Music after the Reflection**

*Leaving Uist*

## **The Prayers**

### **Prayers for Ourselves and Others**

We pray for all who work through the power of Christ, serving the needs of the poor and healing the wounds of injustice, division, and materialism in our society. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the elderly, the sick, and the lonely among us: that they may receive comfort, companionship, and care from those around them. Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that those who have been persecuted or seriously wronged by others may experience warmth and love with Christ, and be able to forgive those who have hurt them. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that when we are discouraged, we may find strength in the signs of a loving and faithful God in those around us, and the joy of the Holy Spirit within us. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whom we love but no longer see; those who have gone beyond the veil of this mortal life, that their souls and the souls of all the departed may rest in peace. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who have asked for our prayers and for those who have no one to pray for them.

*Here, the people may add their intercessions or thanksgivings either silently or aloud.*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

### **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.**

### **A Collect**

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for James De Koven**

Almighty and everlasting God, who led your servant James De Koven to honor your presence at the altar,

and constantly to point to Christ: Grant that all ministers and stewards of your mysteries may impart to your faithful people the knowledge of your presence and the truth of your grace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Leader* Jesus says, “Come to me you who are troubled and I will give you rest.” So come, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships and doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions of the world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring our brokenness.

*From now until the end of the service, you are invited to come to the Lady Altar  
and light a candle and kneel at the rail for prayers.*

*There is a healing space at the back of the Lady Chapel for you.  
Please move about as the Spirit leads you.*

### **Music during Prayers**

*Sí Beag Sí Mbór*

### **Hymn #482 in *The Hymnal 1982***

*Lord of all hopefulness*

### **The Grace**

See that ye be at peace among yourselves, and love one another. Follow the example of good men and women of old, and God will comfort you and help you, both in this world and in the world which is to come. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

## **The Holy Communion**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right to thank you and praise you, giver of life, beloved of the poor and forgotten. We praise you for the prophets who in spite of persecution spoke your challenging word. We praise you that in Christ you chose to be born in a stable and revealed to poor shepherds. We praise you for Mary, the first witness of the resurrection; and for all the women and men who have been trusted and empowered by you. With all the unremembered, outcast, with the poor and needy, with the trusting and hopeful in all the ages, we praise you saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you for Jesus Christ, born of peasant parents, friend of lepers and tax collectors, who chose a life given up for others. On the night before he died, he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them saying:

**This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.**

After supper he took a cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying:

**This is my life-blood poured out for you. Do this to remember me.**

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Come now Holy Spirit of God; come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that in sharing this feast we may become the body of Christ. Break down walls of selfishness and fear and bring us all to the new age in which none go hungry and all are fed. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **The Invitation**

*Celebrant* This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.  
It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.  
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,  
You who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,  
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.  
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.  
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

### **Communion**

### **Concluding Prayer**

**God of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May joy and nothing less find you on the way.  
May you be blessed and a blessing.  
May light guide you, and countless others, on the way home.  
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

### **Dismissal**

May the Lord grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Concluding Musical Meditation**

*Morgan Magan*

## — Worship Leaders —

The Rev. Sarah A. Conner  
Ryan Patten, Grayson Davison, Lisa Duffy  
Ryan Patten  
Paul Massari  
Mary Kay Klein  
Marianne Cannon  
Marianne Cannon

*Presider*  
*Musicians*  
*Opening*  
*Lector*  
*Reflection*  
*Prayers*  
*Usher*

### Our Prayers are offered for

Mary Brown, Robert Borden, Linda Abbene, Deven Manthorne, Margaret Connor, Chuck Manck, Barbara Dwyer, Lilyann, John Gilbo, Vance Gilbert, Reny Sparapani, Laurel, Gary Young, Amy, Paul, Heather and Prescott, Ariana, Sheridan, Javy, Faith Aroko and Family, Jesse Hurst and Family, Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Marc Britt, those battling cancer, Mel, Corey MacNeil, Dianne, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Priscilla Lemons, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, for the peaceful repose of the soul of Smadar and all victims of war the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries; the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, gun violence and oppression. In thanksgiving, we pray for the ministry of The Reverend Debbie Phillips and her husband, Eric Wagner, this community of faith, for God's grace and forgiveness, for those with the courage to stand up to tyranny, for creation, for the diversity of people, and for all the blessings of this life.

If you have additions or deletions to the prayer list, please email [prayerlist@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:prayerlist@gracechurchsalem.org) by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news. The Parish Prayer List is read aloud each Wednesday at Morning Prayer.

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## Easter Memorials and Thanksgivings

Each Easter, Grace Church offers the opportunity to remember loved ones or give thanks by including their names in the Easter service leaflet.

In this week's leaflets, you will find a form to complete with the name(s) of those you wish to remember or honor and your special Easter donation. Anyone may participate.

Donations may be made by check to Grace Church or online using the "Donate" button on our website. If you donate online, please email [office@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:office@gracechurchsalem.org) with your memorial information.

To be included in the Easter Day leaflets, submissions must be received by **Wednesday, April 1st at noon.**

# UPCOMING Events



## Guided Tour of the Church TODAY!

After today's 4:00 p.m. service, Sarah will offer a guided tour of the church. Starting in the back of the church, we'll learn about the symbolism of the colors and candles, the vessels and vestments, the altar and the font, and other things we see each time we gather for worship. The tour will be brief, about 15-20 minutes.



## Lenten Learning

### Journeying with the Mystics *offered by Cliff*

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
Melangell, ancient Celtic mystic  
Session begins at 7:00 p.m. and concludes by 8:00 p.m.  
Meets in person at Grace (last course in series)

Includes an 8-minute presentation of a mystic followed by discussion. The course's purpose is not to make you an expert on the mystics presented, but to utilize these mystics to enhance each participant's capacity for their own spirituality, to awaken wonder and enchantment in daily life.



# Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 16th

Welcome spring

Hi to all our green thumbs out there.

The annual Grace Church Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 16 this year. Please think of us as you start your seedlings and set a few aside for the sale. Breaking up houseplants? Dividing annuals?

We would be happy to take the extras for the sale. More information will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

Also we would love help with set up, sales and breakdown on the day of. If you don't have anything on your calendar for that day pencil in Grace Church plant sale "help."

# *Holy Week and Easter at Grace*

## **March 29 ~ Palm Sunday**

10 AM • Choral Eucharist with Blessing of the Palms and Reading of the Passion Gospel

4 PM • Celtic Evensong and Communion with Blessing of the Palms and Reading of the Passion Gospel

## **April 2 ~ Maundy Thursday**

7 PM • Choral Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar

## **April 3 ~ Good Friday**

7 PM • Proper Liturgy of the Day, Passion Gospel, and Veneration of the Cross

## **April 4 ~ Easter Eve**

7 PM • Choral Eucharist with Lighting of the Paschal Candle, Holy Baptism, and Prayers from the Celtic Tradition

## **April 5 ~ Easter Sunday**

10 AM • Festal Choral Eucharist

## This Week's Feast: James De Koven

James De Koven was born in Middletown, Connecticut, on September 19, 1831, ordained by Bishop Kemper in 1855, and appointed professor of ecclesiastical history at Nashotah House. In addition, he administered a preparatory school and assisted at the Church of St. John Chrysostom in Delafield, Wisconsin.

Nashotah House was associated, from the time of its foundation, with many of the principles of the Oxford Movement, above all in its emphasis on the sacramental life of the church and the expression of devotion to the Eucharist—including such practices as bowing to the altar, at the name of Jesus, and before receiving Communion. In 1859, De Koven became Warden of Racine College at Racine, Wisconsin.

De Koven came to national attention at the General Conventions of 1871 and 1874, when the controversy over “ritualism” was at its height. In 1871, he asserted that the use of candles on the altar, incense, and genuflections were lawful, because they symbolized “the real, spiritual presence of Christ” which the Episcopal Church upheld, along with the Orthodox and the Lutherans. To the General Convention of 1874, De Koven expressed the religious conviction that underlay his churchmanship: “You may take away from us, if you will, every external ceremony; you may take away altars, and super-altars, lights and incense and vestments . . . and we will submit to you. But, gentlemen . . . to adore Christ’s Person in his Sacrament—that is the inalienable privilege of every Christian and Catholic heart. How we do it, the way we do it, the ceremonies with which we do it, are utterly, utterly, indifferent. The thing itself is what we plead for.”

Because of his advocacy of the “ritualist” cause, consents were not given to his consecration as Bishop of Wisconsin in 1874, and of Illinois in 1875.

Despite calls to serve at prominent parishes in New York City, Boston, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia, he remained in his post at Racine College, where his students admired him as “a model of great learning, gracious manners, personal holiness, and extraordinary compassion.” He died there on March 19, 1879, and is buried on the grounds.”*From Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Church Publishing*

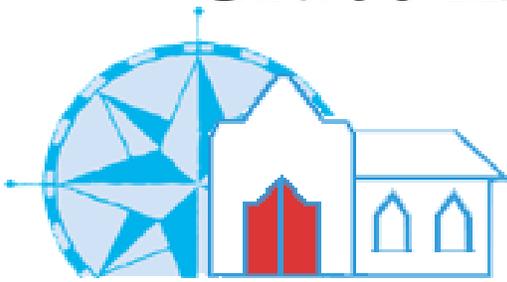


*Portrait of the Rev. James De Koven*



*Racine College (later the DeKoven Center) in Racine, Wisconsin, where the Rev. James De Koven served as Warden and shaped the school’s Anglo-Catholic character.*

# Grace Episcopal Church



385 Essex Street  
Salem, Massachusetts 01970  
(978) 744-2796

*E-mail: [office@gracechurchsalem.org](mailto:office@gracechurchsalem.org)  
Web: [www.gracechurchsalem.org](http://www.gracechurchsalem.org)*

*The Mission of Grace Church is to unconditionally invite all people to join us in building a faithful Episcopal congregation that goes out into the community and through prayer, presence, and partnering improves the quality of life by bringing everyone closer to God.*

## — Grace Episcopal Church —

*A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts*

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe

*Presiding Bishop*

The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth

*Bishop Diocesan*

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner

*Interim Priest*

The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler

*Assisting Clergy*

The Reverend Manny Faria

*Assisting Clergy*

Mark N. Peterson

*Music Director*

Tom and Karen Tucker

*Property Stewards*

Jenny Connors

*Parish Administrator*

### — Vestry —

Ryan Patten

*Senior Warden*

Lisa Duffy

*Junior Warden*

Joanna Troy

*Clerk*

Katie Scott

*Treasurer*

Javy Awan, Kai Freyleue, Christine Reichert,

*Members of Vestry*

Susan Tweed, Caroline Watson-Felt, Holly Willis