

Ash Wednesday

18 February 2026



Choral Holy Eucharist with the
Imposition of Ashes

7:00 pm

Grace Episcopal Church

385 Essex Street • Salem • Massachusetts 01970

(978) 744-2796

Email: office@gracechurchsalem.org Web: www.gracechurchsalem.org

Welcome!

Welcome to those of you here. Here's some information:

Most Sundays, we have Church School at 10:00 am with trained teachers. The classroom is located through the door at the front right of the chapel and down the hall; please ask if you need help finding it. The children will join us in church at the Peace and for Communion. All baptized children of any age are welcome to receive Communion.

Please join in the singing! Hymnals are in the pew and the numbers are listed in the leaflet. "S" numbered hymns are found in the front of the *Hymnal 1982*. The *Book of Common Prayer* may also be found in the rack in front of you.

This is a self-supporting congregation, so when the plate is passed in the middle of the service, please be generous. Today's collection will support our ministries to the community.

At the Eucharist, God welcomes all to the heavenly banquet.

The Episcopal Church offers the sacraments to anyone baptized in any denomination who, through prayer and thoughtful consideration, desires them. Please come to the communion rail to receive the bread whether you are an Episcopalian or not, or to receive a blessing.

When coming to the rail for Communion, please kneel or stand at the rail from right to left until the rail is full. You may receive the wafer, receive the wine after consuming the wafer (no intinction) or may ask for a blessing. Please let the priest know if you need a gluten free wafer.

If this is your first time here, please sign the book at the entrance of the church. If you want more information, our website is www.gracechurchsalem.org. Our weekly newsletter, called Grace Notes, can be found there. If you wish to receive the newsletter, simply go to the website, open Grace Notes and subscribe.

May we all find the service meaningful and the embrace of the community inviting. It is a joy to worship together, wherever we are on our journey.

Choral Holy Eucharist

7:00 PM

Prelude

O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde groß

Johann Sebastian Bach

Hymn at the Procession

The glory of these forty days

The Hymnal 1982, #143

Erhalt uns, Herr

All stand.

Presider

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People

His mercy endures for ever.

Presider

Let us pray. (Silence)

All

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of God

The First Lesson

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near--a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare

your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-14

Tone 8.2



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.

12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for / those who fear him.

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers / that we are but dust.

The Epistle

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

Forty days and forty nights

The Hymnal 1982, #150

Aus der Riefe rufe dich

The Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will

reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner

Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

BCP, page 264

Following the invitation, all kneel in silence

The Imposition of Ashes

The Prayer

BCP, page 265

The Imposition of Ashes

*All are invited to the rail to receive the ashes as a sign
of our complete trust in God's love for each of us.*

Hymn during the Imposition

Wonder, Love and Praise, #888

Kyrie Pantokrator

Psalm 51

BCP, page 266

The Litany of Penitence

BCP, page 267

The Peace

The Holy Communion

The Anthem

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Ave verum corpus

*Hail, true Body, born
of the Virgin Mary,
having truly suffered, sacrificed
on the cross for mankind,
from whose pierced side*

*water and blood flowed:
Be for us a sweet foretaste
in the trial of death!*

*[O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,
O Jesus, son of Mary,
have mercy on me. Amen.]*

The Hymn at the Presentation

Lord, who throughout these forty days

The Hymnal 1982, #142

St. Flavian

The Great Thanksgiving : Eucharistic Prayer A

Page 361

Sanctus

The Hymnal 1982, S124

New Plainsong

The Lord's Prayer

Page 364

The Fraction

The Hymnal 1982, S159

Missa Marialis

All are welcome to come to the rail and reverently receive the bread and wine

Hymn during Communion

And now, O Father

The Hymnal 1982, #337

Unde et memores

Post Communion Prayer

Page 365

Post Communion Hymn

Now let us all with one accord

The Hymnal 1982, #147

Bourbon

Postlude

Herzlich tut mich verlangen

Johann Sebastian Bach

— Worship Leaders —

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner

Presider and Preacher

Mark Peterson

Organist and Choir Director

Joanne Moar

Verger

Gavin Watson-Bertrand

Acolyte

Lisa Duffy

Lector

Joanne Moar

Chalice

Jim Duffy

Usher

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SAVE THE DATES FOR *Lenten Learning*



JOURNEYING WITH THE MYSTICS



Five Thursdays starting February 26th
In-person at Grace from 7:00p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Cliff Cutler will lead an exploration of the mystics to enhance each participants capacity for their own spirituality, and to awaken wonder in daily life.

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EPISCOPAL 101



Four Tuesdays starting February 24th

On Zoom from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
(with one in-person session after each service on
Sunday, March 22nd)

Sarah Conner will lead an introduction to the Episcopal Church for those who are new to it or want to learn more. The class will also prepare adults for baptism, confirmation, or reception into the Episcopal Church.

Please let Sarah know in advance if you'd like to participate.



Suggestions for Keeping a Holy Lent

Pray

Prayer is our conversation with God, spoken and unspoken; to pray is to place ourselves in God's presence. Some ways to pray:

- Attend church each Sunday in Lent.
- Attend an Ash Wednesday service and as many of the Holy Week services as you can.
- Say grace before meals.
- Pray one of the Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families from the prayer book (these are shortened forms of the Daily Office; you can find them at missionstclare.com).
- Set aside 5-10 minutes each day to sit quietly in God's presence.

Fast

To fast is to refrain from something for a time so that we clear space for a greater awareness of God. The absence of something can help us return our focus to God. Some ways to fast:

- Refrain from – or reduce your consumption of – meat, sugar, or caffeine, etc. Then, at Easter, make a donation to The Salem Pantry or another local hunger-relief organization.
- Fast from noise; schedule some time for silence each day, preferably at the same time so it's part of your routine.
- Do a “digital fast” – schedule time in which you do not use your digital devices. You might commit to a digital fast each evening, or for a day or two each week, etc.

Read

Spiritual reading can help recenter us and return our attention to our spiritual life. It also gives us something to reflect on throughout the day. Here are some suggestions:

- Read one of the gospels all the way through, a chapter each day. You might try reading Matthew's gospel, since our Sunday gospel readings this year are mostly taken from Matthew.
- Read one or two psalms each day.
- Do some spiritual reading (e.g., a book of Lenten devotions; *Forward Day by Day*; a book on prayer or the spiritual life).
- Go to episcopalrelief.org/lent and sign up to receive a daily Lenten email from Episcopal Relief & Development, focused on the holy habits of prayer, worship, and engagement with Scripture.
- Reading can include taking a class – consider attending one of the classes offered at Grace during Lent: “Journeying with the Mystics” and “Episcopal 101,” as well as the monthly forum offered by our antiracism team on March 15.

Serve

Thomas Merton wrote, “Action is the stream, and contemplation is the spring.” Our life of prayer and worship flows naturally into service to others. Here are some ways to consider serving:

- Spend some time reflecting on your gifts and skills, and who might need them.
- If you're seeking ways to volunteer, consider a local organization that helps people in need, such as Lifebridge, The Salem Pantry, etc.
- Make a donation to our diocese's [Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund](#).
- Explore [Episcopal City Mission's Emergent Action Network](#) to find resources for immigration and racial justice.

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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
The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth
The Reverend Sarah A. Conner
The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler
The Reverend Manny Faria
Mark N. Peterson
Tom and Karen Tucker

*Presiding Bishop
Bishop Diocesan
Interim Priest
Assisting Clergy
Assisting Clergy
Music Director
Property Stewards*

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten
Lisa Duffy
Joanna Troy
Katie Scott
Javy Awan, Kai Freyleue, Christine Reichert,
Susan Tweed, Caroline Watson-Felt, Holly Willis

*Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Clerk
Treasurer
Members of Vestry*