



Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 23, 2025

8:00 AM & 10:15 AM (with music)

Also Live Streaming at

<https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>

VOLUNTARY

Wondrous Love

Duane Funderburk

Julie Metz, violin

During Lent, there is no Processional Hymn. Following the Prelude, chimes will be sounded to signal the beginning of the service. At the chime, please stand for the opening procession.

The liturgical ministers then enter in silence.

CHORAL INTROIT

Early Will I Seek Thee

Thomas Weelkes

Early will I seek Thee, for my soul thirsteth, Lord, thirsteth for Thee.

I will bless Thee while I live, and lift up my hands in Thy name.

Early will I seek Thee, O God, Thou art my God. (Psalm 63)

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

Presider Bless the Lord ☩ who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Presider reads the following:

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4.14, 16

The Presider then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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.**

Presider 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.**

TRISAGION (8:00 Service)

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.

TRISAGION (10:15 Service)

after Alexander Archangelsky
Arranged by Richard Proulx

Ho - ly God, — ho - ly and might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider 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 people sit)

FIRST READING

Exodus 3.1-15

Lector A Reading from 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':

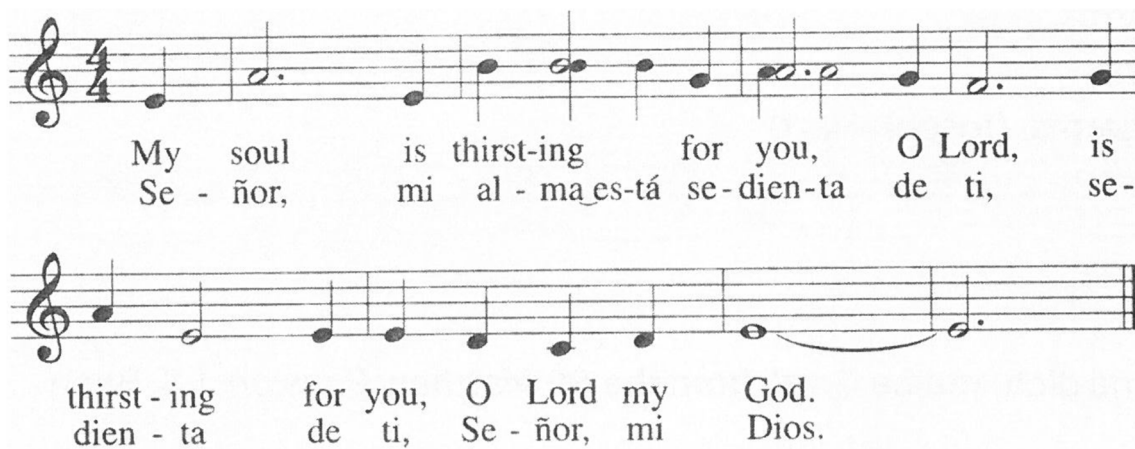
This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations."

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

PSALM 63

Setting: Ronald F. Krisman

The cantor sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats. The cantor sings the Psalm verses. The cantor and congregation then sing the antiphon following each section of verses.



My soul is thirst-ing for you, O Lord, is
Se - ñor, mi al - ma es-tá se-dien-ta de ti, se -
thirst - ing for you, O Lord my God.
dien - ta de ti, Se - ñor, mi Dios.

Andrea Hilliard, cantor

Cantor: *Antiphon (English)*

All: **Antiphon (English)**

Cantor: O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless, and without water.

All: **Antiphon (Spanish)**

Cantor: Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, for your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.

All: **Antiphon (English)**

Cantor: Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

All: **Antiphon (Spanish)**

Cantor: I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night watches I will meditate on you: You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.

All: **Antiphon: English/Spanish**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

Lector A Reading from the First Letter 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.

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

(The people stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

Before Thy Throne, O God, We Kneel

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(Congregation sings vv. 1 & 2, the Gospel is read, then vv. 3 & 4 are sung)

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13.1-9

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that very time 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.'"

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

(The people sit)

SERMON

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

(Silent reflection)

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 for 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 again 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

Gentle people of God, our God is faithful. Let us offer our prayers to God, saying, "God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself; we bless you and we praise you.

O God, you are our God; eagerly we seek you; our souls thirst for you, our flesh faints for you, as in a parched and barren land. Refresh your Church, revive your Church with living water.
God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
We bless you and we praise you.

Faithful God, be the comfort and strength of innocent victims and their families. We pray for all those who die suddenly and unprepared.
God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
We bless you and we praise you.

Mighty God, open our eyes to your presence in the world around us. Set the fire of your presence before us and lead our feet to holy ground.
God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
We bless you and we praise you.

We pray, O God, for victims of violence and abuse. Deliver them; heal their wounds and scars; restore innocence and the ability to trust. Purify our own hearts that we may honor and respect each other.
God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
We bless you and we praise you.

O God, you are our helper; you hide us under the mighty shadow of your wings. Defend your children from all adversities which may happen to the body or soul. We pray for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(Pause)

God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
We bless you and we praise you.

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of our fathers and mothers, feed us with spiritual food; refresh us with spiritual drink. Preserve us, with all your saints, forever. We pray for those who have died, especially for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(Pause)

God, your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
We bless you and we praise you.

Presider All this we ask, O Lord, in Jesus' name, the one who lived and moved among us in our broken world, and who loves us still. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

(Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer: Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

arr. Ronald Turner

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and power.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

(Joseph Hart)

PRESENTATION HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to offer 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:

At the 8:00 Service:

**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.

At the 10:15 Service:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

(A period of silence is kept after the Celebrant breaks the host)

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One
Grant us your peace.

AGNUS DEI (10:15 Service)

O Lamb of God

Communion Service in F, Harold Darke

Jordan Tickner, soloist

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us Thy peace.

The Presider says the following or a similar 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 OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion. **Gluten free wafers are available upon request.***

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Those participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits as actually consuming the consecrated elements.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Erbarme dich, meine Gott" from *St. Matthew Passion*

J. S. Bach

Brianna Zucker, soloist

Julie Metz, violin

Have mercy, my God, for the sake of my tears!
Look here, heart and eyes weep bitterly before you.
Have mercy, have mercy!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

**Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:
may our fasting be hunger for justice,
our alms, a making of peace,
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Presider Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel or bow their heads and the Presider says the following prayer

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Come, We That Love the Lord

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THE DISMISSAL

Presider Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Moderato in D Major

Tommaso Albinoni

Julie Metz, violin

*If you choose to leave during the Postlude, please do so quietly,
out of respect for the Organist and out of courtesy for those staying to listen.*

**Please join us in Francis Hall for refreshments and fellowship
following the worship service**

(Francis Hall is out the main church doors and to the left)

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	<u>8:00 SERVICE</u>	<u>10:15 SERVICE</u>
Presider & Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Organist	—	David York
Crucifer	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Alfonso Lemus	Alice O'Keefe
Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)	Dana Lindsay Holly Graham	Beth Eldon Holly Graham

Texts of Sunday sermons are available on our parish website, at
<http://stgregoryschurch.com/sermons-archive/>

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SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 574


Before Thy Throne, O God, We Kneel

St. Petersburg

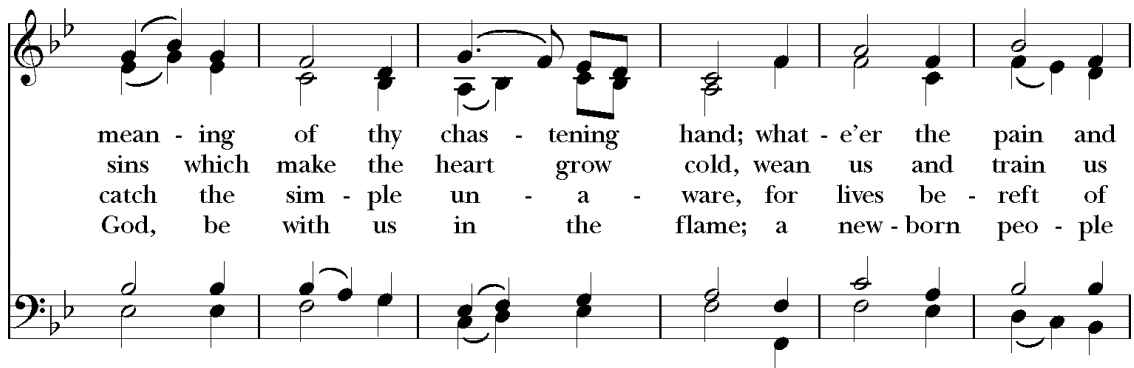
(Congregation sings vv. 1 & 2, the Gospel is read, then vv. 3 & 4 are sung)



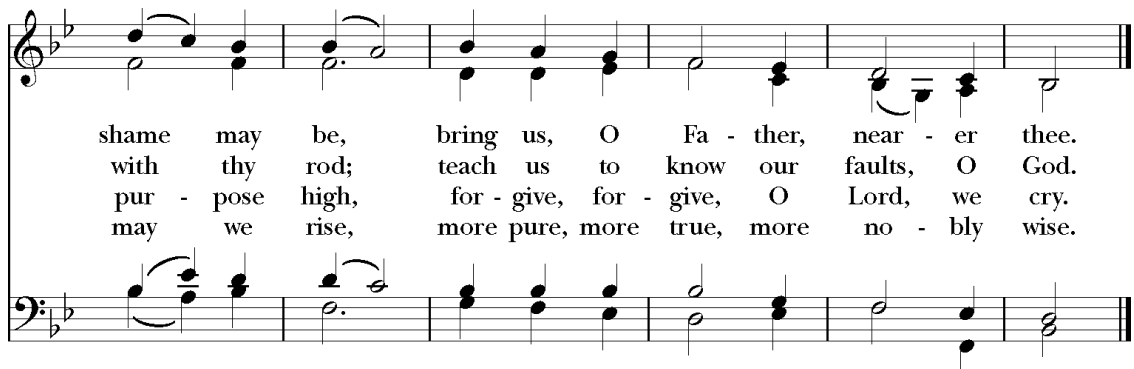
1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science
2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to
3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious
4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits



quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the
all their due. From love of plea - sure, lust of gold, from
to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to
pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O



mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and
sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us
catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - rept of
God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple



shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.
with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.
pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.
may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

PRESENTATION HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Sojourner



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Come, We That Love the Lord

Marching to Zion

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
 4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;

join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -

sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur - round the throne.
 heav'n - ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
 heav'n - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
 man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain

We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:

we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
 Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, March 25

Centering Prayer at **6:30 PM** via Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

Thursday, March 27

Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at **10:00 AM** in the Chapel.

Bible Study at **11:00 AM** in the Fireside Room.

Lenten Soup Supper at **6:00 PM** in the Parish Hall.

Choir Rehearsal at **7:30 PM** in the Choir Room. Contact David York for more information.

Sunday, March 30 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist (spoken) at **8:00 AM** in the Church.

Sunday School

Grades 9 through 12 at **9:30 AM** in the Youth Room.

Grades K through 8 at **10:15 AM** in the Youth Room.

Holy Eucharist (with music) at **10:15 AM** in the Church and live streamed on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

Nursery Care is available on Sundays, starting at 7:45 AM, in the Nursery (Room 3)

Daily Offices (Monday through Friday)

Daily Morning Prayer: Tuesday through Thursday at **9:00 AM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

Daily Evening Prayer: Tuesday through Thursday at **5:00 PM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

For the Daily Offices, you will need either a Book of Common Prayer or you can download the Morning and Evening Prayer liturgies and the Psalms for the week from the St. Gregory's website (www.stgregoryschurch.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 6 – Music at Four

Gamelan Berwarna Warni presents Music from Bali

Gamelan Berwarna Warni is an ensemble dedicated to the mesmerizing and intricate sounds of traditional Balinese music. With a deep reverence for the island's rich cultural heritage, the group specializes in the vibrant and hypnotic rhythms of gamelan, a percussion-based orchestra that forms the heart of Balinese music. The ensemble brings together a range of instruments to create a soundscape that is both ethereal and dynamic. The concert begins at 4:00 PM, with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 15

Centering Prayer at **6:30 PM** on Zoom.

Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday

Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at **10:00 AM** in the Chapel.

Bible Study at **11:00 AM** in the Fireside Room.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Private Confessions) from **3:00 to 4:00 PM** in the Chapel.

Maundy Thursday Service at **7:00 PM** in the Church (in-person and live streamed).

Friday, April 18 – Good Friday

Stations of the Cross at 12:00 Noon beginning in the Chapel.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Private Confessions) from **3:00 to 4:00 PM** in the Chapel.

Good Friday Service at **7:00 PM** in the Church (in-person and live streamed).

Saturday, April 19 – Holy Saturday

Liturgy of the Word at **9:30 AM** in the Chapel.

Great Vigil of Easter at **7:00 PM** starting in the Courtyard (in-person and live streamed).

Sunday, April 20 – Easter Day

Choral Eucharist at **10:15 AM** in the Church (in-person and live streamed).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Possible Lenten Discipline—Bible Study: Are you looking for a spiritual discipline for the upcoming season of Lent? One fun and easy discipline worth considering is to join our parish Bible Study on Thursdays at 11:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Not only do we learn a lot about the Bible, we also have a great time doing it.

Outreach Focus: Sock Drive: This month, March 2- 30, we're collecting socks for our friends who participate in Feed My Lambs. Donations of new, men's athletic-style socks are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the Feed My Lambs bin outside the church. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you can do so in two ways. You may write a check to St. Gregory's and specify "Sock Drive" in the memo line. You may also make a donation through the parish website at <https://stgregorychurch.com/4721-2/> and select "Other Designated Gift," including "Sock Drive" in the description. Thank you for your generosity.

Feed My Lambs THANK YOU: Feed My Lambs wants to extend a big THANK YOU to all those that have volunteered to help each month. Many hands make light work, and we are very appreciative.

Roamin' Gregorians March Outing: The Roamin' Gregorians are planning an outing to the Reagan Library in Simi Valley scheduled for March 29th to see the Dead Sea Scrolls from 8:30 AM to approximately 4:30 PM. Ticket prices are \$29.95 for adults, \$26.95 for Seniors \$22.95 for Youth 11-17, and \$19.95 for children ages 3-10. Children ages 2 and under are free. We plan to carpool, so please respond to either Susan or John by March 6th. More information will be forthcoming. If you are interested or have questions, contact Susan Mora at (310) 894-0731 or John Mora at (562) 577-7562.

Easter Flower Donations: Easter is just weeks away! If you would like to make a donation to help offset the cost of the Easter lilies, you can do so by sending a check to the church with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. Or you can go through the parish website or the Vanco app and use the Other Designated Gift category (just be sure to put Easter Flowers in the adjacent box). And if you would like to make your donation in Memory of, in Thanksgiving of, or in Honor of someone, you can call the parish office or email Kevin at info@stgregorychurch.com with the appropriate information. Please get your dedications into the Parish Office by Tuesday, April 15th so we can get them into the Easter bulletin. Lilies will be available for pick-up after Easter.

Holy Week Passion Narrative Readers: On Palm Sunday (April 13th) and Good Friday (April 18th), we hear the Passion Narrative read in parts. If you are interested in being a reader on either or both of these dates, please let Fr. Michael know. Thank you.

Study of the Rule of St. Benedict: Have you ever wondered what monastic life is like? Ever been curious why The Rule of Benedict is still important 1500 years after St. Benedict's life? Would you like to know how Benedictine spirituality can help everyone better live as Christians in today's world? Then please consider signing up for this year's book study on *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century*. Using Sr. Joan Chittister's commentary on the Rule

and its applications for life today, we'll learn about how a rule of life written in the sixth century can still inform and nurture us today. The class will start on **Thursday, April 24** and run through mid-September (exact date to be determined, as we will miss a few Thursdays here and there over the course of the summer). We'll meet from 6:00 to 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall Conference Room. If you'd prefer a daytime class, we can consider meeting Thursday mornings after the 10:00 Eucharist (let Mother Sharon know if interested in this possibility). If you're interested in joining the class, please sign up in the narthex so that we can buy the correct number of books.

Wildfire Relief: Those wishing to help provide relief from the Los Angeles fires can make donations to one of the following:

Episcopal Relief and Development, the relief agency of the Episcopal Church, provides funds to help in disaster relief and recovery. They have established a "Wildfire Response Fund" to provide help with the Los Angeles fires. You can make a donation at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/give/donate-now/individual-donation/>

One Heart & One Spirit Annual Appeal is a relief fund established by the Diocese of Los Angeles. Currently, all money donated to the One Heart & One Spirit Annual Appeal will go to help parishes and families affected by the fires. You can make a donation at <https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/>

If you are not comfortable making donations online, you can make a donation to the St. Gregory's Rector's Discretionary Fund and the money will be sent to one of the above causes. Make checks payable to "St. Gregory's Episcopal Church" and put "Rector's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line. Then give the check directly to Fr. Michael and he will take care of the rest.

Thank you for your generosity.

Altar Flower Donations: Need a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or friend? Make a flower donation. There is a flower donation chart located on the Narthex wall that you can use to sign up for special dates to donate altar flowers. Simply fill out a donation form attached to the bottom of the chart and return the form to the Parish Office. Payment for flowers can be made by check or online at <https://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2>. Make sure you specify your donation is for Altar Flowers. The Altar Guild thanks you.

Episcopal News Updates: The Diocese provides weekly email updates to help you keep informed about what's happening all over our six-county diocese. If you want to receive the Episcopal News, visit <https://diocesela.org/episcopal-news/contact/> and enter your email address in the box provided.

Feed My Lambs and Food Bank: THANK YOU for your generosity and your donations. Here's the latest news on our parish feeding programs.

- **Feed My Lambs PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE CHANGED THE EGG & COOKIE DROP OFF DAYS.**
 - Feed My Lambs relies on your financial support and appreciates all donations. **WE ARE IN NEED OF YOUR USED PLASTIC GROCERY SACKS.** We use them to pack the lunches, so they need to be clean and in good repair, please.

- Every month we need: **120 HARDBOILED EGGS; 500 HOMEMADE COOKIES**
- **Homemade cookies** can be brought to church on any Sunday, in ziplock freezer bags, labeled “Feed My Lambs” to the kitchen.
- **Hard Boiled Eggs** can be brought to church on any Sunday, in a container labeled “Feed My Lambs” to the kitchen.
- **Wednesday, April 2 from 9:00 AM to Noon** you can deliver to the office:
 - Hardboiled eggs
 - Homemade Cookies
- **Friday, April 4 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM** you can deliver to the kitchen:
 - Hardboiled Eggs
- **Our Guests always need white athletic socks and belts!** Which you can put in the Feed My Lambs bin outside the church on any Sunday.
- **Volunteers** – If you are interested in helping out Feed My Lambs, contact Tamera Benedict at (tlbenedict4@gmail.com, 562.301.6800).
- **Food Bank** The Food Bank relies on your financial support and appreciates all donations of funds or non-perishable food items. We also can use more volunteers at:
 - bagging and distribution the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month from 8:30 to 11:00 AM
 - any other time you may have available and could assist with assembling our bags (e.g. on Sunday before or after service, or any time the office is open for access)
 Please contact Kevin in the Parish Office (info@stgregoryschurch.com, 562.420.1311) or Bill Eldon (billeldon@gmail.com, 562.234.9920) for more information about the Food Bank.

Food Bank Business Cards! Help get the word out about the Food Bank by giving a card to someone in need. You'll find a stack on the table in the Narthex. Please take a few to distribute and help advertise this valuable ministry.

Your continued support of our feeding ministries, through product and monetary contributions, is greatly appreciated!

Gratitude for Your Support of the Parish: We continue to be humbled and so incredibly grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish and its ministries! While you may not be able to drop your donation in a real offering plate, there are still ways you can make sure your donation gets to the parish:

- You can mail your check to the parish office.
- Make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at <http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/>.
- Scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

Parish Directory: Our online parish directory is at <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>. This is a secure site and can be accessed using the email address you had published in the parish directory. You can also download the “Instant Church Directory” on your smart phone. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, iPad, and Kindle.

One Body & One Spirit Annual Appeal: The Diocese has established an ongoing campaign focused on raising funds to assist congregations, schools, affiliated institutions, and their communities who are faced with unprecedented challenges. We are invited to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in our Diocese who may have unmet needs. More information is available at <https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/>.

Forward Day By Day: For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions and need the newest edition mailed, please contact Kevin at 562-420-1311 or info@stgregoryschurch.com.

In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest! In the event of a hospital stay, illness, death in the family, or other pastoral emergency, please call Father Michael on his cell phone (909-373-6478) any day except Monday, his Sabbath day. Mother Sharon (562-833-3393) covers emergencies on Mondays. And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother us. That's why we are here – for YOU!

PRAYER LIST

Lydia Gibbs, Suzan Laverty, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, Patrick McDonough, Mike Laverty, Michael S., Barbara Smuck, Mother Beryl, Eric Graham, Walt Gupton, Scott Morgan, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Harold Peacock, Heather Simundson, Rudy Revell, Jared Baker, Kimberly Bouzguenda, Shannon Romano, Ralph Tesla, Danny Kimball, Betty Lang, Anne Cantrell, Karen McDonough, Kathy Stein, Matt Burger, Kathy Edwards, Darlene Feit-Pretzer, Keeley Gilmore, Betty Peacock, Maria White, Anita Marshall, Laura Mae Harper, Elizabeth Laursen, Dan Tyler, Eric Kela, Dodie Martin, Savannah Jimenez, Martha Wong, Joanne Paine, Jonah Culbert, Lois Woolverton, Carlos Cruz, Alexis Cattivera and Family, Sean Wood, Marina Tesla, Barbara Cleantis, Jim Perreten, Cheryl Rodi, Nancy Luebben, Diane Duacsek

Note: Unless we are aware of on-going concerns, names only stay on the Parish Prayer List for a month. If names need to be re-added, please notify the Parish Office.



ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815
562-420-1311 WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM

WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions. Many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

- To worship and glorify God
- To transform faith into action
- To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend John H. Taylor
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector
rector@stgregoryschurch.com

The Reverend Sharon K. Sheffield, Associate Priest
associate@stgregoryschurch.com

David York, Music Director & Organist
york1635@aol.com

Kevin Wood, Parish Administrator
info@stgregoryschurch.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Tuesday – Friday