



# THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

Lent 2025 Edition

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## This is what makes a Holy Lent



Welcome all to a Holy Lent. This season of “the lengthening of the days” is the time we take a look at ourselves and our covenantal relationship with God; for the preparation of the faithful for this upcoming Easter through prayer, repentance of sins, almsgiving, serving in additional ways, simple living, and self-denial.

Lent is the beginning of our personal reflection and taking full inventory of our need of repentance and to get back on the right track. We need to first remove the areas in our own lives that attempt to block God’s continuous love from coming into our hearts.

Lent is that sacred time to take down the walls that we have built that separate us from the Covenant of our gracious God.

Our loving and compassionate paternal God desires for us to be changed, renewed, and redeemed. Along with our agony, distress, pain and suffering, God is crying out to all of us this Lenten journey: “When is enough truly enough for you, my precious children?” When are we going to wake up and as children of God fully participate in an intimate relationship with God for all creation? When are we all going to fully participate in our faith and take the necessary steps to provide the paradigm shift back to our spiritual well-being?

During the following weeks in our 40-day journey through the desert with our Lord, our Lenten trek this year provides us disciplines of prayer with the Lectio Divina, Bible Study, Stations of the Cross, Movie Mania in Lent and Worship that

leads us in the right perspective to find God's amazing grace. "Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring us all to God."

Before going into the wilderness and beginning the ministry, Jesus prepared us by establishing the understanding of the need of our baptismal covenant and to vividly demonstrate how the Heavenly Father and He were interconnected and ready to transform the world with God's salvation plan. This is the foundation of Lent.

John Wesley explained our Covenantal relationship in his prayer when he said, "I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering... Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal."

This is a holy Lent: To be crucified with Christ means that we deny ourselves and giving up our own will, our own egocentrism, our own arrogance, shame, blame and guilt. And if we don't do this, we will have no concept of what a covenantal relationship is with God through our Baptism, through the Church, through our marriages, through our parenting, through our ministries, through our leadership.

The time is now for us to turn our hearts and the hearts of others towards full repentance, forgiveness, and compassion. The time is now, not only for self-denial, but also an active approach of forgiving each other, feeding the poor, nurturing the poor in Spirit, taking care of the sick and less fortunate in new ways both in-reach and outreach, and to pray for our enemies.

As Christians, the time is now for us to say, "Enough is enough with the numerous types of injustices around our society. The time is now for us to say, Yes Lord, we as the Body of Christ will continually be involved in new ideas to heal our land and to be that beacon of light in community partnerships that will transform.

The time is now to have all immersed by a spiritual renewal that drenches us to truly respect the dignity of every human being. WE need to all recognize the covenant of God and live it with full engagement like our Lord Jesus, first starting through the living water and then moving through the wilderness and onward through our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. This is where our healing and renewal begins. This is what makes a Holy Lent.

A blessed Lenten season,

Fr. Barrett+

# Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras were celebrated at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in the damp evening of March 4, 2025.

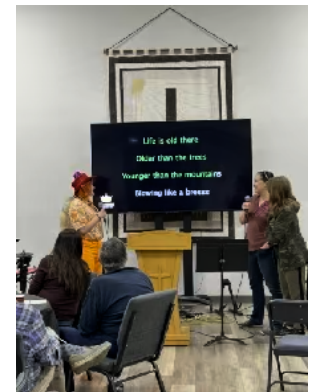
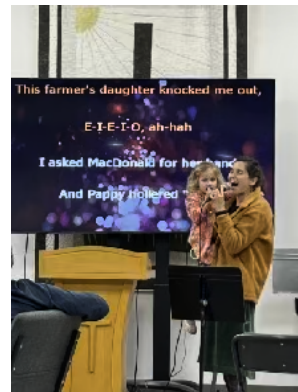
Pyro event- burning of last year's crosses to generate the ashes to be imposed the following morning, Ash Wednesday.

Pix of kitchen crew who made the delicious pancakes and cooked all that sausage

Fr Barrett celebrated by our traditional song for Mardi Gras, "New York, New York".

Lots of Kareoke followed

Pano of event in Emmanuel ParishHall.



## Ash Wednesday



A steady, but intermittent stream of drivers and pedestrians showed up at the drive through venue set up under a tent for Fr Barrett and Tom Johnson due to the threat of rain for them and the ash

and oil containers plus some cleaning supplies. By the time your editor was imposed, nearly 20 had already shown up. CLC was early but no pictures were available.

## First Sunday in Lent The Great Litany

On the first Sunday in Lent, we celebrate the Great Litany, which was the first prayer translated into the English language in the 16th Century, done on command by King Henry VIII by Archbishop Thomas Crammer. The procession walked the Stations of the Cross around the walls of the sanctuary before going to the altar.

A family Child blessing, the Readings by Amy Aul, the Gradual Hymn” performed by Ashley Mangino, Roxanne Young, Piano. The Gospel with Doug Lee assisting Fr. Barrett.

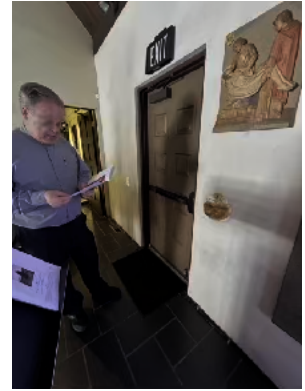






The Sermon, the Peace, The Anthem “Great is Thy Faithfulness” by Wm.M. Runyon arr by Kaffee Peck performed by Roxanne Young, Harp and Aimee Aul, Flutist, good view Lenten vestments, Communion there and in the pews, with Shirley Kistler and family and giving to our two musicians on way back. Recessional with a good look at the beautiful setting at the Font.





After the Dismissal, The Stations of the Cross were read as a small group of us gathered with each one taking a turn to read the Description of each of the stations. This was offered each Sunday of Lent.

## Second Sunday in Lent

The Second Lenten service began silence and proceeded after the Acclamation to the Confession of Sin & Absolution. Readings after the Collect of the day. Reader today was Carol Morris. Gospel and Sermon by Fr. Barrett, The Peace, then various announcements and blessings. Libations and Offering presented, Communion at the Rail and in the pews, the Blessing and Recessional. Snacks after in the Parish hall.







## Third Sunday in Lent



While Brigitte plays the Prelude, the Celebrant procession enters in silence. First thing is the Blessing of the Children and family. Reading after Confession of Sin, Absolution and Collect of the Day, then the Gospel and Sermon. The Peace showed good attendance and a good view of the Church at the Third Sunday. Blessing for Birthdays with anointing, Anthem ("Breath of Heaven by Amy Grant & Chris Eaton) with Dianne Geivert, soloist and Brigitte Bellavoine, piano. Communion with



Libations borne by Marian Lee and son (above),  
Offering by Tom Johnson and Michael Beaver.  
Communion at the Rail. Jump to Parish Hall and  
snacks and finally, our kitchen crew for the day.  
Thanks to all for a ministry well done.



## Fourth Sunday in Lent-Laetare Sunday

Music returns for this Sunday only as Brigitte Bellavione plays the Prelude, “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling.” The color of the day is Rose. After the Opening, Joe Arnold does the Readings, Gospel by Dcn Dominique and Fr Barrett followed by his Sermon. The Peace and various announcements, one being Brigitte with a reminder of the Luninaria event that evening. Did not get fotos for remainder of service-ushering..After snacks, at Scully Hall, with a great spread of food.







## Fifth Sunday in Lent



After a silent entry, blessing of the children and the whole family. Joe Arnold did the readings and Brigitte Bellavione accompanied the Gradual Hymn with voice and piano, followed by Fr. Barrett reading the Gospel assisted by Doug Lee. After the Sermon, the Peace, prayers for healing.



## Lent Schedule

# The Episcopal Church of the Blessed Sacrament

## Holy Week and Easter Day Schedule 2025

Palm Sunday ~ Liturgy of the Palms **April 13 ~ 9:30 am** Meet on the Patio to process with palms

Maundy Thursday **April 17 ~ 5:00 pm** Washing of Feet or Hands followed by Dinner & Church Service

Good Friday **April 18 ~ Noon** Veneration of the Cross

Good Friday **April 18 ~ 7:00 pm** Candlelight Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday **April 19 ~ 6:30 pm** Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday **April 20 ~ 9:30 am** Resurrection of our Lord and Savior.  
Reception & Easter Egg Hunt to follow



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