



Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

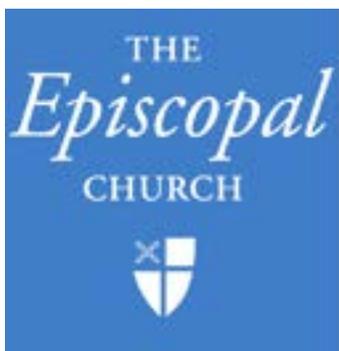
Holy Eucharist, Rite II

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774
865.986.2390

www.episcopalloudon.com



GLORIFYING GOD BY

REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

Good morning! We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today. Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the first time (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and

Our services follow The Book of Common Prayer, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, instead of this order of service booklet, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the blue Hymnal 1982. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (The Gloria) is found before hymn I.

To learn more about Resurrection, check out www.episcopalloudon.com,
email us at office@episcopalloudon.com, or
find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a visitor card or email office@episcopalloudon.com to subscribe to our weekly church email, the Parish Tidings, for all the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook:
facebook.com/episcopalloudon.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Word of God

Prelude *Adagio from Sonata I* Felix Mendelssohn
Entrance Hymn *Please stand as able.*
O love, how deep, how broad, how high **Hymnal 448**

Opening Acclamation BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

All **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Kyrie (Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.) Hymnal S-91

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7

Lector A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’”

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32 *Beati quorum*

Lector We will read the Psalm responsively.

BCP 624

Congregation reads the bold lines.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *

and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *

and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *

because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *

my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *

and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *

when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; *

you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *

I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *

but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *

shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Lector and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson: Romans 5: 12-19

Lector A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Please stand as able.

Lord, who throughout these forty days (verses 1-3)

Hymnal 142

The Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn

Lord, who throughout these forty days (verses 4 & 5)

Hymnal 142

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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.

The Prayers of the People

Common Worship, Intercessions for Lent

Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, kneeling, or sitting as able.

Intercessor We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him this Lent. Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for the leaders of our nation and our world, especially for the President of the United States and cabinet officials, members of Congress, and Supreme Court justices, as well as the Tennessee governor and state legislators, that they may lead with mercy, wisdom, integrity, and compassion. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. We pray especially for our neighbors here in Loudon County and our state of Tennessee. May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. We pray for

People **The Mott family, Vicky & Dave, Carolyn, Ruth & Frank, Lee R., the Bailey family, the McAfee family, Diane & Cal, Jim, Tom, Marshall S., Brenda B., Jackie C., David H., and all who are in pain or distress; and all who are suffering due to oppression, war, gun violence, or natural disasters.**

Intercessor May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. Especially we hold Tammy in our minds. May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People **give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity. Amen.**

Hold a moment of silence.

Celebrant God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

**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.**

Absolution of Sin

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sin through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Please stand as able.

Celebrant May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2a

Offertory Music

Ah, Holy Jesus

arr. Mark C. Jones

Doxology (sung together)

Hymnal 380, verse 3 only

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Celebrant For all things come from you, O Lord;

People **and of your own have we given you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 2

Enriching Our Worship

Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts) (Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.)

Celebrant The Lord be with you,

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Sanctus (Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.)

Hymnal S-124

**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.

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

Celebrant On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

AMEN. (Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.)

Hymnal S-146

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Music *Aria*

Charles Callahan

We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable.

Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail.

After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way.

If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, you may come forward to the altar rail along with those receiving communion.

Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you prefer a blessing.

Post-Communion Prayer

Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth a people,
forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

The Blessing

Celebrant The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Hymnal 559

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Annum per annum: Agnus Dei

Arvo Part

Art & Scripture Lenten Reflection

Jacopo Bassano. *The Good Samaritan*, c. 1562-3. Oil on canvas. The National Gallery, London. <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/jacopo-bassano-the-good-samaritan>

Luke 10: 25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend."

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Reflection on the painting and the passage continues on the back cover.

Parish Announcements, Prayers & Thanksgivings

Book Conversation with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers March 9 at 7 p.m. at St. John's Cathedral

Bishop Brian Cole and St. John's Cathedral host this inspiring gathering with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, whose new book—*Church Tomorrow?: What the 'Nones' and 'Dones' Teach Us About the Future of Faith*—wrestles with the decline of traditional religion and the voices of nonreligious Millennials and Gen Zs.

Spellers traveled America to ask young 'Nones' and 'Dones': Why are they saying "no" to church? Where are they experiencing the sacred and belonging? What would they tell churches? And where do we go from here? If you're wondering about church tomorrow, let's listen today.

Spring Clean-Up Days

Spring clean up will be a bit extended this year to get our campus ready for Easter and the Care of Creation events in April. Please mark the following on your calendars so you can lend a hand to the efforts.

Mid-March: We will be cleaning and repainting of the picnic tables and benches.

Fri., Mar. 27: Flower Bed Friday!

A day for sprucing up all of our flower beds, shrubs, and garden areas, including weeding, trimming, mulching, planting, splitting, etc.

Sat., Mar. 28: Spic-n-Span Saturday!

A day for cleaning, sweeping, dusting, window washing, power washing, etc.

Questions? Contact Mark Hennes,
juniorwarden@episcopalloudon.com

Our parish prayer list

The Mott family, Vicky & Dave, Carolyn, Ruth & Frank, Lee R., the Bailey family, the McAfee family, Diane & Cal, Jim, Tom, Marshall S., Brenda B., Jackie C., David H.

Continuing prayers for

Brian E., Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.; the Hentchel family; Pat; Claire; Sandy; Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane; Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack; Ashley; Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe; Beverly; Grace; Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey; Johnny; and Karen H.

Pray for our vestry leaders

Class of 2026: Alice A., Dianna S., Jenny L.
Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.
Class of 2028: Holly P., Tom R., Bonnie S.
Wardens: Bonnie S. and Mark H.;
Treasurer: Sally Leonhard

February Birthdays

Rosemary Kitts February 3
Trish Dooner February 8
Anne Wegener February 9
Elizabeth Botica February 10
Dianna Stimpson February 11
Jean Cardwell February 12
Tom Russell February 22
Mark Blakley February 24
Andrew Wilkinson February 24
Andy Hadjian February 28
Bill Perry February 29

February Anniversaries

Jerry & Erllys Ploeger February 8
John & Janet Cardwell February 9
Jeff Lewis & Trish Dooner February 14

For Your Calendars

THIS WEEK

Feb. 22	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.		
Acolyte	Judy Hadjian	Drew Hawley	Altar Guild	Judy Egan & Janey Coombes
Euch. Minister	Holly Pate	Monty Ross	Flower Guild	Lent/no flowers
Lector	Jerry Ploeger	Keytha Graves		Accompanist Kate Lee
Ushers	Carl Bye	Andy Hadjian & David Baumgardner		
Coffee Hour	Erlys Ploeger	Elizabeth & Steve Botica	Celebrant/Preacher	Rebecca Bridges
Video	n/a	Bill Schwindt	Offering Counters	Andy Hadjian
Chancellor	Jerry Ploeger	Betsy Schwindt		& Nelda Griffith

NEXT WEEK

Mar. 1	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.		
Acolyte	Judy Hadjian	Mark Smith	Altar Guild	
Euch. Minister	Mark Hennes	Bonnie Smith	Flower Guild	Lent/no flowers
Lector	Jack Lefler	Bill Perry	Accompanist	Kate Lee
Ushers	Jen Hennes	Garry Lucas & Art Stewart		
Coffee Hour	Rosemary Kitts	Virginia & Bill Perry	Celebrant/Preacher	Mary Davis
Video	n/a	Bob Cantine	Offering Counters	Jean Cardwell
Chancellor	Peggy Rogers	Nelda Griffith		& Monty Ross

This week at Resurrection

Sunday, February 22

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken), Nave
 9:30 a.m. Lent Reflection Group, Chapel
 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (choral), Nave

Monday, February 23

10:30 a.m. Companions group, classroom

Tuesday, February 24

1 p.m. Education for Ministry, Library

Wednesday, February 18

12 Noon, Holy Eucharist (spoken), Nave
 1:00 p.m., Lent Reflection Group, Library

Sunday, March 1

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken), Nave
 9:30 a.m. Lent Reflection Group, Chapel
 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (choral), Nave

Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Monday, March 9

Bishop Brian Cole & Canon Stephanie Spellers
 book conversation, St. John's Cathedral, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 22

Four Paws Sunday (pet food/supply ministry)

Friday, March 27

Flower Bed Friday

Saturday, March 28

Spic-n-Span Saturday

Monday, April 20 through Friday, April 24

Diocesan Pilgrimage: Merton's Kentucky

Email Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Becky Bridges:
 rector@episcopalloudon.com or (865) 986-2390.

For urgent pastoral needs after hours: (865) 242-9240

Email Senior Warden Bonnie Smith:
 seniorwarden@episcopalloudon.com

Email Junior Warden Mark Hennes:
 juniorwarden@episcopalloudon.com

Art & Scripture Lenten Reflection

Jacopo Bassano. *The Good Samaritan*, c. 1562-3. Oil on canvas. The National Gallery, London. <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/jacopo-bassano-the-good-samaritan>
Note: The text of the corresponding scripture passage, Luke 10: 25-37, is found on page 11.

Painting lets us be in several places at once. Here, we are, of course, on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, but we're also not far from Venice. Ahead of us, we see the city of Bassano, where the artist lived and worked, and near where the first owner of this painting probably lived. The figure hurrying past on the left, absorbed in his sacred text and his clerical concerns, is dressed like a priest. Jesus's parable is about the place that we live in and the people that we know, about the religious conventions that govern us – now.

It's a small picture, to be looked at and pondered at home – a stand-off between knowledge of the law on the one hand, and on the other, a love that knows no rules. It shocks. The priest and the Levite are surely both kind men, as well as devout, but concerns about ritual purity or temple duties inhibit them from acting. It is the infidel outsider – the middle-aged, bald man, not as fit as he used to be, unconcerned that his expensive clothes are getting dirty – who lives out the real meaning of the kingdom of God.

Painting also lets us be in several texts at once, expanding and deepening meaning. The two exquisitely painted dogs lapping up the blood recall the dogs that gather the crumbs under the table in the Syro-Phoenician woman's insight, that God's love must surely extend beyond the Jews (Mark 7.28). The body of the wounded man, heaved up with such effort, would have reminded any contemporary spectator of the body of Christ, carried to the tomb. The Samaritan, in his impulsive charity, has not just set the ethical example: he has literally embraced the God of universal love.

Wonderings for Further Reflection

- How does the picture speak to you?
 - I wonder how it answers the question for you: "Who is my neighbour?"
- In the gospels, outsiders can often see the living love of God more clearly than those close to the temple.
 - I wonder why that is and what that means for us and the church today.
- The Samaritan was able, even without Jesus's teaching, to live the unconditional love of the kingdom of God.
 - I wonder what we and the church can learn from the insights of other cultures, other faiths, or those who have a very different understanding of Christ.
 - I wonder what we can learn from those who feel excluded.

During the Season of Lent, we are featuring paintings from the National Gallery, London accompanied by Lent reflections by art historian Neil MacGregor. A link to the complete Lent Course Study Guide PDF (for all seven weeks of Lent) is included in our weekly Tidings email. We thank the clergy and staff of the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields for sharing these Lenten reflections. Weekly video reflections are found on their church YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@stmartin-in-the-fields1726/streams>
