



HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lætare Sunday
March 30, 2025 | 10:15 AM

*Rejoice, O Jerusalem; and gather round, all you who love her;
rejoice in gladness, after having been in sorrow;
exult and be replenished
with the consolation flowing from her motherly bosom.
I rejoiced when it was said unto me:
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."*

Joy in the Heart of Lent

Today marks the midpoint of Lenten, a brief pause in this season of penitence and preparation. The word Lætare comes from the Latin for “rejoice,” the first word of the traditional introit for this day pasted above. In our tradition, this Sunday serves as a gentle lifting of the Lenten solemnity, a foretaste of the Easter joy to come.

We wear rose-colored vestments today and on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent. The pink symbolizes joy, hope, and refreshment—a reminder that even in the wilderness, there is beauty and encouragement. It’s a spiritual “deep breath” as we continue toward Holy Week.

At Holy Innocents’, we continue our Lenten practices of reflection, renewal, and spiritual growth. Our liturgy remains contemplative, but on this day, we embrace a note of gladness. We pray with ancient and familiar words, using an updated version of the traditional Rite I Eucharistic Prayer, echoing the beauty of our 1928 Prayer Book.

Whether you are a longtime member or visiting for the first time, you are welcome here. This season is an invitation to return, to reflect, and to rejoice. We are glad you have joined us in worship, fellowship, and service. If you are new, please fill out a newcomer card in person or online so we can personally welcome you.

Let this Lætare Sunday renew your spirit and rekindle your hope.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Nursery care is available for children under four during the 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM services.

We are grateful for your **generosity** that sustains our mission to follow Christ and serve others. Scan the QR code to give.



*The people stand as
they are able at the
sound of the bell.*

*The peoples'
responses are in
bold.*

*Our service is taken
from the red Book
of Common Prayer
(BCP) in the pew rack.*

*Our music is in the
blue hymnal.*

Prelude | O Blessed Spring JAMES BIERY

Hymn 411 | O Bless the Lord, My Soul ST. THOMAS (WILLIAMS)

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Collect for Purity

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.**

Kyrie | FRANZ SCHUBERT

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

The First Lesson | Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

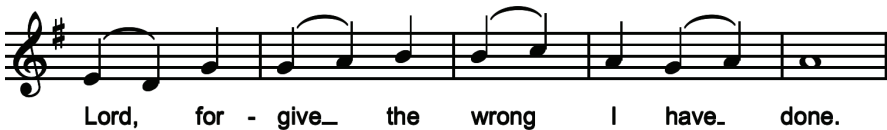
The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people may be seated.

Psalm 32 | ST. NÖEL CHABANEL



ANTIPHON

Blessed is the one whose fault is taken away,
whose sin is covered.

Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt,
in whose spirit there is no guile.

ANTIPHON

I acknowledged my sin to you,
my guilt I covered not.
I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD,"
and you took away the guilt of my sin.

ANTIPHON

You are my shelter; from distress you will preserve me;
with glad cries of freedom you will ring me round.

ANTIPHON

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just;
exult, all you upright of heart.

ANTIPHON

The Second Lesson | 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

The Gospel Procession reminds us that it is our responsibility to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ into all the world.

During the Gospel processional, children ages Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to follow the cross to attend Children's Chapel.

The children will return during the peace.

We stand, as we are able, to listen to this reading. Some will trace a cross with their thumb over their forehead, lips, and heart. This "enacted prayer" asks that the Gospel be inscribed in our minds, spoken with our lips and loved in our hearts.

Hymn 147 | Now Let Us All With One Accord BOURBON

VV. 1-2 BEFORE; VS. 3 AFTER

Gospel | Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough

and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon | The Rev. T. Stewart Lucas VICAR

The people are seated.

The 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us in your ways of reconciliation, that through confession forgiveness, repentance and amendment of life, your church may bear faithful witness to your redeeming love.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to lands of drought and sunshine to places overwhelmed by flood, that the earth may once again yield what nourishes and sustains life.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as one human family. Give leaders the courage to set aside pride and self-interest, to stop the squandering of lives and time, and to work for justice, peace, and the well-being of all.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion. Embrace all who are far from home, estranged from loved ones, or burdened by regret. Empower your people to both seek and offer forgiveness.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of unconditional welcome, expand our human circles to include all who have been excluded. Bless ministries that reach those on the margins, that the hospitality of Jesus may be made real for all people.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection life, welcome into your eternal peace all who have died, especially Bill Comer and Natalie Cato. We give thanks for their lives, and entrust them into your keeping, where reconciliation is complete, and joy knows no end.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people, O God, and draw all things together in your love, through Jesus Christ, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel and silence is kept.

**Almighty and most merciful God,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against your holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have
done.
O God, have mercy upon us,
spare those who confess their faults,
restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to us
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may ever hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The people greet one
another in the
name of the Lord.*

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The people are seated.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. An offering is received to support Holy Innocents' ministry of sharing God's love. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed or with QR code on page 1.

Offertory Anthem | Deep River DAVID H. WILLIAMS

ALLISON NANCE, SOLOIST

Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.
O don't you want to go to the gospel feast, that promised land
where all is peace?

[trad. spiritual]

Presentation Hymn | OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving | RITE I, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

The Sanctus | FRANZ SCHUBERT

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en 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.

All glory be to you, O Lord our God, for you created heaven and earth, and made us in your own image; and, of your tender mercy, gave your only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we your people do celebrate and make, with these your holy gifts which we now offer to you, the memorial your Son commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech you, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire your fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech you, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all your whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

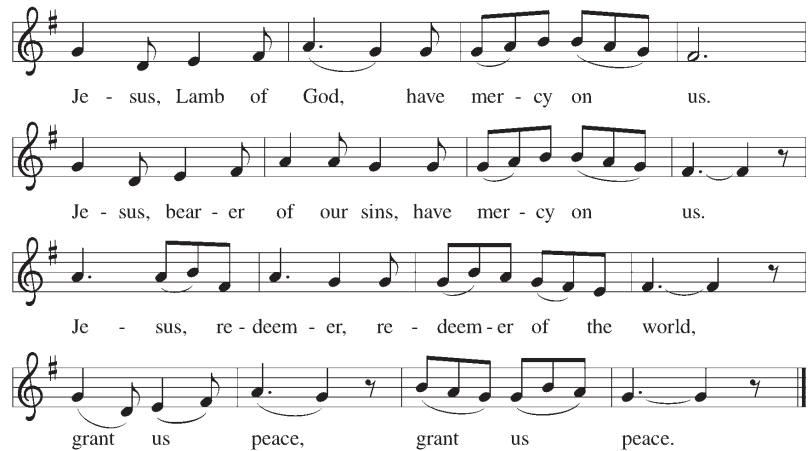
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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 Fraction and Invitation

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

Agnus Dei | FRANZ SCHUBERT



All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Communion. Receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and respond by saying "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available; please notify a minister. Receiving the bread is full participation in the Eucharist. Wine is also available. If you prefer to receive a blessing, indicate this by placing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

Hymn 343 | Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless ST. AGNES

Anthem | O Taste and See RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

NATALIE BOEHNLEIN, SOLOIST

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is.
Blessed is the man that trusteth in him!

[Psalm 34:8]

The people stand as able.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we heartily thank you for feeding us in these holy mysteries,
with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us of your favor and goodness towards us;
and that we are very members incorporate
in the mystical body of your Son,
the blessed company of all faithful people;**

**and are also heirs, through hope, of your everlasting kingdom.
And we humbly beseech you, O heavenly Father,
so to assist us with your grace,
that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all such good works
as you have prepared for us to walk in;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

Blessing

Hymn 690 | Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

A Liturgy for the Burning of our Mortgage

Today we mark a sacred turning point.
For many years, we have carried the weight of this debt—
a burden that has limited us in body, in spirit, and in vision.
And yet, by God's grace and through the faithful efforts of many—
those who walk among us, those who came before us,
and those now at rest in God's eternal care—
we have arrived at this joyful moment.
We remember our founders,
who dreamed this church into being.
We give thanks for all who gave—
generously, sacrificially, quietly, and consistently—
and for those who managed our finances with wisdom and care.
Today we rejoice, for the burden is lifted.
What once stood in our way has been cleared.
The weight we carried is no more.
Amen! We praise your name, O God!

Litany of Letting Go

For debts repaid,
for burdens lifted,
for freedom restored—
Thanks be to God.

For resentments we release,
for sins we confess,
for the grace we receive—
Thanks be to God.

For every expectation we lay down,
for every grief we entrust to God,
for every fear we set aside—

Thanks be to God.

For the ones who gave before us,
for the founders whose vision we now fulfill,
for those who gave and now rest in peace—

Thanks be to God.

Burning of the Mortgage

The treasurer comes forward with the document.

We now offer this mortgage to the fire—
not as a symbol of what we owe,
but as a testimony of what God has done in us and through us.

The mortgage is burned.

Let this offering rise like incense—
a sign of release,
a symbol of joy,
a testimony to God's faithfulness.

Burning of the Letting Go Notes

The baskets of personal notes are brought and added to the fire.

We now offer our own burdens—
our sins, regrets, griefs, and expectations—
knowing that God's mercy is greater than our past,
and God's future is full of hope.

Silence is kept.

May what we offer to the fire today clear the way
for God's grace to take deeper root in our lives.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Sending

Gracious God,
you have done a new thing in our midst.
You have turned our mourning into dancing,
our debt into delight,
our burden into blessing.
May we go forward with lighter hearts,
freer hands, and joyful spirits—

ready to serve, ready to give,
ready to build your kingdom with love.
Bless our celebration, bless our feast,
and may the fire of your Spirit
continue to burn in our hearts
as we walk in newness of life.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the God who frees us from all that binds us
fill you with peace and strength.
May Christ, who makes all things new,
walk beside you on the path ahead.
May the Holy Spirit go before you,
kindling in you the fire of joy and gratitude.
And the blessing of God Almighty—
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—
be upon you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn | Alleluia! Sing to Jesus HYFRYDOL

Now we stand with joy before you,
debts behind us, hearts made free.
All we have, O Lord, we offer,
for your work and ministry.
Thanks we give for saints before us,
founders, dreamers, faithful hands—
Now we build upon their witness,
walking boldly in your plans.

Let this fire of grace and freedom
light our hearts with holy flame.
May we live as signs of mercy,
bearing love in Jesus' name.
Bless this feast, this sacred moment,
bless the work still yet to be—
Yours the church, the hope, the future,
all for your eternity.

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We are here for you.

If you have a pastoral emergency at any time, please call the church office and follow the prompts. You will immediately be connected to Bill, Stewart or Ruth, who take turns being on-call. The word “pastor” is the Latin word for shepherd. The Community of Hope at Holy Innocents is a community of lay persons in the parish who have been deeply and thoroughly trained in the care and practice of being a pastor. If you would like to talk or pray with a lay pastoral caregiver, please email CoH@holyinnocents.org

Connect

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HAYLEY KELLY Senior Warden
JENNY PITTMAN CANTRELL Junior Warden
CAMMIE IVIES Secretary
DOUG PETERSON Treasurer
WES FRANCE Assistant Treasurer
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JOHN RASH	JOHN CUMMINGS
KARLA SMITH	ANNA MARIE FULBRIGHT
MARY KATHERINE WILLIS	GREG EUSTON
RICK OTNESS	MICHELLE VENTULETT
TRICIA CARLSON	

Youth Members

LUCY PETERSON	ELLISON LOSIN
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HOLY INNOCENTS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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