

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 15, 2026 ❖ 8:00 am



Celebrant: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Preacher: Cara Nilsen

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump

We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome all people into our community without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.

St. Francis Episcopal Church welcomes all people to receive Holy Communion. If you have not been baptized but would like to be, please talk to Father Jason after the service.

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

This Week at St. Francis

Sunday, March 15

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Library)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:30 am Annual Antiques Show Meeting (Board Room)

Monday, March 16

- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 17

- 4:30 pm Teen Tuesday Youth Group (Parish Hall)
- 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, March 18

- 10:00 am Midweek Holy Eucharist (Rite II, Chapel)
- 11:00 am Good Grief Meeting
- 5:30 pm Lenten Dinner (Parish Hall)
- 7:00 pm Women's Lectionary Study (Library)

Thursday, March 19

- 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

Friday, March 20

- 4:00 pm St. Luke's Breakfast Prep

Saturday, March 21

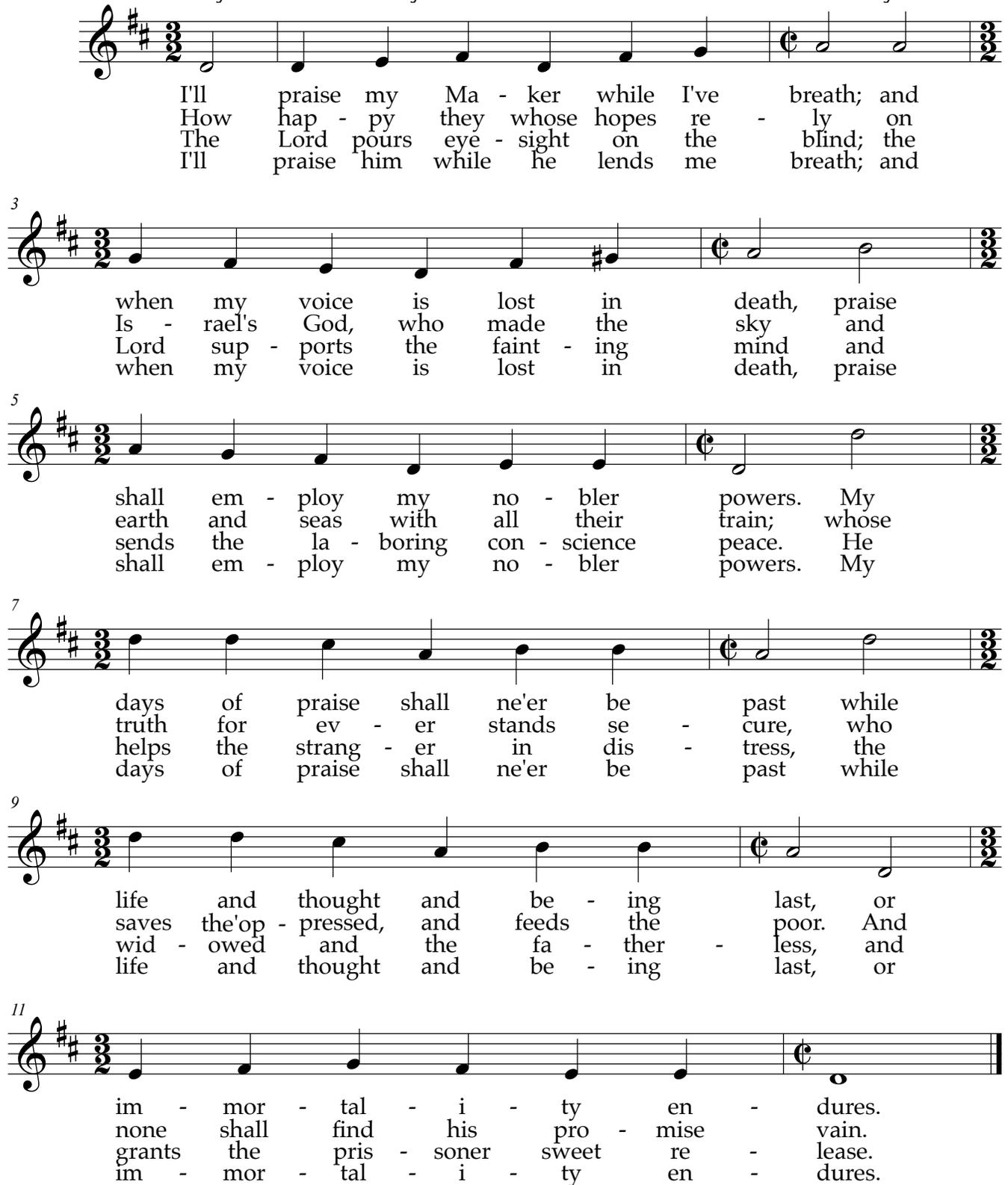
- 7:15 am St. Luke's Breakfast
- 9:00 am Altar Guild Silver Polishing
- 11:00 am Meditation Class (Library)

Sunday, March 22

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Library)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:30 am Faithful Families Potluck (Parish Hall)

The Processional Hymn: I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath

Hymnal #429



I'll praise my Ma - ker while I've breath; and
 How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly on
 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the
 I'll praise him while he lends me breath; and

3
 when my voice is lost in death, praise
 Is - rael's God, who made the sky and
 Lord sup - ports the faint - ing mind and
 when my voice is lost in death, praise

5
 shall em - ploy my no - bler powers. My
 earth and seas with all their train; whose
 sends the la - boring con - science peace. He
 shall em - ploy my no - bler powers. My

7
 days of praise shall ne'er be - past while
 truth for ev - er stands se - cure, who
 helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the
 days of praise shall ne'er be past while

9
 life and thought and be - ing last, or
 saves the'op - pressed, and feeds the poor. And
 wid - owed and the fa - ther - less, and
 life and thought and be - ing last, or

11
 im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.
 none shall find his pro - mise vain.
 grants the pris - soner sweet re - lease.
 im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748); alt. John Wesley (1703-1791), alt.; para. of Psalm 146.
 Music: "Old 113th," melody from "Strassburger Kirchenami," 1525; harm. Vicar Earle Copes (b. 1921).

A Penitential Order: Rite One.....Book of Common Prayer p. 319

The Decalogue.....Book of Common Prayer p. 317

The Kyrie.....Book of Common Prayer p. 324

The Collect of the Day: Fourth Sunday in LentBook of Common Prayer p. 167

The First Lesson..... 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Response..... Psalm 23 (Book of Common Prayer p. 612)

The Epistle Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The Holy GospelJohn 9:1-41

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can

work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Sermon.....Cara Nilsen

The Nicene CreedBook of Common Prayer p. 327

The Prayers of the PeopleBook of Common Prayer p. 328

The PeaceBook of Common Prayer p. 332

The Welcome and Announcements

Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing:
 Watch over your child(ren), 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 the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great ThanksgivingBook of Common Prayer p. 333

The Prayer of Humble AccessBook of Common Prayer p. 337

The Post-Communion Prayer.....Book of Common Prayer p. 339

The Blessing and Sending Forth.....Book of Common Prayer p. 339

The Recessional Hymn: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Hymnal #493



O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and
 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new
 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your
 Glo - ry to God and praise and love be

3



dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim and spread through all the
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive, the mourn - ful bro - ken
 loos - ened tongues em - ploy; ye blind, be - hold, your
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

6



God and King, the — tri - umphs of his grace!
 earth a - broad the — hon - ors of thy Name.
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis — life and health and peace.
 hearts re - joice, the — hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 Sa - vior comes; and — leap, ye lame, for joy!
 saints a - bove, the — Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: "Azmon," Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829);
 adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

The Postlude

Jesu, meine Freude (BWV 610)

J.S. Bach

Announcements

Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday, March 26 at 9:30 am

Families with children up to age 12 are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Town and Country Nursery School! Bring your baskets and your sense of adventure for a morning of fun, laughter, and plenty of hidden eggs.

Volunteers Needed: Folding Bulletins for Good Friday and Easter

Are you available to come to the church office on **Thursday, April 2, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**, to fold bulletins for the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services? If you can help, please contact Gina at 310-375-4617 or gina.mcqueen@stfrancispalosverdes.org.

Meditation Class begins

David Knight will be leading a new Meditation Class in the St. Francis Library on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays of each month. For more info, contact David at nemomediagroup@gmail.com.

Antique Show Gala Silent Auction – We’re Collecting Treasures!

Do you have a special something that could steal the spotlight at our Gala Silent Auction? We’re on the hunt for silent auction donations to help make our event on Wednesday, May 27, a sparkling success!

Think crowd-pleasers like:

- Handmade jewelry or craft items
- Themed dinners, wine tastings, gardens tours or other fun social experiences - always our TOP SELLERS!!!
- Sports or theater tickets
- Beautiful home décor or luxury items
- Specialty services - handyman, sports or music lessons
- Gift cards for restaurants, entertainment or retail
- ...or any unique treasure guests would love to bid on!

If you’d like to contribute, please contact Mary Deley at mary_deley@yahoo.com. Items may be dropped off at the church office, or we’re happy to arrange a pickup that works for you. Tax-deductible donation statements are available upon request.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Antique Show — we truly couldn’t do it without you!

Stay in-the-know!

Subscribe to our weekly email newsletter, *Bellringer Weekly*, and receive all the news and events in your inbox each week! *Bellringer Weekly* goes out on Thursday evenings (usually). Subscribe today at stfrancispalosverdes.org/subscribe

Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Alyssa Capellino Baxter, Barry Witt, Drew Deley, Jonathan Zimmerman, Joseph Leahy, Mark Kappelmann, Michael Strong, Michael Valiquette, Scott Ruston, Steve, Thomas Dawson, and TJ Malzahn, Will Piepenbring.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Amy Clute, Andrea, Anne Sharp, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Bob Cook, Brad, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Celeste Stump, Ceri Falk, Chris, Colette Furbush, Connie, Dana Genzel-Diaz, Daniel Drayling, Elizabeth Beadle, Erica, Irena Dybeic, Jerry Pinkston, Joseph and Danielle Diestel, Judy Morgan, Kathy Falk, Kerry Myers, Kristen, Krystal, Loren, Marilyn and Dale Ghere, Miguel Diaz, Natalie Massey, Otto, Patt Parker, Phyllis Niski, Richard Cantine, Rob Ramsay, Roxanne Wall, Roz Hadley, Sally Hill, Susan Crouse, Tess Jones, Tommy, the people of the Middle East, and for victims of violence everywhere.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

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