



# Wednesday in the Third Week of Lent

**Ministers: The People of St. John's**

**March 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Royal Oak, MI**

## St. John's Welcome Statement



Welcome! We are St. John's, a parish that invites you to be a part of our community and warmly embraces you when you do. At St. John's, our history has taught us that accepting and embracing true diversity is challenging. As a result, we have come to claim a firm, undying commitment to inclusion. So here is our invitation to you: regardless of your cultural background, ethnicity, gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or heterosexual identity, economic

status, physical or cognitive ability – you will not be labeled, singled out or excluded here. You will be welcomed, affirmed, embraced and celebrated! We will be better because you are here. *Adopted by unanimous vote at St. John's Annual Meeting, January 31, 2016*

## PRELUDE

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Officiant* O Lord our God, you sustained your ancient people in the wilderness with bread from heaven: Feed now your pilgrim flock with the food that endures to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Isaiah 49:8–15

*Marie Donigan*

*Lector* A reading from Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

In a time of favor, I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, “Come out,” to those who are in darkness, “Show yourselves.”

They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up.

Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.” Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 145:8–19

*Marie Donigan*

- 8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 The Lord is loving to everyone \*  
and his compassion is over all his works.
- 10 All your works praise you, O Lord, \*  
and your faithful servants bless you.
- 11 They make known the glory of your kingdom \*  
and speak of your power;
- 12 That the peoples may know of your power \*  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; \*  
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
- 14 The Lord is faithful in all his words \*  
and merciful in all his deeds.
- 15 The Lord upholds all those who fall; \*  
he lifts up those who are bowed down.
- 16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, \*  
and you give them their food in due season.
- 17 You open wide your hand \*  
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.
- 18 The Lord is righteous in all his ways \*  
and loving in all his works.
- 19 The Lord is near to those who call upon him, \*  
to all who call upon him faithfully.

## JOHN 5:19–29

*Lector* A Reading from John.

Jesus said to the Jews, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.

“Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

*Lector*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

*Keith Freeman*

*A period of silence is kept*

## A PRAYER IN TIME OF WAR

*Janice Petersen*

*The people stand or kneel as they are able*

*Leader*            Our Father, who art in heaven, slow to anger, and of great mercy, lover of all the peoples of the earth,

*People*            **Hallowed be thy Name.**

*Leader*            Remind us that "all the nations are as nothing before thee," their governments but a shadow of passing age;

*People*            **Thy kingdom come on earth.**

*Leader*            Grant to thy children throughout all the world, and especially to the leaders of the nations, the gift of prayerful thought and thoughtful prayer; that following the example of our Lord, we may discern what is right, and do it;

*People*            **Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

*Leader*            Help us to protect and to provide for all who are hungry and homeless, especially those who are deprived of food and shelter, family and friends, by the tragedy of war;

*People*            **Give us this day our daily bread.**

*Leader*            Forgive us for neglecting to "seek peace and pursue it," and finding ourselves in each new crisis, more ready to make war than to make peace. "We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved neighbors as ourselves";

*People*            **Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

*Leader*            Let us not seek revenge, but reconciliation;  
Let us not delight in victory, but in justice;  
Let us not give ourselves up to pride, but to prayers.

*People*        **Lead us not into temptation.**

*Leader*        Be present to all thy children ravaged by war:  
Be present to those who are killing and to those who are being killed;  
Be present to the loved ones of those who are killing and to the loved ones of those who are being killed;

*People*        **Deliver us from evil.**

*Leader*        Subdue our selfish desires to possess and to dominate, and forbid us arrogance in victory;

*People*        **For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **CANDLE LIGHTING**

*Aubrey Muth*

*Officiant*        *We light these candles, one candle from another, as a symbol of the light we create together that will guide us on our Lenten journey through the wilderness.*

## **A PRAYER FOR PEACE**

*Aubrey Muth*

*Officiant*        *Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

# CLOSING HYMN

## You Are Mine 649

### Verses



1. I will come to you in the si-lence,  
2. I am hope for all who are hope-less,  
3. I am strength for all the des-pair-ing,  
4. am the Word that leads all to free-dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.  
I am eyes for all who long to see. In the  
heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
am the peace the world can-not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be  
shad-ows of the night, I will be your light,  
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
I will call your name, em-brac-ing all your pain, stand



still and know I am here. (To verse 2)  
come and rest in me. (To refrain)  
all will know my name. (To refrain)  
up, now walk, and live! (To refrain)

### Refrain



Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine.

D.C.

4. I

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Officiant*      *God of compassion, hold us when the weight of the world feels unbearable. Comfort those who mourn. Protect those who are afraid. Soften hearts grown hard through fear, and strengthen all who labor for justice and peace. Send us from this place not numb, but committed to love more deeply, to listen more faithfully, and to act with courage shaped by mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## DISMISSAL

*Officiant*      Do not be afraid.  
*People*          **God is with us, always.**  
*Officiant*      Let us bless the Lord.  
*People*          **Thanks be to God.**