



**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 22, 2026**

**PENITENTIAL ORDER AND HOLY EUCHARIST
10:10AM**

A prayerful silence precedes the service, beginning at 10:00AM with the ringing of the bells.

The parish nursery is available for children up to age five and is in the hallway beyond the Parish Hall. Elementary school age children are invited to join in the procession to 'Children in Worship' during the Kyrie and return at the Peace.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

WELCOME AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN 495

In Babilone

Hail Thou once despised Jesus

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People

His mercy endures forever.

Celebrant

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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.

Celebrant pronounces absolution

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

All sing the Kyrie

KYRIE ELEISON

S 91

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER
Tune: Henry Purcell

Psalm 130
De Profundis

The psalm is sung by the choir

- 1 Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord *
Lord, hear my voice.
- 2 O let thine ears consider well *
the voice of my complaint.
- 3 If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss *
O Lord, who may abide it?
- 4 For there is mercy with thee *
therefore shalt thou be feared.
- 5 I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him *
in his word is my trust.
- 6 My soul fleeth unto the Lord *
before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.
- 7 O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy *
and with him is plenteous redemption.
- 8 And he shall redeem Israel *
from all his sins.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5: 8-14

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 635

Wer nur den lieben Gott

The Lord my God my shepherd is

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 11: 1-45

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may

believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

*A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.
All then stand for the Creed.*

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, FORM V

The Prayers are sung by the choir. The people sing the appropriate response at the end of each petition.

The responses may be sung in harmony, as follows:

Lord, have mer - cy. To thee, O lord our God. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting of the response. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is simple and homophonic, consisting of quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Leader

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

*The People sing **Lord, have mercy** here and after the following petitions.*

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Jose, our bishop; for all bishops and other ministers; and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who fear God, and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those in positions of public trust, especially Donald, our president, and Josh, our governor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

*The People sing **To You, O Lord our God.***

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever.

Amen

THE PEACE

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

The Ministers and People exchange a sign of peace.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

ANTIPHON— *Confitebor tibi, Domine*

ANTHEM—*O bone Jesu*

Giovanni de Palestrina (1525-1594)

O good Jesus, have mercy on us;
Because you created us,
You have redeemed us with your most precious blood.

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

The Celebrant continues the prayer, recalling God's activity in our salvation history, the institution of the Lord's Supper, and inviting the people to join in saying,

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues, invoking the Spirit's present work, concluding the prayer, and inviting the people to join in the doxology of the prayer, saying,

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

S 158

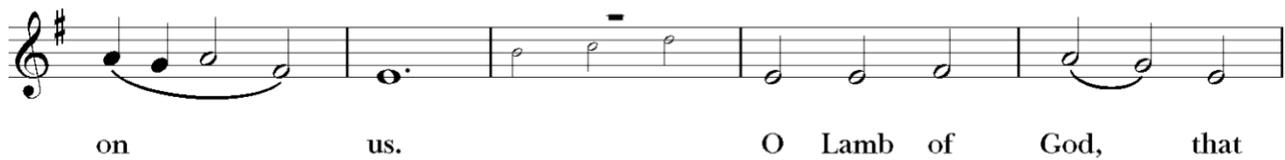
Tenors and basses



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -



way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -



on us. O Lamb of God, that



ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

All



mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of



God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the



world, grant us thy peace.

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

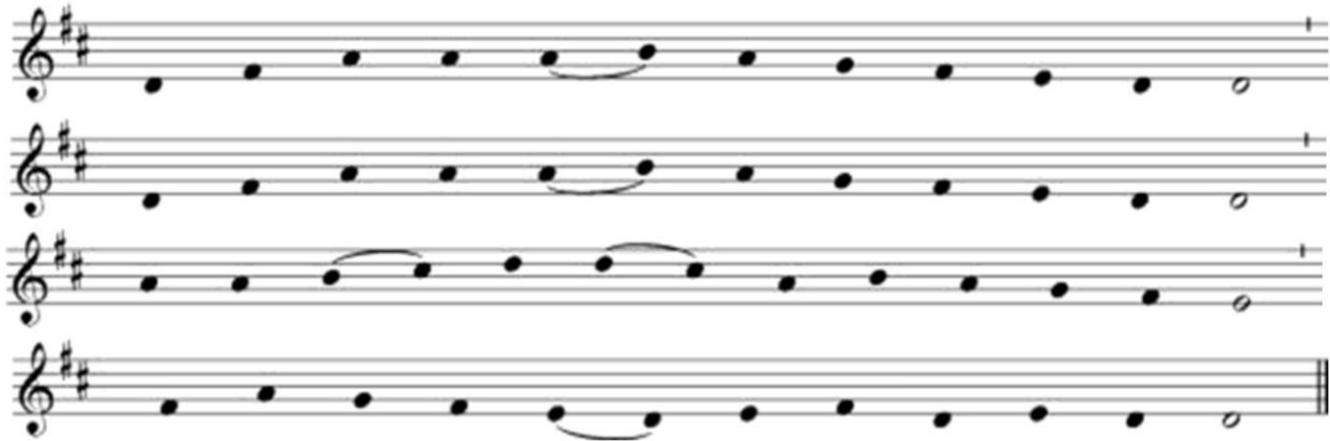
All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive Communion in the Episcopal Church. If you have not been baptized, we would love to talk to you about baptism. To receive the sacrament, extend your hands so that the priest may place the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Gluten free wafers are available. For those who desire to receive the wine that follows, guide the chalice toward your lips to drink from the cup. We kindly ask that you not intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. If for any reason, you don't want to receive Communion, you are still invited to come forward, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest to signify this to the priest who will offer a blessing.

For those unable to receive the sacrament this day, we offer this prayer:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, in remembrance of your new commandment to love on another. I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

HYMN

Humbly I Adore Thee

Adore devote

¹ Humbly I adore thee,
 Verity unseen,
 Who thy glory hidest
 'neath these shadows mean;
 Lo, to thee surrendered,
 my whole heart is bowed,
 Tranced as it beholds thee,
 shrined within the cloud.

² Taste, and touch, and vision,
 to discern thee fail;
 Faith, that comes by hearing,
 pierces through the veil.
 I believe whate'er
 the Son of God hath told;
 What the Truth hath spoken,
 that for truth I hold.

³ O memorial wondrous
 of the Lord's own death;
 Living Bread, that givest
 all thy creatures breath,
 Grant my spirit ever
 by thy life may live,
 To my taste thy sweetness
 never-failing give.

⁴ Jesus, whom now veiled,
 I by faith descry,
 What my soul doth thirst for,
 do not, Lord, deny,
 That thy face unveiled,
 I at last may see,
 With the blissful vision
 blest, my God, of thee.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Celebrant begins the prayer; the people join, saying

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious **Body and Blood**
of your **Son our Savior Jesus Christ**;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the **Body of your Son**,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, **Father**, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of **Christ our Lord**.
To him, to you, and to the **Holy Spirit**,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant says, Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel.

*The celebrant offers a solemn prayer over the assembly, and the people respond, **Amen.***

The people stand.

HYMN 665, omit verse 4

All my hope on God is founded

Michael

THE DISMISSAL

*The Celebrant says the dismissal, and the people respond, **Thanks be to God.***

Today's mass setting is from Healey Willan's Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena.

Leading Today's Worship

Rev. Rick Lawler, celebrant

Michelle Curry, vergers

James Bumgardner DMA, organist and choirmaster

Denise Story and Trey Stauffer, cantors

Will Postlethwaite, crucifer

Lindsey Postlethwaite and Ryan Postlethwaite, chalice ministers

Bill Devereaux and Lynn Searfoss, lectors

Sunday Worship Schedule

Holy Eucharist	8:00 A.M.
Christian Formation / Rector's Forum	9:00 A.M.
Holy Eucharist	10:10 A.M.

Worship during the Week

Morning Prayer	Monday-Friday	8:30 A.M.
Evening Prayer	Wednesday	5:00 P.M.
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday	12:00 P.M.
Stations of the Cross	Friday	12:00 P.M.

Parish Staff

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege	Rector
The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman	Priest Associate
The Right Reverend J. Gary Gloster	Assisting Clergy
Dr. James Baumgardner	Organist/Choirmaster
Michael Marshall	Director of Administration and Finance
Bill Devereaux	Director of Facilities and Hospitality

Parish Vestry

Lynn Searfoss, Clerk	Bob Amos	Richard Murphy
Jim Snow	Mike Matthews, Jr. Warden	Peter Purcell, Sr. Warden
Jill Storelli	Bob Rhoads	Dale Marie Sandusky
	Luba Skibo	
	Amanda White, Treasurer	

St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

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