



## Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

[www.old-swedes.org](http://www.old-swedes.org)

215-389-1513

*March 15, 2026*  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

### **Ministry Assistants Today**

Lector: *Omega Moore*  
Intercessor: *Charles Moore*  
Reader: *Giovanni Valentino*  
Usher: *Bob Jenkins*  
Altar Guild: *Christine Pickup*  
Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*  
Organist: *Adam Haines*

### **Ministry Assistants March 22**

Lector: *Christine Pickup*  
Intercessor: *Carol Jenkins*  
Usher: *Bob Jenkins*  
Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*  
Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*  
Organist: *Adam Haines*

### **Welcome to Gloria Dei!**

*Today is the fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday (from the Latin word for "rejoice"). While Lent as a whole is a season of somber reflection and repentance, this Sunday we are called to rejoice, for God's love and mercy are always at work. Even in times of grief, fear, and anger, we are called to look for God's light and hope, and to be part of the new work that God is doing to heal the brokenhearted and to bind up their wounds. Please join us as we continue through this season in preparation for Easter.*

## Prelude

*Throughout Lent, our service begins with the Penitential Order, in which we engage in self-reflection and confession. This is not about shame or guilt, but a reminder of the aspects of our world and of our lives that need the good news of God's unconditional love and grace.*

- Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
**All** **God's mercy endures forever.** *(All kneel or sit, as they are able)*
- Celebrant Hear the commandments of God to God's people:  
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.  
**People** **Amen. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant You shall not make for yourself any idol.  
**People** **Amen. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.  
**People** **Amen. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.  
**People** **Amen. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant Honor your father and your mother.  
**People** **Amen. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant You shall not commit murder.  
**People** **Amen. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant You shall not commit adultery.  
**People** **Amen. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant You shall not steal.  
**People** **Amen. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant You shall not be a false witness.  
**People** **Amen. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.  
**People** **Amen. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *(Hebrews 4:14,16)*
- Celebrant Let us therefore confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence is kept for a moment)*  
**All** **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 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.  
**All** **Amen.** *(all stand, as they are able)*

## Hymn # S96

*Lord, Have Mercy*

Hymnal 1982

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

*All may be seated for the readings.*

**First Reading****1 Samuel 16:1-13****Christine Pickup**

The 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." Samuel 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.' Invite 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." Samuel 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?" He 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.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But 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." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel 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." He 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." Then 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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

**Second Reading****Ephesians 5:8-16**

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

Celebrant      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John (9:1-41)**

**All**              **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The 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?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then 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." Some 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. So 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."

The 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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but 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." His 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. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So 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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus 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." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Celebrant      The Gospel of the Lord.  
**All**              **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**              **Rev. Chris Micklewright**

## 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.

### Prayers of the People – Based on Psalm 91 *(leader and people pray responsively)*

*Carol Jenkins*

- Celebrant Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing, let us enter with Mary Magdalene and the other disciples into the grief and confusion of the hours following Jesus' death. As we wait in this darkness, may we draw hope from the example of the saints who have gone before us, and especially from God's faithfulness to walk with us in fearful times. *(Silent Pause)*
- Intercessor To the God of just and inescapable truth, we pray for our leaders – in the church and in the world around us. May the light of your wisdom be a lens to illuminate justice and clarity in the eyes and hearts of those who wield power. *(Silent pause.)* Lord have mercy.
- People Christ have mercy.**
- Intercessor To the God of immeasurable mercy and care, we pray for our divided nation, and for the needs of the most vulnerable among us. Today we particularly remember our trans siblings, and all who face the threat of violence from corrupt systems of power. *(Silent pause.)* Lord have mercy.
- People Christ have mercy.**
- Intercessor To the God vast enough to know all sorrow, but tender enough to know every tear, we pray for the needs of the world, especially for those living in nations besieged by violence, and for those who are hungry today. *(Silent pause.)* Lord have mercy.
- People Christ have mercy.**
- Intercessor To the God who is able to heal all wounds, we pray for the needs of our community, remembering especially: **Sara, Rev. John, Erica, Elia, Eulogio, Sheila, Emily, Monica, Amy, William, Betty, Dina, Gia, Beth, Seamus, Thomassina, Julie, Denise, Jason, Laurie, Peggy, Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack.** *(Long pause for further names.)* Lord have mercy.
- People Christ have mercy.**
- Intercessor To the God of the living and of the dead, we pray for Mary and the disciples, for all the saints who have gone before us, and for the recently departed. *(Long pause for names.)* Lord have mercy.
- People Christ have mercy.**
- Celebrant Merciful God, whose son Jesus Christ sacrificed himself on our behalf willingly and with great love, fill us with that same love, that it may unknot our hearts and ease our souls, and that we might share this love with all your creatures; all this we pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Peace, Announcements, & Offertory

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.** *(Please share the peace by greeting your siblings in Christ.)*

## Pre-Offertory Hymn # 488

*Be Thou My Vision*

Hymnal 1982

## Offertory Sentence

**Giovanni Valentino**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. - *Ephesians 5:2*

*Collecting an offering is a way for us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are to be responsible stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests are welcome to support our work of worship, ministry, and preservation - but should feel no obligation to give. Electronic giving is possible using the QR code found on the back of the bulletin.*

*After the collection, the offering is brought forward as we stand to sing the following song of thanksgiving.*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow: praise him, all  
creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host:  
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

Thomas Ken, 1674 GENEVAN 134 (OLD HUNDRETH) L.M.

## The Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer, Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Hymn # S129

*The Sanctus*

Hymnal 1982

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Celebrant Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**All** *(In a LOUD voice!)* **AMEN!**

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

<b>All</b>	<b>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,</b>	<b>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.</b>
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### The Fraction and Invitation

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
**All Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
**All Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
**All Grant us peace.**

Celebrant This is the table not of the church but of our Lord Jesus. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

### Instrumental Hymn # 439

*What Wondrous Love is This*

Hymnal 1982

*All those interested in receiving communion should make their way forward to the rail, while the elements are prepared. Episcopal theology recognizes baptism as the formal entry into the Christian community, and baptism is normally a prerequisite to receiving communion. However, we also recognize that God meets us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Moreover, Jesus regularly welcomed and ate with people from outside of his normal community.*

***Therefore, all are welcome at this table - including children!***

*Kneel or stand at the rail, as you are comfortable. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available – just hold up one finger to receive either of these alternative elements. The priest will distribute wafers, which you receive in your outstretched hands. If you wish to receive the cup, you may drink or dip your wafer; it is also okay to receive the wafer only – we believe that Jesus is fully present in each of the elements of communion. If you prefer not to receive, you are still warmly invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.*

### **The Post-Communion Prayer**

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.**

### **Solemn Prayer over the People**

Celebrant Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Announcements** *Please pick up a Upcoming Events sheet from the table in the back.*

**Closing Collect** **Almighty God, in your providence you chose your servant Patrick to be the apostle to the Irish people, to bring those who were wandering in the darkness and error to the true light and knowledge of you: Grant us so to walk in that way that we may come at last to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever Amen.**

**Closing Hymn # 370, Verses 1, 2, 4, 5**

*I Bind Unto Myself*

Hymnal 1982

### **Dismissal**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*All are invited to listen to the postlude,  
and then to join us for a time of fellowship in Riverside Hall.*

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## ***Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff***

Rev. Dr. Chris Micklewright, Rector  
440-865-1490, rector@old-swedes.org

Christine McBride, Parish Administrator  
215-389-1513, info@old-swedes.org

Adam Haines Music Director  
[Adam@MobileMusicPhilly.com](mailto:Adam@MobileMusicPhilly.com)

Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons

## ***Gloria Dei Vestry***

*Gabrielle Barbour, Ann Brilliant, Angel Guido, Re Henning, Carol Jenkins (Rector's Warden), Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden), Cathy Ufheil (Secretary), Jeanette Woehr*

### **Online Giving Available**

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website,  
[www.old-swedes.org/give](http://www.old-swedes.org/give), or using the QR code:

