



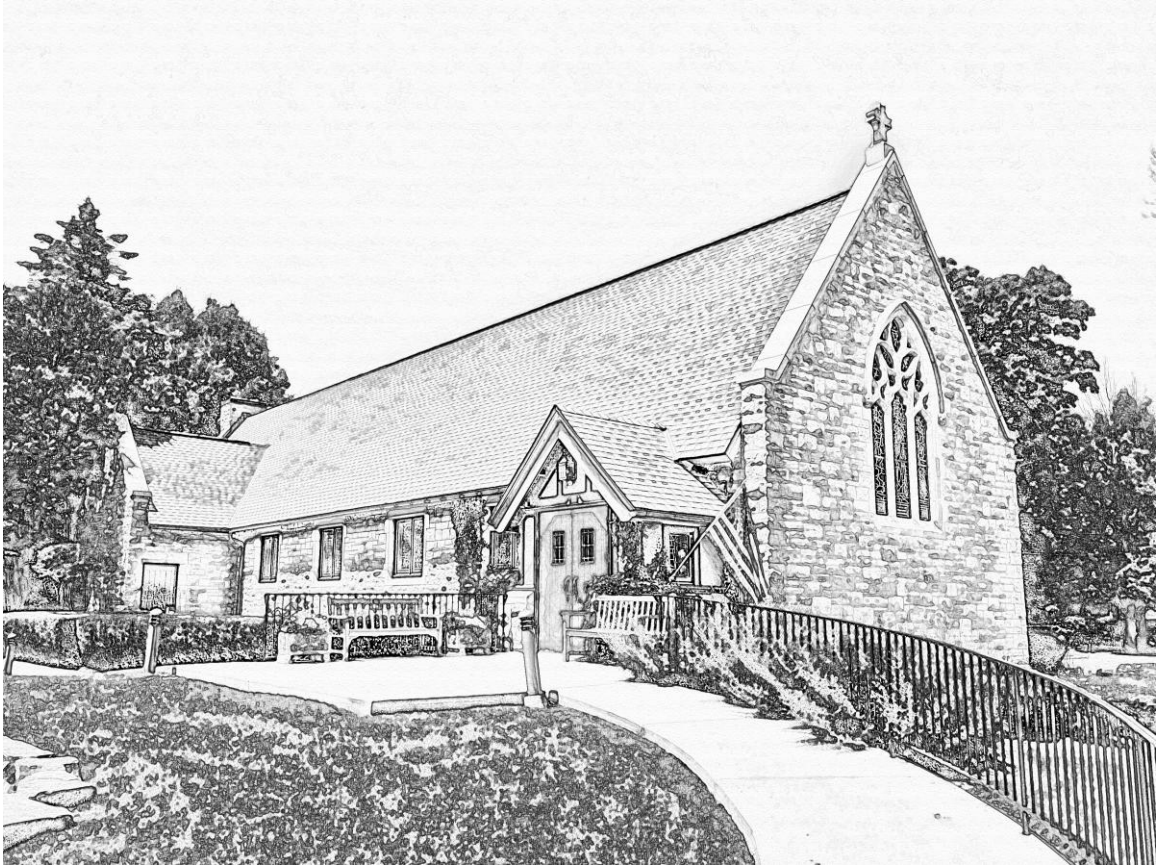
ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

8:00 AM

Welcome to St. Elisabeth's. We are delighted to have you with us today.



This faith community invites all persons to all levels of participation, leadership, and decision-making within the church regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, socioeconomic and marital status. We seek to establish meaningful connections with one another through work and play and worship as we strive to understand God's purpose for us in the church and in the world.

Lent

Figuring out how to keep a holy Lent can be a challenge, but if we move beyond the popular conceptions (and misconceptions), Lent holds the possibility for real change — or to use the church’s word, conversion — in our lives, as well as for rich and lasting spiritual growth. (The word “lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencton*, referring to the springtime of the year when the days grow longer and warmer and brighter.)

Lent emerged in our history as a season of final preparation for those who would be baptized at the Great Vigil of Easter. The entire Christian community was highly invested in walking alongside those who were about to commit their lives to Christ. In time, the season took on some extra layers of meaning, and many people now associate it with listening for a deeper awareness of our own sin — how we fall short of the ideals God sets before us — and the need for ongoing repentance and amendment of life.

That said, joy in the new life we have found in the Christian faith should never be overwhelmed by our struggles to live out that faith or our awareness of the ways we fall short. We can see Lent as an opportunity to deepen our spiritual lives. In Lent we step back and consider the ways we need to repent, to turn around — to be converted.

During Lent we as individual Christians and as a church — the Body of Christ — consider our spiritual health. How are we living the gospel in our lives, our homes, our churches, our towns, our schools, our places of work? What areas of growth or signs of renewal should we celebrate with gratitude and joy? In what ways have we fallen short, grown stagnant or cold-hearted, or failed to love God by embracing new life when we encounter it? These are the kinds of questions we ask ourselves during the weeks of Lent. ~ *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*

Entering in...

We often think of God as changeless. But in Jesus we see a quality of the divine being that is indeed changing: a living God, growing, exploring, experimenting, reaching, striving, absorbing, renewing. God’s own being is in some profound way living, breathing, and growing. ~ *Br. Mark Brown SSJE*

The gardener in the parable of the fig tree fertilizes the tree and asked that it be given another year to bear fruit. What fertilizer might help you bear the fruits of the Spirit? How might you be a gardener for someone else?

The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

The Word of God

The Prelude

Please stand as you are able.

The Opening Acclamation

Presider Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

Assembly **His mercy endureth for ever.**

The Collect for Purity

Presider Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Summary of the Law

Presider Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the prophets.

The Kyrie

Presider Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assembly **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Presider Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

Presider Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Assembly Amen.

The people may be seated.

The Lessons

The First Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you!':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 63:1-8

Read responsively by whole verse, with the reader leading.

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

**So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.**

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.**

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A Reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

The Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have

come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Adam Spencer

A period of silence follows the sermon, beginning and ending with a chime.

Please stand as you are able.

The Nicene Creed

Assembly

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
 who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
 who spake by the Prophets.
 And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

BCP pgs. 328-330

Intercessor

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Paula our Bishop, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Particularly:

Susan Chadd

Sally Graver

Aidan Thomson

Annette Johnston

Ben Whipple, son of Larry & Susan Whipple

Joe Bessinger, nephew-in-law of Kay Rossiter

Bill Howell, Anne Tuohy's Cousin

Arthur Martin, friend of Anne and John Tuohy

Brian Scully, friend of Anne and John Tuohy

David & Jane Barry, Lydia Kutko's parents

Margaret Barry, Lydia Kutko's sister

Sunita, friend of Caryl Medsker

All affected by the wars in Palestine and Ukraine and throughout the world.

Refugees and those without a homeland or a safe haven who feel abandoned and fear for their lives.

All those who are desperate for medical aid, clean water, food and safe living conditions.

For those affected by Government layoffs

Those suffering from the Los Angeles fires

Are there others?

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Ginny Broms, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Elisabeth and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Assembly

Amen.

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Presider

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Please kneel as you are able.

Assembly

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word or deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assembly

Amen.

Presider

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.
St. Matt. xi. 28.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

St. John iii. 16.

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Tim. i. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. *1 St. John ii. 1, 2.*

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
Assembly **And with thy spirit.**

Please offer one another a sign of God's Peace.

Please be seated for the announcements.

Announcements

Blessings for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Travelers

Isabelle Thomson – March 28

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

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

The Collection

Thank you for your generous giving to the mission and ministry of St. Elisabeth's church. You can leave a donation in the offering plate at the back of the church, or use your phone to scan the QR code to donate online.



The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able.

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

Assembly **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Assembly **It is meet and right so to do.**

Presider It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Who dost bid thy 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 thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Assembly

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Please remain standing or kneel, as you are able.

Presider

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of 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, he brake 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 ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them

according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

All **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 Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Prayer of Humble Access

All We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing at this time.

Gluten-free host available upon request.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, simply cross your arms over your chest.

The Post Communion Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

All Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Presider The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

This Week at St. Elisabeth's

Sunday, March 23

- 8:00 a.m. – Spoken Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist
- 11:00 a.m. – Fellowship & Forum
- 11:00 a.m. -- Children's Sunday School
- 1:00 p.m. – Discernment Retreat

Monday, March 24

- 8:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Thursday, March 27

- 1:30 p.m. – Bible Study
- 7:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, March 29

- 5:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Sunday, March 30

- 8:00 a.m. – Spoken Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist
- 11:00 a.m. – Fellowship & Forum
- 11:00 a.m. -- Children's Sunday School

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago
The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop*

Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Adam Spencer	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Larry Handwerk	<i>Priest Associate</i>
Walter Aldrich	<i>Director of Music</i>
Caryl Medsker	<i>Director of Administration</i>
Abigail Pribble	<i>Director of Children's Formation</i>
Elizabeth Clemmitt	<i>Associate for Spiritual Wellness</i>

2025 Vestry

Robert Fischer, *Warden*
Fred Johnston
Jamie Kim

Carrie Miller-Mygatt,
Warden

Kara Superfine
Mark Tilton, *Treasurer*
John Tuohy, *Asst. Treasurer*

Sunday Schedule



- 8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist: Rite I
- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist: Rite II
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Forum, and Sunday School

Office Hours

Tuesday -Thursday – 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.