

Adventurer

Lent

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL



Vol. 50, No. 13

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Week of March 29, 2026



News & Events

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, March 30-Wednesday, April 1

12:05 p.m.: Lenten Preaching Service
Mark Mattes preaches Monday-Tuesday
Robert Smith preaches Wednesday
12:15 p.m.: Lenten Lunches

Maundy Thursday, April 2

12:05 p.m.: Lenten Preaching Service
Robert Smith preaches
12:15 p.m.: Lenten Lunches
6:00 p.m.: Holy Communion and Stripping
of the Chancel

Will Fagan preaches • Cathedral Choir
sings • Nursery for ages 5 and under • Ser-
vice livestreamed

Good Friday, April 3

12:00 noon: The Liturgy for Good Friday
Dean Smalley preaches • Cathedral Choir
sings • Nursery for ages 5 and under • Ser-
vice livestreamed
See page 2 for more information.

Craig Smalley to Take Sabbatical

Craig Smalley, the Advent's Dean and
Rector, will go on sabbatical from May 1 to
August 1. It will be his first sabbatical in 31
years of parish ministry. See page 2 for more
information.



A Word from Canon Gardner

We see the crux (pun
intended) of our faith
play out through Holy
Week. I would like to
offer you an annotated
playlist of 10 Johnny
Cash songs for Holy
Week.

Palm Sunday: 1) "It Ain't Me, Babe" (with
June Carter Cash) – Jesus is not the kind of
king we would have chosen. The people ex-
pected a political Messiah, but we can hear
Jesus sing, "It ain't me you're looking for,
Babe." Instead he comes looking for us.

Maundy Thursday: 2) "Breaking Bread"
and 3) "Flesh and Blood" – Jesus institutes
the Lord's Supper, where he offers his body
broken and his blood shed for the forgive-
ness of sins; because, "flesh and blood
needs flesh and blood, and you're the one
I need."

Good Friday: 4) "Man in Black," 5) "Hurt"
(a Nine Inch Nails Cover), and 6) "Ring of
Fire" – Jesus is our man in black. He wears
our sin and sorrow on the cross. "Hurt" is
a song of honesty and pain. Maybe it is Pe-
ter's song. Perhaps it belongs to Judas. But

it is ultimately the song of Jesus, who ex-
changes his righteousness for our sin and
hurt. "Ring of Fire" is a song of passion and
love, of a lover who is willing to be burned
for the sake of his beloved. Jesus fell into a
ring of fire for us, his beloved.

Easter Sunday: 7) "Sunday Morning Com-
ing Down" (a Kris Kristofferson cover), 8)
"He's Alive," and 9) "1 Corinthians 15:55"
– "Sunday Morning Coming Down" is the
song of a hungover, depressed, and lonely
man. This to me is the experience of the dis-
ciples before they met the Risen Lord. All
hope is gone until we meet the Risen Lord.
"He's Alive" speaks for itself. Go listen. "1
Corinthians 15:55" is one of Cash's most
beautiful songs where he sings St. Paul's
words with tenderness and conviction: "O
Death where is thy sting, O Grave where is
thy victory?"

Bonus Track: 10) "Were You There When
They Crucified My Lord?" (an African-
American spiritual, #172 in our hymnal) –
This one sums it all up. I cry every time. It
is a truly divine recording. A blessed Holy
Week to you all.

- Jay

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

- 1 Corinthians 15:55 (King James Version)

This Sunday:

March 29, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Canon Gardner

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Gardner

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

In the Refectory. Preacher: Will Fagan

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Preacher: Will Fagan

We will livestream the 9:00 a.m. Nave
service and the 11:00 a.m. service.

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, YouTube,
or Facebook Live to access our stream.

Adult Education (10:15-10:50 a.m.):

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *Courage to
Share Your Faith* – Mark Mattes

Biblical "Barrenness" (Living Room) – *God's
Hope in Israel's History* – Derrill McDavid

The Poor You Always Have With You... (As-
sembly Hall) – Adam Young and Lisa Yeager

20s and 30s Class (Lower School Library) –
*How Do Sunday Mornings Get to the Heart of
Things?* – Will Fagan

Children's & Youth Education:

Our 3s and 4s classes meet at 9:00
a.m. Kindergarten through 3rd grade
start the 9:00 service in church before
leaving during the children's dismiss-
al for Children's Church. 4th grade
through 6th grade and Jr. and Sr.
High youth have classes between the
9:00 and 11:00 services. See Sunday's
worship bulletin for locations.

The Nursery opens for our Infants,
Toddlers, and 2s classes at 8:45
a.m. The Nursery is open for ages 6
weeks-5 years during the 11:00 ser-
vice.



GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!



worship

Lenten Preaching Series

The preaching service runs from 12:05-12:30 p.m. each weekday of Lent except Good Friday. Join us in-person as much as you are able, but when you can't we hope you will join us for the livestream (on our YouTube channel and AdventBirmingham.org/Live) or listen later on our website (AdventBirmingham.org/Audio). You can also subscribe to our podcast and have the sermons delivered directly to your digital device; the podcast is available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Lent to see the full preacher schedule.

Lenten Preachers this Week

Mark Mattes to Preach Monday and Tuesday

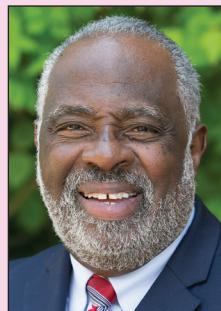
Mark Mattes is the Lutheran Bible Institute Chair in Theology at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. An ordained Lutheran pastor, he served parishes in Illinois and Wisconsin before his call to Grand View in 1995. He holds degrees from St. Olaf College, Luther Seminary, and The University of Chicago.



A veteran of our Lenten series, he has written several books, including *Luther's Theology of Beauty: A Reappraisal* and *The Role of Justification in Contemporary Theology*. Dr. Mattes has also co-edited Gerhard Forde's theological essays and co-translated works of Oswald Bayer, as well as written numerous essays and reviews. He is an associate editor for *Lutheran Quarterly* and *Lutheran Quarterly Books*, and serves on the Continuation Committee of the International Luther Congress. He is married to Carol, and they have three adult children and three grandchildren.

Robert Smith Is Our Lenten Preacher Wednesday and Thursday

Robert Smith is Distinguished Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama. He was Professor of Christian Preaching at Beeson for 25 years. He taught at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary before his call to Beeson. He won teaching awards at both schools.



An ordained Baptist minister, he was Pastor of New Mission Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, for 20 years. An old friend of the Advent, Dr. Smith has spoken and taught at schools and churches around the world. He is the 2017 E.K. Bailey Expository Preaching Conference Living Legend. He has written several books, including the award-winning *Doctrine That Dances: Bringing Doctrinal Preaching and Teaching to Life*, and has contributed essays and articles to various books and magazines. His research interests include the place of passion in preaching and the literary history of African-American preaching. He and his wife Wanda are the parents of four children.

Craig Smalley Going on Sabbatical May 1



Photo of clergy staff by Paul Zahl

As the Senior Warden shared with the congregation at the Parish Meeting in January, Craig Smalley, our Dean and Rector, will go on sabbatical May 1-August 1. Craig leaves with confidence that, given our strong ministry team and parish leadership, the church will be in capable hands and the Advent will not miss a beat in its ongoing ministry.

While clergy sabbaticals often occur every five-to-seven years, Craig will be taking his first in 31 years of parish ministry, 20 of which have been at the Advent. He views the sabbatical as a time of prayerful reflection in preparation for ministry to come at the Advent, a pause for continuation.

Please join us in thanking God for his graciousness to the Advent, and in praying for Craig, that his sabbatical will be a time of rest and refreshment.

Office Closing

The church office will be closed on Friday, April 3, in observance of Good Friday. It will reopen on Monday, April 6.



spiritual growth & fellowship

Men's Ministry

Hike Set for Good Friday, April 3

Advent men are invited to a hike at Ruffner Mountain on Good Friday, April 3, at 6:15 a.m. We will meet at Ruffner Baseball Park (301 Ruffner Road, 35210), and hike a four-mile loop as a group, finishing by 8:30 a.m. Canon Adam Young will take willing participants to Waffle House for a celebratory post-hike breakfast. Contact Adam (Adam@CathedralAdvent.com) for more information.

Nursery Available on Thursdays During Lent

A nursery for children ages 5 and under is provided on Thursdays from 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!
- Psalm 25:7



worship

Holy Week Meditation

Frederick Teardo to Perform *Via Crucis* (The Way of the Cross) this Sunday



Director of Music and Liturgy Frederick Teardo (*left*) will perform Philip Moore's setting of *Via Crucis* (The Way of the Cross) this Sunday (Palm Sunday), March 29, at 3:00 p.m. in the Nave. Christ's Passion has been depicted in countless works of art, music, literature, and theatre. *Via Crucis* is a pairing of powerful prayers by Eric Milner-White and musical reflections in 15 movements. A form of the Stations of the Cross, *Via Crucis* offers a path through prayer, music, and meditation to follow Christ's suffering, death, and burial. Come experience the Birmingham premiere of this work.

Lectionary

Sunday, March 29

The Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

The Liturgy of the Word

Psalm 31:9-16

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66



serving & outreach

Advent Inreach

Volunteers Needed to Deliver Lilies on Easter

We need volunteers to deliver Easter lilies to our parishioners who may not be able to attend services. The lilies and easy-to-follow directions can be picked up following the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter (April 5) and then delivered any time that day. You do not have to make your delivery immediately following the service. This is a wonderful way to meet other parishioners and to share the good news of Easter! To volunteer or for more information, contact Robin Turner (Robin@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3500).

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Stella Scott Schreiber: (Pastoral Care) by Kim and Bruce Rogers; Lessie and Craig Brady

Sarah Britton Neal: (Pastoral Care) by Lessie and Craig Brady



spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry



Sabbath Saturday Hike Set for April 11

Women's Ministry's annual Sabbath Saturday is coming up on Saturday, April 11, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at Birmingham's beautiful Red Mountain Park (2011 Frankfurt Drive, 35211).

Julie Ogard will lead us with Scripture readings, reflections, and prayer. Thoughtfully charted by Dorothy White, our trail will be navigable for most, although large tree roots and rocks might make it more difficult for some. End Easter Week with a day of fellowship and a one-mile walk through this scenic woodland.

Be sure to sign up so you receive necessary updates or changes. Register through your Realm account or at AdventBirmingham.org/Women. Contact Leslie Housman (Leslie@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3511) with questions.

Caregivers Support Group

Lunch Gathering April 10

Caregivers are invited to a monthly lunch with others who have been impacted by the demands of caring for a loved one. The next gathering will be Friday, April 10, noon at Cranmer House (2814 Linden Avenue, 35209). You are welcome whether you are a full-time caregiver or you are just beginning to experience changes in your life due to the health of a family member. To RSVP or for details, contact Robin Turner (Robin@CathedralAdvent.com, 205-226-3500).

But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed. - Isaiah 53:5

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?
- Psalm 22:1

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished,"
and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. - John 19:30

diocesan staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Bishop of Alabama

advent staff

The Very Rev. R. Craig Smalley, Dean and Rector
 The Rev. Canon Thomas P. Murray, Vice Dean
 The Rev. Canon James "Jay" W. Gardner, III, Canon Pastor

The Rev. Canon Dr. Dean L. Pinter, Canon Theologian
 The Rev. Canon Adam A. Young, Canon Missioner
 The Rev. William J. Fagan, Director of Parish Life and Evangelism
 The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl, Dean Emeritus

transitions:

Birth: Malcom Ross Anderson, son of Alison and Bruce, on March 11

Death: Jo Ann Sauls Hopkins, on March 15

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Andrew Burton DeAtkine: (Endowment Fund) by Barbara and Robert Klyce

The Rev. John Thompson Brown: (Endowment Fund) by Sandra Davis

Mildred Leake Day: (Endowment Fund) by Ed and Betty Green

Ella Cobbs Cook: (Children's Ministry) by Caroline Doolley (St. Barnabas Church); Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hunn; Dr. and Mrs. Norton T. Montague; Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Bailey; Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Hardin, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. John P. Scott, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Mike N. Hoke, III; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Vandeveld; Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Stivender; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin W. Goodwyn, Jr.; Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence W. Greer; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry B. Clark • (Garden Fund) by Mrs Jack S. Allison



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calendar:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 29 Palm Sunday Holy Communion at all services <i>Via Crucis:</i> A Holy Week Meditation for Organ - Nave - 3:00 p.m.	30 Lenten Preaching: Mark Mattes - 12:05 p.m.	31 Lenten Preaching: Mark Mattes - 12:05 p.m.	Apr 1 Lenten Preaching: Robert Smith - 12:05 p.m.	2 Maundy Thursday Lenten Preaching: Robert Smith - 12:05 p.m. Holy Communion and Stripping of the Chancel - 6:00 p.m.	3 Good Friday Men's Hike - Ruffner Park - 6:30 a.m. Church Office closed The Liturgy for Good Friday - noon	4
Apr 5 Easter Day Holy Communion at 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Nave), 9:00 a.m. (Refectory), and 11:00 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10 Caregivers Support Lunch - Cranmer House - noon	11 Women's Sabbath Saturday - 2011 Frankfurt Drive - 9:00 a.m.

Monday-Thursday, March 30-April 2: Lenten Lunches – Refectory/Clingman Commons, 12:15 p.m.

Monday-Friday: AA – Coe Conference Room, noon

Pastoral Notice: If you are going into the hospital, have need of prayer or counsel, or have a family member unable to attend church, please call the Pastoral Care Office at 205-226-3500.