



The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026 **10:15 a.m.**



Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives light to the world.

Gracious Father, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us and we in him.

Amen.

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to

Connect with God and one another,

Grow in faith and understanding, and

Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

Prelude

"All Are Welcome"

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where Saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive

3. Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet

Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions

Here the love of God, through Jesus
Is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us *Chorus*

Chorus:

All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew

Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger. *Chorus*

Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus
Chorus

5. Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter. *Chorus*

Words: Marty Haugen | Music: *Two Oaks*, Marty Haugen

✠ Processional Song

"Jerusalem, My Destiny"

Chorus:

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Jerusalem, my
destiny!
Though I cannot see the end for me, I cannot turn away,
We have set our hearts for the way; this journey is our
destiny. Let no one walk alone. The journey makes us
one.

2. See, I leave the past behind; a new land
calls to me. Here amount you now I find a
glimpse of what might be.

3. In my thirst you let me drink, the waters
of your life. Here amount you I have met
the savior, Jesus Christ.

1. Other spirits, lesser gods, have courted me with lies.
Here among you I have found a truth which bids me
rise.

4. All the worlds I have not seen you open
to my view. Here among you I have found a
vision, bright and new.

A Penitential Order: Rite II

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your 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 commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Silence*)

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. **Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

"Kyrie #10"

J. Berthier

Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

5 e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. te, Chris - te, e - le - i - son. e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

The Collect

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

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.**

The First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel

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

Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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

The Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

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

♠ **Sequence Song** "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church" Hymnal #149

1. Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church
Walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your
presence bent:
far off yet here- the goal of all desire.

3. If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green
shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and
flower, so in the Father's glory shall we wake.

2. So daily dying to the way of self,
So daily living to your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.

Words: Thomas H. Cain (b. 1931)
Music: *Old 124th*, melody *Pseaumes octante trois de David, 1551*; harm: Charles Winfred Douglas
(1867-1944)

The Holy Gospel: John 9-41

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
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."

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

Sermon

The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

✠ 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

Celebrant: In this holy season of repentance, as we seek the light of Christ who opens our eyes and leads us in the paths of life, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Intercessor: For the Church throughout the world; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Carrie, our Bishop, and for all clergy and lay ministers; that the Church may walk as children of light and faithfully bear witness to Christ, the light of the world, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation and for all nations; for Donald, our President, for Congress and the courts, and for all in authority; that those entrusted with leadership may seek what is good and right and true, and guide their people in the ways of justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peoples of the Middle East and for all places wounded by war; for the injured, the grieving, and those driven from their homes; that the God of peace may comfort the suffering, protect the vulnerable, and guide the leaders of nations toward the courage to seek reconciliation and lasting peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Lianne, Stacy, Bill, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Liz, Karen, Scott, Drew, Mary, Steve, Rick, Danny, Darrell, Cathy, Reed, Bob, and those we now name silently or aloud (*pause*); that Christ, who opened the eyes of the blind, may bring healing, strength, and hope to all in need, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the lonely, the hungry, and the forgotten; that we, whom God leads beside still waters and restores in spirit, may show compassion and care to those in need, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week — Karen, Robin, Calvin, Pat, Jim, Rick and Betsy — and for all the quiet blessings of daily life; that we may recognize God's goodness and walk in the light of his presence, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection; that they may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever, and that Christ our light may lead us all into the life everlasting, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Gracious God, you sent your Son to be the light of the world: open our eyes to your truth, guide our steps in your paths, and lead us safely through every shadow into the fullness of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace: The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code.



Offertory

1. As the deer panteth for the water so my soul longeth after thee. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship thee. *Refrain*

"As the Deer"

2. You're my friend and you are my brother even though you are a king. I love you more than any other so much more than anything. *Refrain*

3. I want you more than gold or silver. Only you can satisfy. You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye. *Refrain*

Refrain:

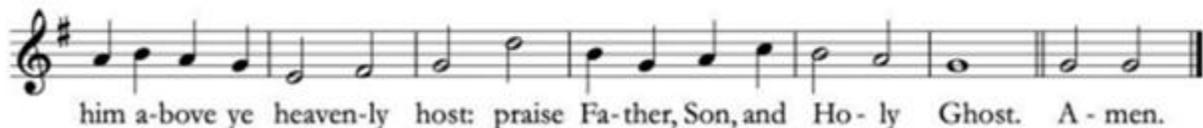
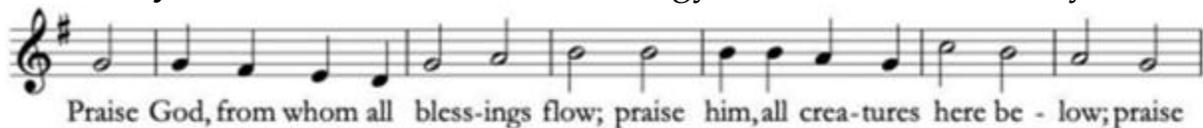
You alone are my strength my shield
To you alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship thee.

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♠ Presentation Hymn

"The Doxology"

Hymnal #380, v. 3



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: *Old 100th*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly,
 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Hea - ven and
 Bless - ed is
 earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all.

He 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Christ has di - ed Christ - is ri - sen Christ will come a - gain

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, 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 the ever-Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

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

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 Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

✠ Fraction Anthem

Agnus Dei - "Jesus, Lamb of God"

Hymnal #S164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The Communion of the People

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion Music

"One Bread, One Body"

Fr. John Foley

Chorus: One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless. And we,
though many, throughout the earth. We are one
body in this one Lord.

2. Many the gifts, many the works
One in the Lord, Of all. *Chorus*

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free
Woman or man, no more. *Chorus*

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
Gathered to one, for all. *Chorus*

“Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for You

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✠ Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant: With whom will you share this communion? *Lay Eucharistic Visitor answers.*

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The Prayer Over The People

During the season of Lent, in place of a final blessing, the presider offers a Prayer over the People.

Bow down before the Lord our God. *The people bow.*

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who bow 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.**

Recessional Hymn

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

Hymnal #143

1. The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.

4. Then grant us, Lord, like Him to be
full oft in fast and prayer with thee;
our spirits strengthen with thy grace,
and give us joy to see thy face.

2. Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.

5. O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in three-fold Name adored,
from age to age, the only Lord.

3. O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in three-fold Name adored,
from age to age, the only Lord.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt.
Music: *Erhalt uns Herr*, melody from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

The Dismissal

Go forth into the world, walking in the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Worship Assistants	March 15	March 22
Worship Leader	Mary Butler	Mary Butler
Musicians	Choir	Choir, Handbell Choir
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	<i>2 needed</i>
Lector	Melissa Leahy	Barbara Sears
Acolyte	Kat Dittrich	Ellen Anderson
Worship Slides	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	Jeanne Cox
Chalicians	Melissa Leahy, Betsy Reinders Kim Tompkins, <i>1 needed</i>	Sandy White, Kim Tompkins, Betsy Reinders, <i>1 needed</i>
Audio Visual	Travis Collins	Travis Collins

March Altar Guild:

Kim Tompkins, Charlie Aler, Beverly Baker, Helen Lang

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God by Tom and Sharon Schwartz, in celebration of son Jim's birthday.

Attendance - March 8

8:00 am - 27 10:15 am: In-person - 60 YouTube - 4 Facebook - 3 **Total: 94**

Readings for Next Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Lent - A

Exekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

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The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

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