✣ THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✣

Notes on our worship:

Lent calls us to serious self-examination in the light of God's mercy towards us and expectations of us. It invites us to address the things that keep us from wholehearted response to God, and to dedicate ourselves more fully to discerning and doing his will for us, with the help of our suffering Lord Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit. We often think of Lent as a time for 'giving up' something, usually something tangible, and perhaps something that wasn't all that good for us anyway. This year, when so many of us have given up so much, some of it not only good for us but almost essential (like going to church), let us consider Lent in the light of giving up ourselves, our whole soul and body and thought and hope, into the hands of God, in whom alone is our salvation in these tumultuous times.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn: H # 441 "In the cross of Christ I glory" *Rathbun*

A penitential order Book of Common Prayer, p. 351

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures for ever.

The Exhortation

Hear the commandments of God to his people. I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

Response to each: ***Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.***

You shall not make for yourself any idol.
You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
Honor your father and your mother. .
You shall not commit murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not be a false witness**.**
You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Invitation to confession
Prayer of confession *(unison)*

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.

Kyrie: H# S96 : Lord, have mercy. : : Christ, have mercy.: : Lord, have mercy : Lord, have mercy, have mercy.

Declaration of pardon

THE WORD OF GOD

Collect of the day *(unison)*

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him, and said

to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai; but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." *Response:* ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 22:22-30 *Deus, Deus meus* ***BCP 611***

22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them.

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Epistle: Romans 4:13-25

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be."

He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. *Response:* ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn: H # 675 "Take up your cross, the Savior said" *Bourbon*

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38 *Response:* ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." *Response:* ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Homily

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Apostles' Creed **BCP 358**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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

1. O Lord of the Church, we ask for your constant presence with us in this time of so many plagues. We long to be your beloved community in the world, and we struggle with our solitude and with the forces that keep us at a distance from each other and from those who need our presence and care. We thank you for this parish and for the faithfulness of its people. We thank you for their generosity of spirit and their relentless hope and courage. We thank you for the hope of being together again soon. ***For all your gifts we thank you.***

2. We thank you for the example and presence of Jesus, who goes be-fore us and calls us to follow him in all things. Bless our own bishops, priests and deacons – Justin, Michael, Sean, Carol, Dick – and all who bear authority in this church. Bless the members of this parish and the wider church, that they may see your mission clearly in our bro-ken world, and find in you the imagination, wisdom and courage to persevere in their calling. Grant to those in au-thority the patience to discern your will and the strength to carry it out even under opposition. Deliver us all from the love of false gods and deceitful fantasies; keep us from choosing the easy and comfortable instead of the right. Make us salt to the earth and light to the world, in Jesus Christ. ***For our tasks in the world, give us your strength.***

3. O Lord of the whole world, we thank you for those forces in this world that seek and fight for justice, peace and an ethic of care for the world and its creatures. We ask you to turn the hearts of the tyrants who oppress their peo-ple, and comfort those who suffer under their oppression. Deliver us from our foolish confidence in the weapons of war, and encourage those who seek to serve justice by peaceful means. Show us what equity is in distribution of the world's resources; and teach us to love the neighbors we can't see and don't know, as we make decisions about our own. Keep a vision of your Reign before our eyes, and teach us how to make compassion into political reality.

For a vision of justice upon earth, and the means to establish it, we ask for your Spirit.

4. O Lord of the nations, we thank you for giving our own nation the hope of deliverance from the tyranny of lies, greed, violence and the worship of power. We ask your blessing on Joseph our president, Thomas our governor and all elected officials; our Congress and state governments; our courts, schools, hospitals and all institutions charged with the care of our people. Deliver us from blindness to injustice and willingness to tolerate the racism, sexism and other oppressions in the systems that govern our lives. Forgive us for the ways we have betrayed our American dream. Help us to see and acknowledge the problems of our society, and find solutions for them.

For the work before us, and the sins behind us, we beg your help and leading.

5. O Lord of creation, we thank you for the beauty, abundance and sustenance of the world you made, and for the efforts of those who seek to cherish and preserve it. Forgive us for our abuse of the creatures you give us to care for – the animals, the plants, the vast resources of our fragile earth. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear its cries for help.

Turn our hearts from the selfishness of entitlement and the love of comfort that keep us on the path to destruction. Enable all those who work on climate-change and new modes of energy production. Speed the discoveries in science and technology that promise new ways of life and work, more tender and responsible to your creation.

For all that must be done in our laboratories, industries, attitudes and hearts, we ask your blessing.

6. O Lord of infinite compassion, we ask for your presence with all who are sick and suffering, especially in this time for those attacked by COVID – the sick, the dying, those in mourning, and the millions who have died. We pray for our own: David, Reid, Bill, Sue, Martha, Janet, Jim, Katie, Carlo, Gloria, Ian, Peggy, Ruth, Gayle, Jason, Dale Joseph, Juanita, John, Gianna, Mia, Susie, Amber, John and Becky, Pat, Ron, Catherine, Ken, Mark, Marissa, Dorothy, Ed, David, Brady, Payton, Char and Dick, Terry, Maddie, Michelline. We pray also for all those near and far who are captive to tyranny, slavery, abuse, mental and spiritual sickness, terror, prisons, ignorance, cults. Have mercy on the lonely; the desperate; the helpless; the children deprived of school, food and a chance to grow up healthy; the victims of disaster and war; and all those who have no one to care for them.

For all the world's pain, we ask for your mercy and help.

7. We pray for those others known to us who need our prayers: the workers whose work we so often fail to honor – teachers, helpers and all essential workers; our own Lisa, Scott, Nick, Kelly, Sean, Jane, Rich and MaryAnn, Chris and Becky; and those who have no work. We pray for first responders and our armed forces – Corey, Danny, Keith, Morgan, Chris, Zach, Harrison, Cara, Cordell, David, Jennifer, Ryan and Jade, Mack, Mason, Makayla, Natalie and Nathan, Vince, Geo, Sam, Jordan. ***For the deep needs of the world, we thank you for your providence and ask you to sustain those who provide.***

Hear our prayers, most gracious God, and do not forsake us in our need, for Jesus's sake. Amen.

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

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THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory: H # 474 "When I survey the wondrous cross" *Wareham*

The Great Thanksgiving: Prayer C BCP **369**

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 God thanks and praise.***

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. ***Glory to you for ever and ever.***

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. ***By your will they were created and have their being.***

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. ***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight***

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace. ***By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.***

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
: Hosanna in the highest. : Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. : Hosanna in the highest. :

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the

night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, of Sarah, Hannah and Mary; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. ***Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.***

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, your church gives honor, glory, and worship from generation to generation. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer BCP 364

Our Father in heaven: hallowed be your name; your Kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial; and deliver us from evil; for the Kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread H # S164

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world, : grant us your peace. :

The Communion

Take the consecrated bread from its wrapper and consume it reverently, asking Jesus into your heart and life, and praying that the Body of Christ which we eat will enable us to become the Body of Christ in the world.

Prayer after Communion BCP 365

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 CHURCH GOES FORTH INTO THE WORLD

Blessing

* **Hymn: H # 585** "Morning glory, starlit sky"

Dismissal *Response:* ***Thanks be to God!***

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent calls us to self-examination in the light of God's mercy towards us and expectations of us. It invites us to address the things that keep us from wholehearted response to God, and dedicate ourselves more fully to discerning and doing his will for us.

- Don't forget the daily e-mail messages from **SSJE.org –** the all-year **'Brother, give us a word'**, and the Lenten **'Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John' –** both are excellent. The latter has a prayer journal you can download at home.

Many thanks to all who are helping with our Lenten services, and especially to Chris Babo, who has done much of the engineering and planning. May this worship help keep us all going through the rest of this plague year.

Memory verse: ***'Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'*** *Mark 8:35*