Third Sunday in Lent March 7, 2021

✣ THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✣

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn: Hymnal # 574 "Before thy throne, O God, we kneel" *St. Petersburg*

Salutation BCP p. 355

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins: ***His mercy endures for ever.***

Exhortation to confession

Prayer of confession

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.

Declaration of pardon

Kyrie H # S 96

: Lord, have mercy. : : Christ, have mercy. : : Lord, have mercy. : Lord, have mercy, have mercy.

THE WORD OF GOD

Collect of the day

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in 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 hap-pen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17 Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of any-thing that is in heaven above, or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who mis-uses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or male or female slave or ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor. *Response:* ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 19 *Caeli enarrant* ***BCP 606***

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 Day unto day tells its tale, and night unto night imparts knowledge.

3 Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often they offend? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Response: ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn: H # 409 "The spacious firmament on high" *Creation*

(Note that this is the beginning of Psalm 19 in verse)

Gospel: John 2:13-22 *Response:* ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The Passover was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The authorities then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." They then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it

up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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.

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.***

We thank you for the example and presence of Jesus, who goes before 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 authority 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.

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.***

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.

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 dis-

coveries 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.***

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.

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, William; 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: "Canticle of the Turning"

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

A Closing Blessing Don Besig

The time has come, O Lord, for us to leave this place:
Guard us and protect us and keep us in thy grace.
Wherever life may take us, as we go our separate ways,
Help us share with others the things we've shared today.

: May the peace of God the Father and the love of Christ the Son
Guide us in the days ahead and strengthen us, each one;
May the blessings of the Spirit fill us from within;
God bless us and return us to this fellowship once again! :

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Lord Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit.

Memory verse: ***The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*** *I Corinthians 1:18*