Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14, 2021

# ✣ THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✣

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

### THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

**Hymn: Hymnal # 657** "Love divine, all loves excelling" *Hyfrydol*

A penitential order Book of Common Prayer, p. 351

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

Exhortation to confession, and 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.

Kyrie H # S 96

: 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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came 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.

***First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9*** From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous ser-pent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."
So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. *Response:* ***Thanks be to God.***

***Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22*** *Confitemini Domino* ***BCP 746***

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; they were afflicted because of their sins.

18 They abhorred all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

20 He sent forth his word and healed them and saved them from the grave.

21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy and the wonders he does for his children.

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

***Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10*** You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived,

following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ and raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing. It is the gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand for us to walk in. *Response:* ***Thanks be to God.***

**Hymn: H # 671** "Amazing grace" *New Britain*

***Gospel: John 3:14-21*** *Response:* ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life." Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God. *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 broken 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 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.***

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.***

Announcements

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## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offertory: M73** "Be still my soul" *Finlandia*

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.

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THE CHURCH GOES FORTH INTO THE WORLD

Blessing

**Hymn: H # 564** "They who would valiant be" *St. Dunstan's*

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:* ***We are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand for us to walk in.*** *Ephesians 2:10*

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