Fifth Sunday in Lent March 21, 2021

✣ THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✣

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn: The Holy Cross Hymn *Highwood*

A penitential order Book of Common Prayer, p.351

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People ***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: 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 *(unison)*

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. *Response:* ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 51:1-13 *Miserere mei, Deus* ***BCP 856***

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

5 And so you are justified when you speak, and upright in your judgment.

6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

10 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

12 Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.

13 Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Epistle: Hebrews 5:5-10 Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Al- though he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. *Response:* ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn: WLP # 782 "Gracious Spirit, give your servants" *Abbot's Leigh*

Gospel : John 12:20-33 *Response:* ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say? `Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour: Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. *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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory: H # 448 "O love, how deep, how broad, how high" *Deus tuorum militum*

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 King-dom and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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 *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....

As we seek to draw nearer to God in Lent, we approach the days of our Lord's arrest, trial and judicial murder. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, the remembrance of his 'triumphal' entry into Jerusalem, where he will meet his death. For the joy of Easter to be complete, we need to walk with him through the days of his Passion, beginning next Sunday. Please plan to join your Christian brothers and sisters in our on-line worship, as we commemorate 'the days of our salvation'.

Memory verse: ***I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.***

Jeremiah 31:33