

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT: A SERVICE OF LAMENTATION

FEBRUARY 25, 2024, AT 11:15 AM
& LIVESTREAMED ONLINE

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

*Please keep a prayerful quiet as we prepare for worship.
Our liturgy is drawn from a variety of resources. Please see endnotes for references.
The People's responses are printed in **bold**.*

Prelude

Chorale Dorien

Jehan Alain (1911–1940)

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn 636

How firm a foundation

Foundation

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Gathering

Rector Dear friends in Christ, at St. Columba's we have set apart this second Sunday in Lent as a special day of lamentation. We are gathered to praise God; to hear God's holy word; to confess to God and to one another our sins and failures; to grieve; to lament; then, to give voice to our hopes and dreams; and, by God's grace and mercy, to receive forgiveness and healing so we may become more and more the people God calls us to be.

Presider We are gathered to acknowledge and confess our ancestors', our Church's, and our own personal complicity in the institutions of slavery, segregation, and the resulting racial disparity; to acknowledge and lament the ways we as individuals and as a Church continue to participate in the ongoing sin of racism through our attitudes, institutional structures, and the conduct of daily lives.

We are gathered as beloved of Christ seeking healing, liberation, and forgiveness for ourselves, for each other, for our Church, and for our nation. May God have mercy on us.

Penitential Order *kneeling or standing as you are able*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8, 9*

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Presider stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Trisagion *standing as you are able* From *New Plainsong Mass* arr. David Hurd (b. 1950)

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

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.**

Reading *seated* Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) and Kevin R. Hackett (b. 1956)

The People sing the antiphon after it has been introduced by the Choir and where indicated in the text.



O God, you have been our refuge *
 from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
 or the land and the earth were born, *
 from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say, *
 "Go back, O child of earth." *Antiphon*

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
 and like a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream; *
 we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
 in the evening it is dried up and withered. *Antiphon*

For we consume away in your displeasure; *
 we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

Our iniquities you have set before you *
 and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

So teach us to number our days *
 that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. *Antiphon*

Hymn 707 *verse 1* Take my life, and let it be *Hollingside*
Please stand as you are able. Verse 2 will be sung at the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel Mark 8:31-38

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

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

Hymn 707 *verse 2* Take my life, and let it be *Hollingside*

Sermon The Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin

Please be seated at the invitation of the preacher. A period of silence will be observed after the sermon.

Litany of Repentance

Rector Dear people of God, our history is marred by oppression, by enslavement, by theft of land and culture, and by the forces of racism that degrade human dignity. The sin of racism is woven into our lives, in small and great ways, in things done, things left undone, and things done on our behalf. Let us turn to God in prayer, kneeling or standing, as is your heart's desire.

We the clergy and people of St. Columba's confess and lament our complicity in the sin of racism, since our first days as a congregation unto the present hour. **Have mercy upon us.**

We have harmed one another by our prejudice and bias in ways both known and unknown. **Have mercy upon us.**

We have been indifferent to the pain, suffering, and death of our sisters and brothers. **Have mercy upon us.**

We have decried violence, while overlooking the inequity and frustration from which it rises. **Have mercy upon us.**

We have practiced injustice for economic gain and have oppressed others to make a false peace. **Have mercy upon us.**

We have been fearful and distrustful of those who are different from us. We have not heard or believed the experiences of our brothers and sisters. **Have mercy upon us.**

We have not seen Christ in the face of the other. We have not shared the good things we have been given. We have blamed the poor for their poverty, the stranger for their otherness, and the prisoner for their bondage. **Have mercy upon us.**

We have quietly held good intentions. We have often kept silent, indifferent or unaware that justice delayed is justice denied. **Have mercy upon us.**

We have found solace in our systems of power, in our resistance to change, in our own sameness. **Have mercy upon us.**

Above all, we have failed to act with courage for the sake of love. **Have mercy upon us.**

We ask you to hear us, O Lord God: Have mercy on us, grant us humility, courage, and conviction; and strengthen us to love one another as Christ has loved us. **We ask you to hear us, O God.**

Let us be silent: to still our hearts and minds, that in our stillness God may stir within and among us; may God open our hearts in grief, in grace, and in love.

We pray for all who are in any need, sickness, or trouble, especially . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . O God, **we ask you to hear us.**

We give thanks for the many gifts that come from our Almighty God, especially . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . O God, **we ask you to hear us.**

We commend all you have died to your eternal kingdom . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . O God, **we ask you to hear us.**

Almighty God, we rest in your presence. Incline our hearts to your healing, peace, and mercy. Grant healing and wholeness in the fullness of your time, through Christ our liberator and the Holy Spirit our advocate and guide. **Amen.**

Peace *The Presider says to the People*

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the Offertory

The Holy Spirit inspires us to give generously, to extend Christ's mission in this place and the wider world. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/GivetoSCEC> to make your offering, or you can text to give using your phone. Text SCEC and AMOUNT to 73256 (QR code in Connections) and you will receive a text with instructions.

Anthem

Almighty and everlasting God
The St. Columba Singers

Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)
ed. Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities, stretch forth your right hand to help and defend us; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

— Text: Traditional Church of England collect for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward and blessed.

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our Sovereign 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, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. 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:

Sanctus and Benedictus *sung by all* From *New Plainsong Mass* arr. David Hurd

The musical score is written on four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious God: 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 Creator of all.

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Jesus' 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 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 is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken and silence observed.

Fraction Anthem

From *New Plainsong Mass*

arr. David Hurd

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

Communion

Christ welcomes all to communion. ■ Receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine, guiding the chalice to your lips. ■ If you do not want to sip the wine, it is also perfectly appropriate to receive the bread only. We do not allow dipping the bread into the wine. ■ Respond to communion by saying "Amen." ■ If you prefer a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. ■ Gluten-free wafers are available at each communion station. ■ Baptism is offered several times a year; speak to a priest to learn more.

Music Adoro te devote arr. David Lasky (b. 1957)

Hymn 699 Jesus, Lover of my soul *Aberystwyth*

Prayer after Communion *standing as you are able*

Presider Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Presider As we are gathered, fed, and sent by God, let us ask ourselves: With whom can I share the Good News? Whom will I invite to join us at this table?

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Ministers *when scheduled*

In the name of St. Columba's we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that *N.* may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

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

Blessing

The People respond Amen.

Hymn 671 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound *New Britain*

Dismissal

The People respond Thanks be to God.

Postlude Fuga: Sostenuto e legato from *Sonata VI in d Minor, Op. 65* Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Land Acknowledgement

We give thanks that we meet today on the traditional land of the first people of Nacotchtank, who had been its custodians for thousands of years, caring for and nurturing it. We pray for all who live on this land and pay our respects to the native leaders past, present, and emerging.

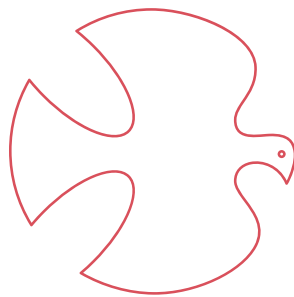
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Notes on Today's Liturgy

The 40 days of Lent call us into reflection and repentance, and the season is observed through acts of self-examination and special devotion as we journey with Jesus toward the cross. You might choose to engage in a prayer practice, special reading, or meditation on Scripture.

During the season of Lent, the service begins with confession to center our worship and our lives in repentance. We omit the word "Alleluia" from the liturgy and we use unbleached linen vestments and altar coverings; these are simplifications akin to fasting and reminders of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness.

Today's liturgy responds to an invitation by the Antiracism Task Force for our community to observe a service of lament as a part of our Lenten discipline. Lament allows us to acknowledge pain and grief before we move to action and amendment of life. Lament is an act of truth telling. We join together today in a service that may cause discomfort and may challenge us. That is part of the holy process of bringing God's kingdom.



ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Columba's Episcopal Church is an inclusive Christian community of all ages that welcomes one and all, encourages spiritual curiosity, celebrates children and youth, and embraces the world in the spirit of God's justice and love.

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