

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 25, 2024, AT 8 AM

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**.*

Please stand as you are able at the entrance of the ministers.

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Opening Sentences

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence.

And take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again.

And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

—Psalm 51:11-13

Confession and Absolution *kneeling or standing as you are able*

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.

Song of Praise *standing as you are able*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, One God,
Have mercy upon 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

The Psalm is prayed responsively by whole verse.

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."

**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.**

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.

The Gospel *standing as you are able* 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.

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.

The Nicene Creed *standing as you are able*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Intercessor God of salvation, you call us to repentance and assure us of your forgiveness. In the holy season of Lent, we seek to reflect, repent, repair, and revive. Guide us into the beautiful possibilities of your kingdom. We see division, war, and violence; we seek your peace in all the world. We pray for the unity of the Church, for lives that show the Good News, and for care across boundaries and cultures.

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

In a world where some are hungry and some waste, remind us there is enough when we share. When some are excluded and some hoard power, help us to build harmony and justice. We confess our lack of care for your creation; show us how to love all you have made.

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Our communities need healing, connection, and restoration. Help us in times of division; move us to name our wrongs to our neighbors; show us how to forgive as you forgive. Show us the gift of your healing peace. We pray for those who need mending in relationships, who are in danger, and who need physical healing. We pray especially for . . . and for those concerns we name now, aloud or in our hearts . . .

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

God of all goodness, we give thanks for the plentiful gifts you have given us. We pray in gratitude for . . . and for those blessings we name now, aloud or in our hearts . . .

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We remember that we are from dust and to dust we will return. Welcome those who have died into the household of God, especially . . . and the departed we name now, aloud or in our hearts . . .

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

God, we know there is nothing that can drive us from your love. We repent of our wrongs, and we seek your guidance. We humbly ask for your healing, protection, presence, and love. May the fruit of your works be abundant in our life and in the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
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.

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 unto 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

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

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.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

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.**

Dismissal

The People respond **Thanks be to God.**

Notes on Today's Liturgy

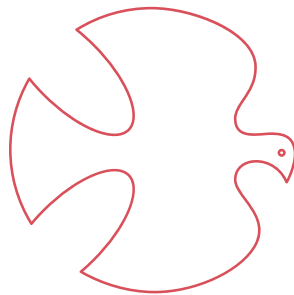
The 40 days of Lent center on “the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel,” as it is phrased in the Invitation to a Holy Lent. The season is observed through acts of self-examination and special devotion as we journey with Jesus toward the cross. You might choose 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.

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.

Opening Acclamation, Song of Praise, Confession, Absolution, and Postcommunion Prayer: From *Enriching Our Worship* © 1998, Church Pension Fund. Reprinted by permission. ~ Psalm: Text © Order of Saint Helena. Used by permission. ~ Prayers of the People: The Rev. Adelyn Tyler-Williams. Used by permission.



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