

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 10, 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.

Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down 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.**

Faith Story *seated* Dominic Rusciollelli

This morning we continue our series of Faith Stories shared by members of the St. Columba's community. Each of us has a unique faith journey. Faith Stories are a way to share this journey and hear God speak through one another.

Reading 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—by grace you have been saved—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 prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 107:1-3, 17-22

The Psalm is prayed responsively by whole verse.

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good; *
your mercy endures for ever.

**Let all those whom you have redeemed proclaim *
that you redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

You gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

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

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

**Then they cried to you in their trouble, *
and you delivered them from their distress.**

You sent forth your word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

**Let them give thanks to you for your mercy *
and the wonders you do for your children.**

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of your acts with shouts of joy.

The Gospel *standing as you are able* John 3:14-21

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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 may 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. Mitchell Felton

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

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. 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

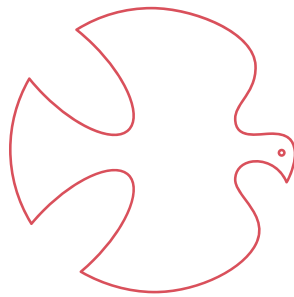
The 40 days of Lent center on “the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel,” as it is phrased in the Invitation to a Holy Lent. The season is observed through acts of self-examination and special devotion as we journey with Jesus toward the cross. You might choose 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 meet today on the traditional land of the first people of Nacotchtank, who were custodians of the land for thousands of years, caring for and nurturing it. We give thanks for their stewardship and lament the ways the Nacotchtank were removed from their ancestral home. 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. ~ Invitation to a Holy Lent: From *Common Worship* © The Church of England. Used by permission. ~ Psalm: Text © Order of Saint Helena. Used by permission. ~ Prayers of the People: The Rev. Adelyn Tyler-Williams. Used by permission.



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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