

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 17, 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.

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 Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading *seated* 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.

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 51:7-13

The Psalm is prayed responsively by whole verse.

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

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

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

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

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.

The Gospel *standing as you are able* John 12:20-33

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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. Joshua Daniel, Ph.D.

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. 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.**

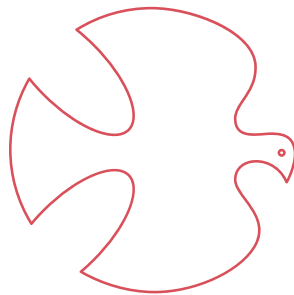
Notes on Today's Liturgy

The 40 days of Lent 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.

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.



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