



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT – FEBRUARY 20, 2022

READINGS: GENESIS 45:3-11, 15; PSALM 37:1-8,10; LUKE 6:27-38

Organ: Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace - Emma Lou Diemer

Hymn 7: Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, open our lips. And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Let us bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**

Solo: Glory to God in the Highest (Mass of Wisdom) – Steven Janco

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing; Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

OUR HEBREW BIBLE LESSON RELATES A DECISIVE MOMENT IN THE STORY OF JOSEPH AS HE REVEALS HIMSELF TO HIS BROTHERS. THE BROTHERS ARE AT FIRST OVERWHELMED BY THE DISCOVERY THAT THE BROTHER THEY HAD SOLD INTO SLAVERY IS NOW PHARAOH'S RIGHT-HAND OFFICER.

Joseph was surprised at how much his brothers had changed, and that they did not recognize him whom they had sold into slavery. So he entrapped them by framing the youngest, Benjamin, as a thief. They plead for his release, worrying that their father will not survive the loss of another son. At their words Joseph could no longer control himself in the presence of the royal court, so he cried out, "Send everyone away from me". He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer.

He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

(continued)

So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 37 IS A PSALM OF ADVICE TO THE WISE, INSTRUCTING THEM TO AVOID EVIL AND TO WAIT PATIENTLY ON THE LORD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. THE CANTOR SINGS THE REFRAIN, ALL REPEAT, AND THEN SING AS INDICATED.

Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong. Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and feed on its riches. **R.**

Take delight in the LORD, and he shall give you your heart's desire. Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, and he will bring it to pass. **R.**

He will make your righteousness as clear as the light and your just dealing as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him. **R.**

Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil scheme. For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land. **R.**

IN OUR GOSPEL PASSAGE, JESUS CALLS HIS FOLLOWERS TO A WAY OF LIFE THAT REACHES BEYOND WORLDLY UNDERSTANDINGS OF WHAT IS GOOD.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

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

Sermon Hymn 674: Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

We believe in God:

Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was made human in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that can entrap us.

Therefore, though we sometimes are fearful and doubting, we trust in God, and in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves:

**To the service of others, to seek justice, and to live in peace,
To care for the earth, to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
To live in the freedom of forgiveness, the power of the spirit of Love,
And in the company of the faithful, to be the Church. For the glory of God. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. **R.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. **R.**

For those in positions of public trust; for our elected leaders, for those who serve our communities; that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person,
we pray to you, O Lord. **R.**

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord. **R.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord. **R.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. **R.**

For all whose needs we carry in our hearts; for those times and events for which we give thanks; we offer them now by name before God.

The people give voice to their petitions and thanksgivings.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept.*

Loving God; **Have mercy upon us, in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God of every land and nation, you have created all people and you dwell among us in Jesus Christ. Listen to the cries of those who pray to you, and grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name, all people will know the power of love at work in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

*All are invited to receive Holy Communion; please come forward at the direction of the usher.
The bread is received in the palm of the right hand supported by the left hand.
If you wish to receive a blessing, kindly keep your hands folded.*

Solo: Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace- Jonathan Willcocks

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace, where there is hatred let me sow love, injury, pardon; where there is discord, may there be union, where there is doubt, faith. Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace, where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, may there be joy. Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. May we be in peace, and may peace come unto each of us.

All things come of thee, O Lord; **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For when your children were scattered by sin, through the Blood of your Son and the power of the spirit, you gathered them again to yourself, that as a people made one in the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, we might be that rock of salvation, which is your Church.

Therefore, we praise you joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

(Hymnal S-125) **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.

After the breaking of the bread:

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

All are invited to come forward and receive the Body of Christ.

Those who desire a blessing, please keep your hands folded as a sign to the celebrant.

After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:

Gracious God; **In the eucharist we celebrate your love for us and for all people. Grant that we, strengthened by these holy gifts, may reflect your love in our lives, and know its fulfilment in your presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 593: Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

Organ: Fugue in Bb - Georg Andreas Sorge

Our 75th Year!

We share the light of Christ by actively loving and serving our neighbors in the world.
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