



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT – FEBRUARY 13, 2022

READINGS: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20; PSALM 1; LUKE 6:17-26

Organ: Cortège – Roger G. Farrell

Hymn 423, Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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.

Almighty and everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and restored them to wholeness of life, look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your power make whole all peoples and nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

IN THIS EPISTLE READING, PAUL INSISTS THAT BELIEF IN RESURRECTION FROM DEATH IS BASIC TO OUR FAITH THAT JESUS WAS RAISED. IF, AS SOME SUGGEST, THERE IS NO RESURRECTION, THEN THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT GOD RAISED JESUS. IN FACT, CHRIST WAS RAISED, THE FIRST OF MANY WHO WILL FIND NEW LIFE.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

IN PSALM 1, THE LORD MAKES FRUITFUL THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO CHOOSE THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. THE CANTOR SINGS THE REFRAIN, ALL REPEAT, AND THEN SING AS INDICATED.

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on his law day and night. **R.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper. It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away. **R.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed. **R.**

IN OUR GOSPEL PASSAGE, JESUS HEALS MANY ILLNESSES AND TEACHES HIS DISCIPLES THAT THE VALUES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WORLDLY STANDARDS. HIS WORDS OFFER BOTH COMFORT AND CHALLENGE.

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

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.' Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.'

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

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

Affirmation of Faith – From the Iona Community

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 holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Bonnie, our Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. **R.**

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 commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, 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: What Wondrous Love - Setting by Lloyd Larson

The text for the solo can be found at Hymn 439.

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:

God of tender care; **In this eucharist we celebrate your love for us and for all people. May we show your love in our lives and know its fulfilment in your presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the 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 448, O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Organ: Trumpet Tune in D Major - David Lasky

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Our 75th Year!

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

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