



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 6, 2022

READINGS: DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11; PSALM 91:9-10; 12-15; ROMANS 10:8B-13; LUKE 4:1-13

THE WORD OF GOD

THE GREAT LITANY (INSERT)

Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins. **God's mercy endures for ever.**

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.**

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

Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; 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 THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

IN THIS READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE THE LORD'S MIGHTY SALVATION OF ISRAEL FROM SLAVERY IN EGYPT IS RECALLED, AND THE PEOPLE ARE BID TO OFFER IN THANKSGIVING THE FIRST FRUITS OF THEIR FIELDS.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

PSALM 91 IS A HYMN OF TRUST IN THE LORD. THE CANTOR SINGS THE REFRAIN; ALL REPEAT, AND SING AS INDICATED:

Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation, there shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling. **R.**

They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the adder; you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet. **R.**

Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my Name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honor. **R.**

A READING FROM PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

IN THIS LESSON, PAUL TEACHES THAT THE WORD OF FAITH IS A GIFT TO US; BY IT WE MAKE OUR SAVING CONFESSION THAT JESUS IS LORD AND THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD.

'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

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

OUR GOSPEL IS THE STORY OF THE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS BY THE DEVIL. JESUS THREE TIMES CONFESSES HIS OBEDIENCE TO THE WILL OF GOD.

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

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

Hymn 142, Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

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

The Apostles' Creed

I believe; **In God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Holy Communion

Anthem: Forty Days & Forty Nights - Robert Hebble

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild; forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled. Sunbeams scorching all the day; chilly dewdrops nightly shed: prowling beasts about your way; stones your pillow, earth your bed. Shall not we your sorrow share, and from earthly joys abstain, fasting with unceasing prayer, glad with you to suffer pain? O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side; that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

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.

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.

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:

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

After the breaking of the bread:

May God's peace be with you always. **And also with you.**

Behold, the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are they who are called to his supper.

*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:

Faithful God; **In this holy bread you increase our faith and hope and love. Lead us in the path of Christ who is your Word of life. We ask this in his name. Amen.**

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us depart in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 143, The Glory of These Forty Days

Organ: Postlude - Fugue in A minor - Julius Reubke

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Our 75th Year!

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