



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 27, 2022

READINGS: JOSHUA 5:9-12; PSALM 32; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21; LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

WE WELCOME CAROLYN THIBODEAU, OUR ORGANIST THIS MORNING.

Organ: I Call to Thee, Lord, Jesus Christ -- J. S. Bach

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn: 393, Praise Our Great and Gracious Lord

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

As we prepare to worship, let us call to mind our sin, and the infinite mercy of God. (*silence*)

Almighty God; **Long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

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

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING TELLS OF THE FIRST PASSOVER KEPT BY THE ISRAELITES AFTER THEY HAD CROSSED OVER THE JORDAN RIVER INTO THE PROMISED LAND.

After the Israelites had crossed over the River Jordan, Joshua commanded that twelve stones be taken from the river and placed at the spot where the people had first laid foot in the Promised Land. Then the Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.' And so to this day that place is called Gilgal, which means, "a place of rolled stones". While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

PSALM 32 IS A THANKSGIVING FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN. THE CANTOR SINGS THE REFRAIN: ALL REPEAT, AND SING AS INDICATED:

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away! Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile! **R.**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long. For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. **R.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. **R.**

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. You are my hiding-place you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. **R.**

A READING FROM PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

IN THIS PASSAGE, PAUL CELEBRATES THE NEW PERSPECTIVE THAT COMES IN CHRIST, AND GOD'S RECONCILING WORK IN CHRIST THAT NOW MAKES ITS APPEAL TO OTHERS THROUGH HIS DISCIPLES.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

Tract, Psalm 122:1-4, Tone II: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself; To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with

compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

"Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

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.

Prayers of the People

In penitence and faith let us make our prayers to God.

For your holy people, that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace,
we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

For candidates for baptism and confirmation, that they may live by every word that proceeds from
your mouth, we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth,
we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

For the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away,
we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

For the sick in body, mind and spirit, that they may know your power to heal,
we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

For the poor in spirit, that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven and see you face to face,
we pray to you, O Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered, to the mercy and protection of God.

Prayers are offered for special intentions; and the people are bidden to offer their prayers.

Holy Communion

Organ: Blessed Jesus, We are Here. J. S. Bach

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:

Eternal God; **You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Hymn 690, Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Organ: Postlude on "Precious Name" Arranged, Jon Spong

Our 75th Year!

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