



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT – APRIL 3, 2022
PASSION SUNDAY

READINGS: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 679: Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

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.

Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you created humanity anew. May the power of his victorious cross transform those who turn in faith to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

OUR HEBREW SCRIPTURE LECTION TELLS HOW THE SAME GOD WHO BROUGHT THE PEOPLE THROUGH THE RED SEA WATERS WILL BEING THE PEOPLE HOME THROUGH THE WILDERNESS. IT IS THE END OF THE EXILE; AGAIN, GOD FORMS THE CHOSEN PEOPLE.

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

PSALM 126 IS A SONG OF HOPE AND JOY SUNG TO THE LORD, WHO RESTORES THE FORTUNES OF GOD'S PEOPLE. THE CANTOR SINGS THE REFRAIN; ALL REPEAT, AND SING AS INDICATED.

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R.**

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. **R.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negev.
Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **R.**

A Reading from Paul's Epistle to the Philippians

ALTHOUGH THE APOSTLE PAUL COULD BOAST OF HIS RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND, HE BELIEVES THAT NOTHING MATTERS IN COMPARISON WITH KNOWING CHRIST AS HIS LORD. FORGETTING WHAT LIES BEHIND, HE PRESSES ON TOWARD THE CALL AHEAD.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Tract, Psalm 129, Tone II: "Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth," let Israel now say; "Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth, but they have not prevailed against me. The plowmen plowed upon my back and made their furrows long. The LORD, the Righteous One, has cut the cords of the wicked. Let them be put to shame and thrown back, all those who are enemies of Zion. Let them be like grass upon the housetops, which withers before it can be plucked; Which does not fill the hand of the reaper, nor the bosom of him who binds the sheaves; So that those who go by say not so much as, "The LORD prosper you. We wish you well in the Name of the LORD."

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. *(continued)*

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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.**

The celebrant offers prayers for special intentions; and the people are bidden to offer their prayers.

Holy Communion

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 the days of our Lord's saving Passion and glorious Resurrection are approaching, by which the pride of the ancient foe is vanquished and the mystery of our redemption in Christ is celebrated. Through him the host of heaven adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever.

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 with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people, that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

Hymn 598; Lord Christ, When First Thou Cam'st to Earth

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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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