

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT – FEBRUARY 25, 2024

READINGS: GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16; PSALM 22:22-30; ROMANS 4:13-25; MARK 8:31-38

Hymn 401, vs. 1, 2, 5: The God of Abraham Praise, Who Reigns Enthroned Above

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 sins against God and our neighbor. (*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.

Cantor or Choir *All*
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Cantor or Choir *All*
Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
Cantor or Choir *All*
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

In our opening lesson God appears to Abram and enters into covenant with him, promising to make him an ancestor to multitudes. The Hebrew people will come to see this covenant as the originating source of their own identity.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.

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

Psalm 22 is a song of praise to the Lord, who rules over all and cares for the downtrodden.



Those who seek the Lord shall praise him.

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory. For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them. R. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live forever!" All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. R. For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations. To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. R. For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations. To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. R. My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done. R.

A Reading from Paul's Epistle to the Romans

In this reading, Paul explains that the new relationship with God is open to everyone who follows in Abraham's faith. This means that righteousness before God comes through God's free gift and the response of faith.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

all stand

Tract: Psalm 106, Tone II: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD or show forth all his praise? Happy are those who act with justice and always do what is right! Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, and visit me with your saving help; That I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the gladness of your people, that I may glory with your inheritance.

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." (*continued*)

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

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

What do we believe?

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

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him this Lent. Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. We pray for . . . May the death of Jesus on the cross bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation. Lord, meet us in the silence; **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for . . . May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world. Lord, meet us in the silence; **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. We pray for . . . May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another. Lord, meet us in the silence; **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. We pray for . . . May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms. Lord, meet us in the silence; **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. We hold these people in our minds . . . May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence; **Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Our parish prayer list: Karen Schulze, Georgiana Solomon, Donald Burton, Lynn Kerber, Ed Haug, Jim Veit, Pat Grant, Nina, Vicki, Bill. For the continuing recovery of Jada Rhein, Lori Pranior, Richard Simonds.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Andrew's, Ann Arbor; Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of Tanzania

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand; the wine by either sipping from the chalice or dipping the bread in the wine. Kindly let the celebrant know if you would prefer a blessing instead to receiving Communion.

Hymn 675, Take Up Your Cross, The Savior Said

The people turn to page 369 of the Prayer Book and participate in the Prayer of Consecration, responding as indicated.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

After the breaking of the bread: May God's peace be with you always. And also with you.
The people briefly greet those around them. Please refrain from shaking hands.

The celebrant says:

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

And the people respond:

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

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

God of wisdom; May the light of the eternal Word, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, guide us to your glory.
We thank you for these holy mysteries, food for our Lenten journey, and a foretaste of your heavenly banquet.
Bring us to share in the life that is to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice forever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us depart in peace. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 448, O Love, How Deep, How Broad How High

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

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