

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 10, 2024

READINGS: NUMBERS 21:4-9; PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22; EPHESIANS 2:1-10; JOHN 3:14-21

We are delighted that you have joined us in worship this morning.
The prayers and spoken responses are printed in this bulletin; hymns can be found in the blue hymnal.

Hymn 620 - Jerusalem, Jerusalem, My Happy Home

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.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down 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 Numbers

In our Hebrew Bible lesson, the people complain against God and Moses about challenging conditions, as they have so often since their departure from Egypt. God sends poisonous serpents among the people and the people respond by repenting of their disobedience.

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

In Psalm 107 thanksgiving is offered to the Lord, who saves from storms and other dangers those who will call upon God's name. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat and sing as indicated.



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mer - cy en - dures for ev - er.

Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe. He gathered them out of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. R. Some went down to the sea in ships and plied their trade in deep waters; They beheld the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep. R. Then he spoke, and a stormy wind arose, which tossed high the waves of the sea. They mounted up to the heavens and fell back to the depths; their hearts melted because of their peril. R. They reeled and staggered like drunkards and were at their wits' end. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper and quieted the waves of the sea. R. Then were they glad because of the calm, and he brought them to the harbor they were bound for. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy and the wonders he does for his children. R.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Ephesians

This New Testament passage emphasizes the manner in which Christians have been saved by God's free gift. When we were dead in our sins, God raised us up with Christ that we might know the immeasurable riches of God's graciousness.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

all stand

Tract, Psalm 125: Tone II: Those who trust in the Lord are like Moun Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever. The hills stand about Jerusalem; so does the Lord stand round about his people, from this time forth for evermore. The scepter of the wicked shall not hold away over the land allotted to the just, so that the just shall not put their hands to evil. Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good and to those who are true of heart. As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the Lord will lead them away with the evil doers; but peace be upon Israel.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Clare of Assisi, Ann Arbor; Trinity Church, Belleville
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in the United States

Through Christ you make us a new creation, O God, for with him we pass from sin to the new life of grace. Accept our prayers in the warm embrace of your compassion, and welcome all people to the festive banquet of your table, where we may rejoice in your love and celebrate the inheritance you have given to us. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 of receiving Communion.

Hymn 686 – Come Thou Found of Every Blessing, Tune My Heart To Sing Thy Grace!

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 our thanks and praise.

Blessed be your Name, God of Moses . . . as we join in their unending hymn:

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:

Giver of life; You enlighten all who come into the world. Fill our hearts with the splendor of your grace, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise your holy name. 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.

Lord, regard with mercy your people gathered 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, Pilgrim Through This Barren Land

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

20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 313-884-4820 www.stmichaelsgpw.org