

A Service of Morning Prayer on the Third Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 15, 2020

*With The Rev. Matthew Brown and The Rev. Gillian Hoyer
The Parish of the Valley*

Words of Welcome

Opening Sentence

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

The Penitential Rite

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ,
as we prepare to worship almighty God,
let us with penitent and obedient hearts
confess our sins,
that we may obtain forgiveness
by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept

**All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

People: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.**

The Invitatory

Officiant: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let us worship.

Venite (Psalm 95:1-7)

**All: Come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God,
and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Officiant: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come, let us worship.

The Proclamation of the Word

Reader: A reading from the book of Romans (5:1-11):

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved

through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks Be to God.**

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (4:5-42):

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her

water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Priest: The Gospel of Christ
People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

All: **Hear, O Israel**
 the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
 Love the Lord your God
 with all your heart,
 with all your soul,
 with all your mind,
 and with all your strength.

This is the first and the great commandment.
 The second is like it:
 Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

A Litany Amidst the COVID-19 Outbreaks written by the Rev. Michael B.E. Kurth

Officiant: God the Father,

People: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: God the Son,

People: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: God the Holy Spirit,

People: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Holy Trinity, one God,

People: Have mercy on us.

Officiant: Most merciful God, we come to you in this time of anxiety and uncertainty surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19. As the sorrows of our heart and mind increase, we beseech you to save us from all trouble and fear. Cast away all works of darkness. Be our rock, a castle to keep us safe. For the Lord is our stronghold and sure defense, and he will be our Savior.

For all who have died: receive them into the arms of your mercy, grant them eternal peace, and surround those who mourn with your healing grace.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For those directly infected with the virus: help them recover in good health and restore them in body, mind and spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For those at high risk of infection, especially the elderly, those with underlying illnesses, the marginalized, and the poor: keep them healthy and free from all sickness.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For those in quarantine, the shut-in, and the infirmed: help them find peace, keep them in good health, and renew their mind and spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For all hospitals, doctors, nurses, and staff: protect them as they minister to the sick, relieve all stress, and provide the resources and space to meet the needs of all the infirmed.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For first responders: guard them from all harm, and grant them strength and courage as they respond to all calls for help.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For service industry workers and those forced to work as their community shuts down: keep them healthy, bestow the resources to best care for themselves and their families, and assure them in times of financial and medical anxiety.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For those experiencing financial loss and uncertainty of resources: have mercy on them, alleviate any fear, and provide for them daily bread and wage.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For the leaders of this nation and the world: help them make sound and safe decisions to best secure the future of our planet.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For all scientists and those working to find a cure: inspire them towards your truth, and help them discover and disseminate a vaccine and cure.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For all media and journalists: protect them from all harm in their reporting, and move them to be a vector of truth and certainty, and never fear or panic.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For all places of worship: embolden them to be beacons of hope and love, and help us to gather however and wherever we can – be it in person or online – to give you praise.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For the leaders of our church: help them minister to their flock; fortify them to be faithful pastors, to persevere in prayer, and to build up the family of God in new and creative ways.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: For calm amidst the storm: as the waves toss our boat and we wonder “do you not care?”, remind us to not be afraid, that with you all things are possible, and that even the wind and sea obey you.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Officiant: Stir up in us a spirit of compassion and tenacity for the time ahead.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Move us to check-in with loved ones at high risk of infection and those in quarantine.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Ease our fear and anxiety, that we may share our resources rather than hoard them, and extend a helping hand to those in need.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Inspire us to share the Good News of your love and hope.

People: Amen.

Officiant: All this we ask through your son Jesus Christ our Lord: healer of the sick, ruler of the tempestuous sea, and Saviour of the world.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

The Collects

Officiant: Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life,
may we always thirst for you,

the spring of life and source of goodness;
through him who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Officiant: O God of unchangeable power and eternal life:
Look favourably upon your whole church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery;
and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence
carry out the work of our salvation;
that things which were cast down may be raised up,
and that all things may return into unity
through him by whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Amen.

Officiant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the
knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of
God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with
you always.

All: Amen.