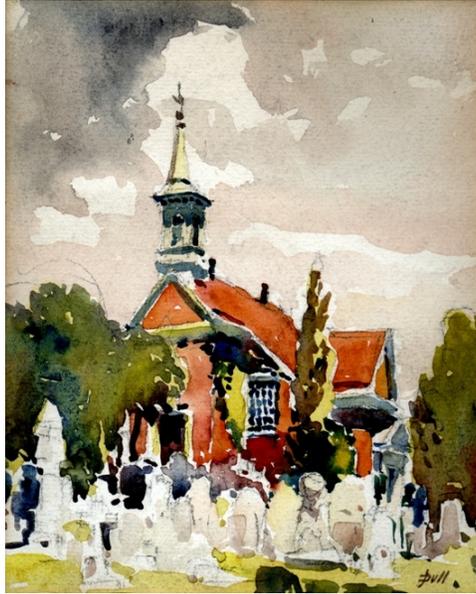


Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church



Christian Street and Columbus Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215-389-1513 www.old-swedes.org
The Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews

We, the congregation of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes), existing by and for the glory of God, knowing that God, through this congregation, helps us find our way and to use our gifts, gather together, to honor and celebrate the acceptance of our differences and uniqueness, to be an inviting, welcoming, sustaining and loving community, to respond to the needs of others, to preserve and build upon the beauty, tradition and heritage of this sacred place.

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Ministry Assistants Today:
Altar Guild/Server: *Barbara Potts*
Lector: *Candace Roberts*
Intercessor: *Megan Bartlett*
Usher: *Jim Ufheil*

We Gather In God's Presence

[Silence for prayer and preparation]
(+As you are able standing; ++ sitting; +++ As you are able sitting or kneeling)

Prelude

Welcome

+Opening Acclamation *(all stand, as you are able)*

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

All **God's mercy endures forever.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(all kneel or sit as you are able, keeping silence)

+++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 neighbors 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.**

Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant 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. (all are seated)*

We Listen To The Word of God

++First Reading – Numbers 21:4-9

Candace Roberts

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures forever.
- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.
- 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

Second Reading – Ephesians 2:1-10

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God

Musical Interlude

+Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (3:14-21)

People 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you, Lord Christ

++Sermon From Darkness to Light and Death to Life

Rev. Koshy Mathews

+An Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius

Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life, who proceeds from the Father
and the Son. With the Father and the Son he
is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

We Ask God To Listen To Our Prayers *(sitting or kneeling as able)*

+++Prayers of the People - Form IV

Megan Bartlett

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Give grace, O heavenly Father, for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael our Presiding Bishop; Daniel, our Diocesan Bishop; for all bishops, priests, deacons of the Episcopal Church, and for Koshy, our rector, the vestry, the staff and the people of our congregation at Gloria Dei. Grant Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth; live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

(Silence)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for Antonio, UN Secretary General; Joe, our President; Tom, our Governor; and Jim, our Mayor; and for all others who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world. Guide the people of the United States and of all nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

(Silence)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

(Silence)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially the first responders, medical and hospital personnel, teachers, and food service workers, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

(Silence)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially: **Mary, Margie, Deuce, Margaret, Richard, Bruce, Ryan, Susan, Cathy A., Abby, Rita, Barb, Bonnie, Peg, and Tom D.** (*pause-you may add others who need healing prayers silently or aloud*). Also, for our own needs, and those of others (*pause-you may add your intentions silently or aloud*) Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

(Silence)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to God's mercy all who have died, especially from the pandemic (now over 500,000), that your will for them may be fulfilled; We pray for the repose of the souls of the departed, **especially Nick**, and that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

(Silence)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

+Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

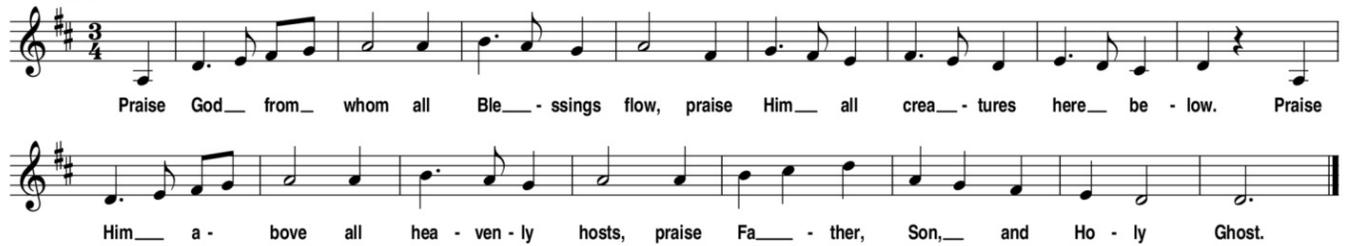
All And also with you.

The Offertory

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as an offering and sacrifice to God.

Flowingly, in 1

Unknown



Praise God from whom all Blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above all heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

We Share Holy Communion

The Holy Communion – Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

+++Celebrant Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever

you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior 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, And the power and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.
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The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(All persons are invited to the Lord's supper.)

The Post-Communion Prayer

+++Celebrant Let us pray. Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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.

God Sends Us Out To Love and Serve Each Other

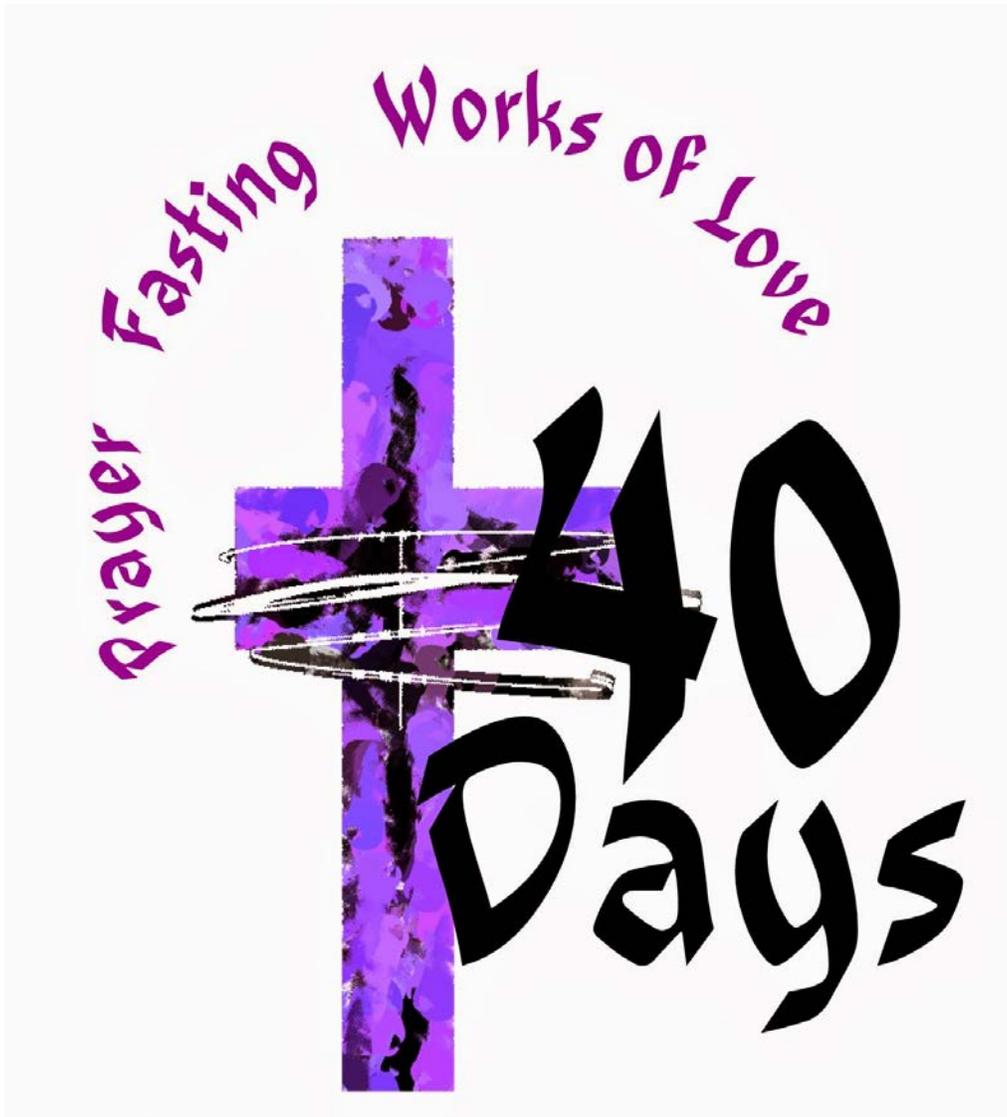
+ The Blessing

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Postlude





Announcements

Evensong on Zoom

Every Tuesday at 6:30pm. To participate, you can email Jaime at jaimelkonowal@gmail.com for a Zoom link. Use Meeting ID: 834 5987 6076 and Passcode: 988017

Sign up on our website www.old-swedes.org, and a link will be automatically emailed to you every week.

Food Collection

Canned food collection will continue. A receptacle is placed in the Riverside Hall for members and friends of the church to drop their offering of canned foods any day of the week. We will take the donations once a month to Mercy Hospice for Women and Children on 13th St.

Lenten Book Study on Zoom

Wednesdays at 7:00pm starting Feb. 24th, for 6 weeks

Join us for a discussion of *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr. The study will last for 6 weeks, and we will be discussing the Introduction and Chapters 4, 5, and 6 on the meeting on March 10th. All are welcome!

Meeting ID: 724 315 5804

Sunday Services

From now on, there will be In-person and live-stream Eucharist every Sunday at 10 AM. Starting March 7, we can have up to 36 people in church, there is no need to call the office to register. However, COVID protocols are still in effect, such as wearing masks, social distancing, use of hand sanitizer, and there will be no congregational singing. The service will also be live-streamed via our Facebook page, **Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Episcopal Church**.

HGDPC presents The Perils of the Sea [Live Stream]

Thursday, March 25th from 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Lecture is free, but registration is necessary at www.preserveoldswedes.org

As part of its 2021 online lecture series, the Historic Gloria Dei Preservation Corporation will present researcher and writer Michael Schreiber speaking on “The Perils of the Sea.” The illustrated presentation, filmed at Old Swedes’ Church, will take place on Thursday, March 25, at 7 p.m. A discussion will follow the talk. Schreiber will share his research into the lives and deaths of Philadelphia sea captains in the age of sail who were overcome by great hurricanes, succumbed to attacks by pirates, or who mysteriously disappeared in faraway waters.

Gloria Dei Vestry

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Gloria Dei Staff

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