



CHRIST CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

EPISCOPAL PARISH AND SCHOOL, PARADISE VALLEY

KNOW CHRIST, LOVE CHRIST, SERVE CHRIST

The Fourth Sunday in Lent - Rite II Morning Prayer, Year B

14 March, 2021

Online Morning Prayer Service - 9:00 am

Prelude My faith looks up to thee Lowell Mason

Hymn Come thou fount of every blessing **Hymnal 686**

The Acclamation

Celebrant Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and repents of evil. – *Joel 2:13*

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

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 Lord, open our lips.

All **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
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.**

Celebrant The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

All **Come let us adore him.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 *Confitemini Domino*

(chanted)

Reader A reading from **The Book of Numbers**.

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 The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reader **A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.**

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 The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

John 3:14-21

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

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Celebrant 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.**

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Daniel P. Richards

All 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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

The Prayers

Celebrant Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion, hear our prayers.

Reader We pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers, and for all the holy people of God. Wash us through and through,

All **And cleanse us from our sin.**

We pray for our nation and for all the nations of the earth, and we pray for all who govern and judge, all who serve and protect.

Purge us from our sin,
And we shall be pure.

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who weep, those who cry for justice, those who live under threat of terror, and those without a place to lay their head.

Make them hear of joy and gladness,
that those who are broken may rejoice.

Reader We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely.

All Give them the joy of your saving help,
and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

We especially pray for Leon A., Suzan D., Tom T., Glenna Y., the Francis and Sporleder Carr families, and the Morgan family.

We pray for Leon, Suzan, Tom, Glenna, the Francis and Sporleder Carr families, and the Morgan family.

In this season of Lent we pray for those who prepare for baptism and confirmation, and we pray that we all might be given the grace to grow closer to you, O God.

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.

We pray for those who have died, and who have entered into the land of eternal Light and your abiding peace.

Cast them not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from them.

We especially pray for Joan F. and Peter M.
We pray for Joan and Peter.

Celebrant Gracious God, because of your great love for the world you gave us your son; grant us the strength and wisdom believe in him that we would not perish but have eternal life. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant 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 Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Blessing

Celebrant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Hymn O Master, let me walk with thee Hymnal 660

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