



St. John's Episcopal Church

February 25th, 2024, 10:30am

The Second Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Our Guests

We are so glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today. You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian Church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest. Children's activity bags are available in the back of the church.

HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

THE PRELUDE *Fantasia in c minor*
Adagio

Johann Sebastian Bach
Craig Phillips

THE OPENING HYMN 401 *The God of Abraham praise*

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

All kneel.

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness. **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

The celebrant offers the following sentence

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

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.

The Priest, stands and says

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.**

THE KYRIES

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains three measures of music. The first measure is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The second measure is labeled 'All' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The third measure is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy.'. The second staff also begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains three measures of music. The first measure is labeled 'All' and contains the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy.'. The second measure is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The third measure is labeled 'All' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:22-30

Sung by choir.

22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;

all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23 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.

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 4:13-25

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 10 *New every morning is the love (omit *)*

THE GOSPEL: MARK 8:31-38

All stand.

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

People **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."

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."

Priest The Gospel of our Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON The Rev. Dr. Deonna D. Neal

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

The Celebrant and People say together

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM IV) *All kneel as able p. 388.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

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.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; especially, _____ 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, 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, _____, 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 your mercy all who have died, especially, _____, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The people stand to greet one another.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people stand to sing.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN 675 *Take up your cross, the Savior said*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)

All stand. p.361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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:

THE SANCTUS

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.

All kneel as they are able.

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant sing on a monotone:

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that
Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with
Thanksgiving.

During communion the choir sings
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor.
After receiving the bread and the wine, the communicant responds "Amen."

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All kneel as they are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

All kneel as they are able.

The Celebrant says "Bow Down before the Lord"

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 636 *How firm a foundation*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Fugue in g minor (The "Little")* Johann Sebastian Bach

TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Reverend Deonna D. Neal, PhD

Ch, 1st Lt Ginger Bennett, USAF

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministry: Connie Tapia

Acolytes: Bobby Bradford, Jeb Clark, Nancy Bradford, Samuel Collier, Thomas Arrington

Lector and Intercessor: Radney Ramsey, Nick Prillaman

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Hughes, J.R. Marshall, Mary-Nelms Parson

Ushers/Greeters: Keith Miller, Jim Bennett, Elizabeth Lawlor, Debbie Schremser

Altar Guild: Debbie Schremser

Flower Guild: Jeanne Drummond, Margaret Peoples

Flower Delivery Team: Jeanne Drummond, Bette Smith, Debbie Schremser

Videographer: Ann Tippet

Instrumentalists Jihye Choi, *violin*; David Simpson, *bassoon*.

Altar Flowers given in memory of: Mary Oliver McLemore,

Andrew Jackson McLemore, William Oliver Rees,

Thomas Oliver McLemore, Martha Thigpen McLemore,

William Henry McLemore, Ruth Cook McLemore,

Joy McGlynn McLemore Andrew Jackson McLemore, Jr.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Anne Phillips Arrington, Bob Hill, Carma Marks, Eddie McDowell,

Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Richard McCrory, Ethan Tapia,

Barbara Wells, Larry Worrilow.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Emma Allshouse,

Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Michael Finnen, Roger Jobe, Seeley Lewis,

Maureen McCloskey, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Pam Slate, Ron Skoneki,

Chandler Taylor, Denise Tinney, Joe Wendel, Frank Winkler,

Patti Worrilow

Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.

The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.

Pastoral Care Team for February: Cindy Seibels, Florence Tyson,

Margaret Ann Selman, Anne Hamner, Susan Harris

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Teaching Series: Legacy: What are you leaving? This Lent please join us at 6pm for dinner and presentations on aspects of end-of-life planning. We'll be joined by experts in their field who will lead us more deeply into practical ways we can show our love for the people we leave behind. Topics include Faith and Funerals, End-of-Life Medical Care, Ethical Wills, Financial Matters, and Legal Matters.

Children's Lenten Series: Wild Willy's Candy Factory: A new look at the prodigal son. K-6th Children will meet with Sarah immediately following dinner. Modified program will be available in the nursery for Pre-K and toddlers.

Men's Focus: Saturday, March 2, 2024, from 8-9 a.m., in the Parish Hall. Please join Duncan for breakfast and a discussion on the topic of *Men and Leisure*. Please RSVP to duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org by Thursday, February 29th, to ensure we have enough food.

2024 Pledge: Please remember to fill out your 2024 pledge card. If you do not have one, you may ask a vestry member, or call or email the office. We are 93% of the way there. We have received \$1,196,620.50 and have \$98,505.57 outstanding.

Revelation Winter Bible Study: Sundays, at 9:15 a.m., in the library, join Deonna for a Bible study on the book of Revelation. We will use the book *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation* by Bruce Metzger. Books are available in the bookstore (\$15) or can be purchased online.

Rector's Forum: Welcome Course- Duncan is currently leading an engaging program of presentations and discussions about the Christian faith and the Episcopal tradition. Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m. in the Archives. Please email duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org to register.

Laptops for Honduras: The Diocese is collecting laptops to send to Honduras. Laptops must turn on and passwords should be removed or noted on the device. Please wipe the hard drive if possible. Devices can be left at the church office.



Visitors: Welcome! We are so glad you decided to visit with us today. Please use this QR code to provide us with some information about you and your family so that we can better serve you.



St. John's

Episcopal Church

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 24th Palm Sunday. Normal schedule.

March 25th Holy Monday. Eucharist Rite 1, 12:05 in the Chapel.

March 26th Holy Tuesday. Eucharist Rite 1, 12:05 in the Chapel.

March 27th Holy Wednesday. Eucharist Rite 1, 12:05 in the Chapel.

March 28th Maundy Thursday. Eucharist Rite 1, 6pm in the Church.

March 29th Good Friday. Worship, 12:05pm in the Church.

March 31st Easter Day. Eucharist Rite 1, 7:00 in the Church.

Eucharist, 9:00 in the Church, followed by Easter Egg Hunt.

Eucharist Rite 2, 11:00 in the Church.