



St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, March 26th, 2023, 10.30am

The Fifth 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 *Out of the Depths Have I Called Unto Thee, O Lord* JS Bach
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Healey Willan

THE OPENING HYMN 471 *We sing the praise of him who died*

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. The first staff has three measures: the first measure is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the second measure is labeled 'All' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the third measure is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The second staff has three measures: the first measure is labeled 'All' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the second measure is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the third measure is labeled 'All' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' on the first staff and 'Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' on the second staff.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put

my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 130 Chant: Henry Walford Davies *Sung by choir.*

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;

LORD, hear my voice; *

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *

O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; *

therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *

in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the LORD,

more than watchmen for the morning, *

more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *

for with the LORD there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 474 *When I survey the wondrous cross*

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 11:1-45*All stand.**Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Priest The Gospel of the 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 celebrant will add a concluding Collect. Then the people stand to greet one another.

THE PEACE

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 sit.

Offertory Anthem *To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord* Thomas Tallis

All stand as the offertory is brought up to the altar.

THE OFFERTORY

The Celebrant presents the gifts with these words

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is thine.

All things come from thee, O Lord, and of thine do we give thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)

All stand.

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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 calls us from the tombs of death so that we might enter into the fullness of life and peace. 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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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.

The priest receives the Sacrament, and then serves the people with these words:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor.

Communicants may receive the wine by intinction or by drinking directly from the cup.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All kneel as they are able. p. 366

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 BLESSING

All kneel.

The Celebrant blesses the people

Go now and walk in the light of Christ. Stand firm before the forces of death and speak words of life. And may God the Father raise you up and give life to your bodies; May God the Son dwell in you richly; And may the God the Holy Spirit be the life in your every breath. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 473 *Lift high the cross*

THE SENDING OUT

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Fantasia in g minor*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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TODAY'S SERVERS

Acolytes: Wyatt Wells, Bobby Bradford, Helen Johnston, Ella Claire Corsino, Suzanne Holmes, Thomas Lawlor

Lector and Intercessor: Mary Hughes, Radney Ramsey

Eucharistic Ministers: Callie Dietz, Fairley McDonald, Mary-Nelms Parsons

Ushers/Greeters: Radney Ramsey, Christy Anderson, Anne Hamner, Debbie Schremser

Altar Guild: Chuck Moore

Flower Guild: Betty Beale, Amy Marshall

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

Videographer: Anne Tippett

Instrumentalists: Barbara Shanks, *oboe*; Jihye Choi, *violin*; David Simpson, *bassoon*.

Altar Flowers given in memory of: Josephine Barnes Smith, Junius Bragg Smith, Sr., Junius Bragg Smith, Jr, Virginia Gunter Orvis, Homer Waitstill Orvis, Dora Pratt Barnes, Eugenia Bragg Smith, Henry Paul Haas, Dora Haas, Nancy Inge Eskridge, Ira Hibbett Eskridge, Jr.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Bill Bowman, Leslie Little, Ken Mahan, Christopher Marshall, Richard McCrory, Eddie McDowell, Marilyn Pickett, Shirley Price, Evelyn Sherbert, Larry Worriow.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Hope Hamblin, Johnathan Pace, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Robert Proctor,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Program: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. “Be Happitudes.” Eight statements that define the children of God.

Children’s Lenten Program: “*Countdown to Easter*”. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Each week, we will participate in exciting skits, object lessons, crafts, games and small group discussions. A modified version will be done for Toddlers through preschoolers in the Run-Around-Room.

New Rector’s Forum: “*To the Ends of the Earth*.” Beginning March 12th, this original course will follow the growth and development of the early church in the book of Acts. Each week will feature a key moment in the life of the new church. This will not merely be an academic series. Rather, we will discover the uncanny similarities between the earliest church in the pre-Christian world and today’s church in the post-Christian West. Together we will discover clues as to how churches can reach into our neighborhoods in ways that are biblical and fruitful.

Lenten Organ Meditations- Today, March 26th at 4pm. Art and music are presented in preparation for Holy Week. Camilla Armstrong's deeply evocative Stations of the Cross paintings will be displayed throughout the nave accompanied by short readings from the Gospels and Psalms on the themes of the Passion. Music of Bach, Brahms, Samuel Barber, Widor and others emphasizing the pathos of the Passion accompany visual art in our sacred space.