

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 
 OF *St. John the Baptist*

"Where All Are Welcome . . . No Exceptions!"

The Fourth Sunday
in Lent
March 27, 2022

The Holy Eucharist
The Word of God

Prelude *"Be Thou My Guardian and My Guide"*
C. C. Palmer

Processional Hymn (*Please stand as able*) *Please see page 8*

Children's Chat - *Robert Freeman*

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

The Decalogue (*Please kneel or be seated*)
The Celebrant and People pray responsively

Hear the commandments of God to God's 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 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 may add the following sentence

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." *Mark 12:29-31*



#620 | *"Jerusalem, My Happy Home"*

The Confession of Sin *(Please kneel as able or be seated)*

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

People **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.**

Lord, Have Mercy *(Please stand as able)*

Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the Collect

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 forever.

People **Amen.**

First Reading *(Please be seated)*

Reader A Reading from Joshua:

Introduction to the First Reading

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

Joshua 5:9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 32



Hap - py are they whose trans - gres - sions are for - giv - en and whose sin is put a - way.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile! [ANT.]

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. [ANT.]

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. [ANT.]

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in
time of trouble;

when the great waters overflow,
they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. [ANT.]

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you." [ANT.]

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. [ANT.]

Second Reading

Reader A Reading from The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

Introduction to the Second Reading

St. Paul describes the gospel as the assurance that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. Christ's resurrection has enabled our reconciliation with God and one another. The Christian's ministry is to announce this reconciliation for all.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (*Please stand as able*) - Please see page 9

#686 | "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke:

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

The Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But

while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Nicene Creed (*Please stand as able*)

*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 *The Leader and People pray responsively.*

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect, or a Doxology.)

The Peace *(Please stand as able)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.

Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to:

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR

Securely online through our website - <https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html>

Offertory Sentence & Interlude

Doxology *(The offering is presented as the Doxology is sung. Please stand as able)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

#624 | "Jerusalem the Golden"

Offertory Hymn

Please see page 10

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God 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.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Hymnal S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and mi - ght, Hol - ly, ho - ly,
11 ho - ly Lord, God of power and mi - ght, heav - ven and earth are fu -
20 ll, fu - ll of your glor - ry Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the
31 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes - in the name of the Lo - rd. Ho -
41 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people may kneel as able, or be seated. The Celebrant continues.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *Amen.*

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

People ***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 Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

Fraction Anthem: *Lamb of God*

New Plainsong

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.

Post Communion Prayer (*Please kneel or be seated*)

Celebrant Let us pray.

People *Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.
Amen.*

Benediction

Recessional Hymn (*Please stand as able*) Please see page 11

#690 | "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude "Chaconne in D minor" Louis Couperin

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The Rev. Thomas M. White, Rector

Tom Waite, Acolyte

Robert Freeman, Youth Minister

Jean Skocypiec, Lay Reader

Scott Kresge, Organist/Videography/Streaming

Karen Vanselous, Cantor

Elizabeth Scheer & Susan Mattia, Videography/Streaming

Jim Mulholland, Usher

620

The Church Triumphant

1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when
 2 Thy saints are crowned with glo - ry great; they
 3 There Da - vid stands with harp in hand as
 4 Our La - dy sings Mag - ni - fi - cat with
 5 Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God

1 shall I come to thee? When shall my sor - rows
 2 see God face to face; they tri - umph still, they
 3 mas - ter of the choir: ten thou - sand times would
 4 tune sur - pass - ing sweet, and bless - ed mar - tyr's
 5 grant that I may see thine end - less joy, and

1 have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
 2 still re - jice in that most hap - py place.
 3 one be - blest who might this mu - sic hear.
 4 har - mo - ny doth ring in ev - ery street.
 5 of the same par - ta - ker ev - er be!

Words: F. B. P. (ca. 16th cent.), alt.

Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk hymn; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

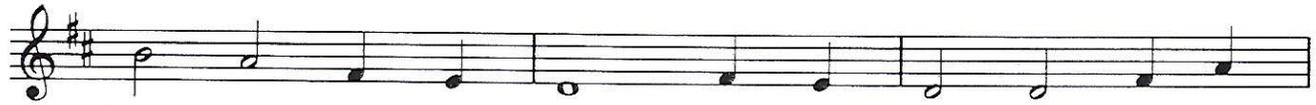
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686

The Christian Life



1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
 2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



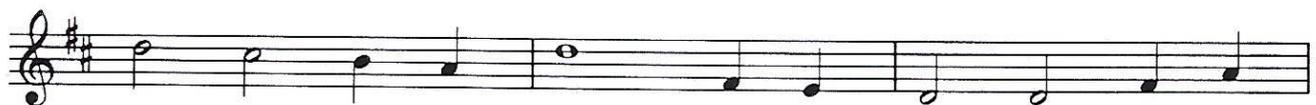
heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
 by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
 I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

624

The Church Triumphant

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest,
 2 They stand, those halls of Zi - on, all ju - bi - lant with song,
 3 There is the throne of Da - vid; and there, from care re - leased,
 4 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!

be - neath thy con - tem - pla - tion sink heart and voice op - pressed:
 and bright with man - yan an - gel, and all the mar - tyr throng:
 the shout of them that tri - umph, the song of them that feast;
 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try that ea - ger hearts ex - pect!

I know not, oh, I know not, what joys a - wait us there;
 the Prince is ev - er in them, the day - light is se - rene;
 and they who with their Lead - er have con - quered in the fight,
 Je - sus, in mer - cy bring us to that dear land of rest,

what ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare!
 the pas - tures of the bless - ed are decked in glo - rious sheen.
 for ev - er and for ev - er are clad in robes of white.
 who art, with God the Fa - ther, and Spi - rit, ev - er blest.

Words: Bernard of Cluny (12th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

St. 4, *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

Music: Ewing, Alexander Ewing (1830-1895)

76. 76. D

Recessional Hymn

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt.
 Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932)

87. 87. 877