

**St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
The Second Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2021 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist, Rite II**



This bulletin accompanies our service on the Zoom platform.

To link to the service go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/647333282?pwd=WmtlR3ppamVET1dhNHAXU0JVZUZmQT09>

or call 1-646-558-8656 (Meeting ID:647 333 282; passcode 173902).

Everything you need to participate is incorporated here. We encourage you to follow, say the responses, and allow yourself to be pulled closer to God.

Welcome.

We are delighted you are joining us for worship today.

We are in the season of Lent. You will note that in this time of repentance and preparation we begin worship with Confession and Absolution, followed by reciting together three times the Trisagion, a simple ancient prayer found prominently in Eastern worship. And we end with a Solemn Prayer over the People, reminding us of opportunities to connect to God throughout the week in a deeper way. As we gather, you are invited to center yourself and prepare for worship.

First, enjoy three deep breaths

- *The first one to help you fully arrive in your body,*
- *The second one to clear your mind so you may be present to yourself and others,*
- *The third one to open your heart and welcome the Holy Spirit to engage you*

Second, select one of these three entries into worship

Notice whichever one you feel drawn to... then do what you're invited to do with it

Are you hopeful today?

- *Pray a simple prayer of thanksgiving for the beacon of hope drawing you forward.*

Are you looking for light today?

- *Pray for the light of Christ to illumine you especially this morning, and also to illumine the world.*

Are you in need of joy this morning?

- *Pray that God would show you the simple, profound joys that surround you now.*

Third, be still until worship begins

Empty your hands,

Close your eyes,

Breathe deeply and slowly,

Empty your mind.

Let sounds pass by you.

Find interest only in silent waiting upon God.

The Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People

His mercy endures for ever.

Confession and Absolution

Priest

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence, then all pray

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 Celebrant 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 Trisagion

The Celebrant and the People say this ancient prayer together three times

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

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 Old Testament Reading

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."

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:22-30

- 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 Reading

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

Gospeller 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."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All stand and say the Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of the People – Form II

BCP p. 385

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Doug, our own Bishop; for Sam, our Rector; for Jane, our Priest Associate; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for good will among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, those struggling under financial strain, immigrants, refugees, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.

Pray that they may find and be found by God. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____].

Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially _____.

Silence

I ask your thanksgiving for _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence, after which the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the ministers and the People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

The Celebrant prepares the table for Holy Communion.

Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

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 our 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. 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. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Celebrant and the People say the **Sanctus**
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.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Paul, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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**

Celebrant

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

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.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept, after which the Celebrant will say

The gifts of God for the people of God.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

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.

All remain in prayer for the Solemn Prayer over the People and the Sending Forth, to which the People respond, Thanks be to God.

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Service Schedule

Sundays, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - online via Zoom

Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayers - online via Zoom

For more information on connecting to worship, please visit our website: www.stpaulsstockbridge.org

Rector: The Rev. Samuel J. Smith, rector@stpaulsstockbridge.org

Father Sam's office hours are by appointment.

Please call the rectory: 298-7001.

Priest Associate: The Rev. Dr. Jane Tillman

Vergers: Darryl Lafferty

Office Administrator: Gretchen Fairfield, office@stpaulsstockbridge.org

In this time of the pandemic Gretchen is not usually working in person in the office.

Call the church office or email and she will get back to you promptly.

Vestry

Sr. Warden: Matt Fillio, 822-3759

Jr. Warden: Jorja Marsden, 298-3945

Sebastian Bonner, *Clerk*; John Davies, *Treasurer*; Martha Bodine; Diane Dillon; Diana French; Christopher Johnson; Duncan Pollock; Tom Skakel; Carl Sprague

St. Paul's Children's Center: Lisa Kane, Director, 298-4639

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