



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
90 Kings Highway • Middletown, NJ 07748 • 732.671.2524
www.ChristChurchMiddletown.org
www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMiddletown

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 4, 2018

*“As you are able” is the norm when presented with a suggestion
to stand, sit or kneel.*

We Hear the Word of God

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People God’s mercy endures forever.

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Trisagion *(Standing)*

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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from Holy Scripture *(Seated)* Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but

rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
 and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
 and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
 and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
 and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
 it comes forth like a bridegroom
 out of his chamber;
 it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
 and runs about to the end of it again; *
 nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
 the testimony of the Lord is sure
 and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just
 and rejoice the heart; *
 the commandment of the Lord is clear
 and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
 the judgments of the Lord are true
 and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
 more than much fine gold, *
 sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
 and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
 cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

A Reading from Holy Scripture (*Seated*) 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel (*Standing*) John 2:13-22

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon (*Seated*) The Rev. Dr. William Carl Thomas

We Respond to the Word of God

The Nicene Creed (*Standing*) Unison

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.

A Litany for Lent (*Standing or kneeling*) Responsive

Most holy and merciful Father:

We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,

that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Intercessor continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Grant, O Lord, that all bishops, other clergy, and lay leaders may embrace the way of the cross as the way of salvation and lead the people of God to eternal glory.

From our hearts we cry:

Lord, give us your grace.

Grant that the leaders of the nations may work for the welfare of the people of the world and not for personal glory or earthly rewards.

From our hearts we cry:

Lord, give us your grace.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially David, Liz, Joe, Dick, Deb, George, Tony, Nancy, and Ryan.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions

From our hearts we cry:

Lord, give us your grace.

Grant that those who suffer may be drawn to the hope of a better life through our willingness to share our bounty, skill, and prayers.

From our hearts we cry:

Lord, give us your grace.

Grant that Christian people everywhere may not be ashamed to confess Christ as their savior and serve him faithfully.

From our hearts we cry:

Lord, give us your grace.

Grant that the Lenten willows we place behind the altar recall your steadfast love. The Light of the Presence is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Vera Mary Perryman.

From our hearts we cry:

Lord, give us your grace.

Grant that those who have died, especially Zada Friedersdorff, Walter Drake, Arvil Shea, Vera Mary Perryman, Paul J. Truscott, Gloria Corbett, Vivian D. Przybylski, and those who mourn, may find comfort in your love.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions

From our hearts we cry:

Lord, give us your grace.

Restore us, good Lord, and keep us open to your love;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

The Celebrant stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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. May Almighty God, therefore, 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 Peace *(Standing)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We Offer Our Gifts and Give Thanks to God

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

Rite II: Eucharistic Prayer C *(Standing)*

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.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

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, 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.**

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.

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 and Mothers; 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 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.

We Share the Gifts of Christ

THE FRACTION (*Standing or kneeling*)

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.

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Communion of the People

*All who are drawn to Christ are welcome
and encouraged to partake of Holy Communion.
Gluten-free hosts are available. Please ask the priest.*

We Go Forth to Love and Serve the Lord

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People (Standing or kneeling)

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Lenten Solemn Prayer (Standing or kneeling)

Celebrant Let us bow before the Lord.

Celebrant and People

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing (Standing)

Dismissal (Standing)

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.