

4th Sunday in Lent March 14, 2021

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Opening Hymn # 371

To God be the glory, who great things has done!
God so loved the world, freely sending the Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear God's voice.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give God the glory, who great things has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God:
that when the offender, repenting, believes,
through Jesus' atonement, God's pardon receives.

chorus

Great things God has taught us, great things God has done,
and great our rejoicing in Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our gladness when Jesus we see!

chorus

THE GREETING

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty God,
All **to you all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden.
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.**

The Trisagion

Celebrant Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy on us.
All Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy on us. (x2)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came 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. **Amen**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Reader From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader **The word of the Lord.**
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Leader Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
and his mercy endures for ever.

People **Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

Leader He gathered them out of the lands;
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

People **Some were fools and took to rebellious ways;
they were afflicted because of their sins.**

Leader They abhorred all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

People **Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.**

Leader He sent forth his word and healed them
and saved them from the grave.

People **Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy
and the wonders he does for his children.**

Leader Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy

O God, the divine seeker, you are light to the lost, bread to the hungry, deliverance to the captive, healing to the sick, eternal vision to the dying, and harbour to every soul in peril. Gather the wanderers from every corner of the world into the community of your mercy and grace, that we may eternally praise you for our salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Reader You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel John 3:14-21

Gospeler The Lord be with you
People **And also with you**

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People **"Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ"**

⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him

may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Gospeler The Gospel of Christ
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SERMON The Rev. Canon Gloria Master

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Intercessor Let us pray for the peace of the world: the Lord grant that we may live together in justice and faith.

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for this country, and especially for Queen Elizabeth, the Governor General, the Prime Minister, and all in authority: the Lord help them to serve this people according to his holy will.

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for children and young people: the Lord guide their growth and development.

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for the sick: the Lord deliver them and keep them in his love.

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for all who are condemned to exile, prison, harsh treatment, or hard labour, for the sake of justice and truth: the Lord support them and keep them steadfast.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor We remember the prophets, apostles, martyrs, and all who have borne witness to the gospel: the Lord direct our lives in the same spirit of service and sacrifice.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Lay Reader Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites them to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept

Lay Reader Most merciful God,
All **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 neighbours 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 upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

Offertory Hymn #386 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the cross of Christ, my God;
all the vain glories that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the gifts

Celebrant God of mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith and love.
Accept all we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.. **Amen**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER # 3

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 Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the waters of baptism and renewed in the eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love. Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

All **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.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 Saviour 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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."

All Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all 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 whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF BREAD

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
All **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei)

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,

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Celebrant Those wishing to do so may make their spiritual communion by joining in this prayer with me now:

People: **I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Holy Sacrament and in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, now be enthroned in my heart; may you who give yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I**

**may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your reign shall
come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Giver of life, you enlighten all who come into the world. Fill our hearts with the splendor of your grace, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise your holy name, through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

DOXOLOGY

Celebrant Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn # 524 O Christ, the Great Foundation.

O Christ the great foundation on which your people stand
to preach your true salvation in every age and land:
pour out your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.

Baptized in one confession, on church in all the earth,
we bear our Lord's impression, the sign of second birth.
One holy people gathered in love beyond our own;
by grace we were invited; by grace we make you known.

Where tyrants' hold is tightened, where strong devour the weak,
where innocents are frightened, the righteous fear to speak;
there let your church awaking attack the powers of sin,
and, all their ramparts breaking, with you the victory win.

This is the moment glorious when he, who once was dead,
shall lead his church victorious, their champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation his heavenly kingdom brings:
the final consummation, the glory of all things.