

Fourth Saturday in Lent
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Penitential Order, Eucharistic Prayer A, with Inclusive Options (BCP)
Saturday, March 28, 2025

Penitential Order

Opening Acclamation (BCP p. 351)

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People His mercy endures for ever.

DECALOGUE (BCP p. 350)

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.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14, 16*

Confession of Sin (BCP p. 352)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

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.*

Opening Anthem (BCP p. 356)

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

The Collect of the Day (BCP p. 219)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

First Reading:

A Reading from the Book of Joshua (5:9-12).

⁹The 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.

¹⁰While 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. ¹¹On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (*Ps. 32:12*)

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
 - 2 **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
 - 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
 - 4 **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
 - 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
 - 6 **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**
 - 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
 - 8 **You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
 - 9 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
 - 10 **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.”**
 - 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
 - 12 **Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**
- Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (*Ps. 32:12*)**

Second Reading:

A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (5:16-21).

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (15:1-3, 11b-32).

(Glory to you, Lord Christ).

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The 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. ¹³A 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. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But 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! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰So 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. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But 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. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’

³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But 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.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Canon Melinda M. Artman+

The Nicene Creed (BCP p. 358)

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

Presider

Let us offer our prayers on behalf of all, saying “God of mercy, **Grant us peace.**”

Intercessor

For your Church everywhere; for Sean., our Presiding Bishop, for this Diocese of Bethlehem and our Bishop Kevin; that we may pray honestly, serve humbly, and gently proclaim Christ to our broken world;

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

We pray for Trinity and Ryleigh who, by the power of the Spirit you are knitting into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ’s name. Give them courage, patience, and vision: and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness in the world and service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For our nation, for Donald., our President, for all in authority, for all who seek elected office, that we may use our power for good throughout our world;

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

For all nations, for all peoples and rulers, that your wisdom and truth may prevail over cruelty and oppression of every kind.

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

For this city in which we live, that your justice may shine through every home, business, and institution; especially we pray for those commissioned to enforce the law;

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

For those who suffer: for those who are imprisoned, and especially those condemned to die; for those who are mentally ill; for those who are homeless; for all victims of violent crime; for all who endure long and life-threatening illness, particularly cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer’s disease; and for all others for whom we pray now: especially Jennifer, Brenda , Kristina, Hildegard, Brandon, Zach, Dawn, Robert, Janice, Allison, Deanna, Shirley, Bruce, Megan, Denise, Ashley, Brady, Jason, Greg, Pat, Matt, Francis the Bishop of Rome, and Kelly.

Silence

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

We lift up the prayers from our prayer wall....for what else shall we pray?

Silence

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

For grateful hearts that we may know that we depend always upon your loving providence; all your saints, and for those thanksgivings we now name:

Silence

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

For those who have died, for those we now name: Clarence, Hazel, Sydney, and Doris.

Silence

that we may give thanks for your gift of eternal life in Christ;

God of mercy,

Grant us peace.

Presider

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace (BCP p. 360)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda (BCP p. 361)

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 him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface (BCP p. 361)

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:

Sanctus (BCP p. 362)

**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.

Words of Institution (BCP p. 362)

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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 (BCP p. 364)

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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Agnus Dei (BCP p. 364)

**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.**

Invitation (BCP p. 364)

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution (BCP p. 365)

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

Post-Communion Prayer (BCP p. 365)

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.**

Solemn Prayer: In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn Prayer over the people is used, as follows. The celebrant says:

Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel and the celebrant continues:

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of you heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Dismissal (BCP p. 366)

The service is done, but our work continues. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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