

Sunday, March 14, 2021 | St. Francis' Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Liturgy of the Eucharist
Book of Common Prayer*



Prelude

Welcome from the Vicar

A Penitential Order

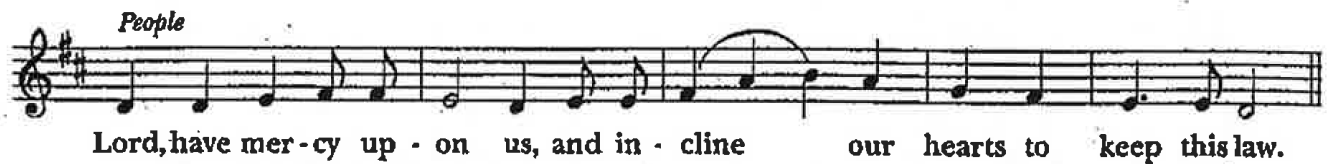
Deacon: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **God's mercy endures forever.**

The Decalogue

Deacon: God spoke these words and said: "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me."

Antiphon:



You shall not make for yourself any idol. (a)

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God. (a)

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. (a)

Honor your parents. (a)

You shall not commit murder. (a)

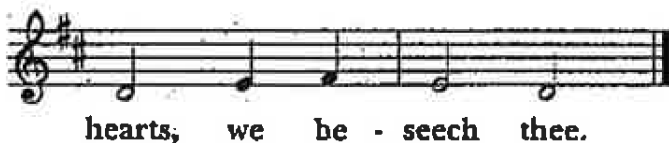
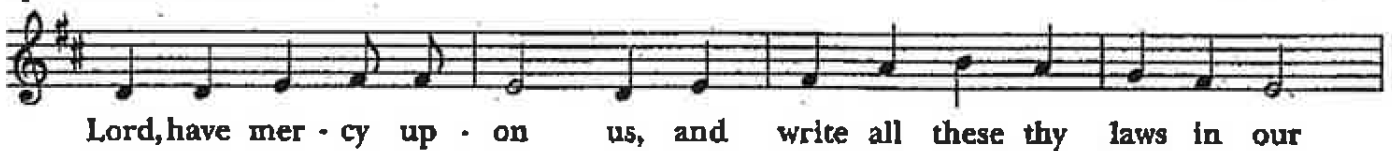
You shall not commit adultery. (a)

You shall not steal. (a)

You shall not be a false witness. (a)

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

After the 10th Commandment



Deacon: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

Mark 12:29-31

"Of the commandments, the first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Deacon and People:

**Almighty God,
maker of all things, judge of all people:
We acknowledge and lament our many sins and wickedness,
which we from time to time grievously have committed,
in thought, word, and deed, against your divine Splendor,
provoking most justly your anger and unhappiness with us.
We turn away from these evil thoughts, words and deeds and turn toward you.
We are deeply sorry for our misdoings;
thinking of them grieves us,
the burden of them is horrible.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful God;
for the sake of your Child, our Lord Jesus Christ,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that from this moment forward we may
serve and please you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

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.

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Old Testament

Reader: A reading from the Book of Numbers.

21:4-9

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.

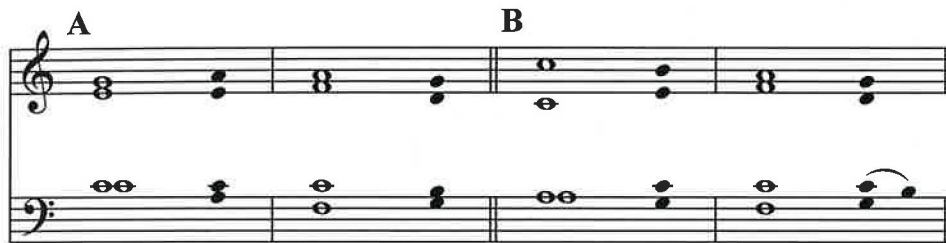
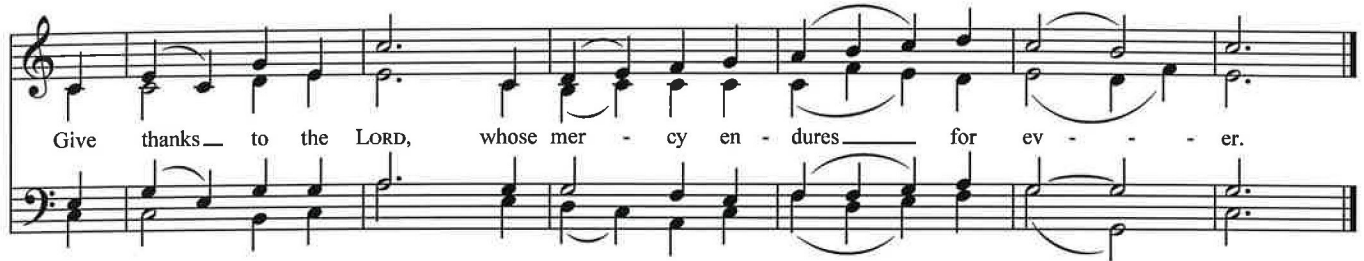
People: The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 107

v. 1-3, 17-22

Psalm Leaders, Leah Milton and Lynn Grames



- A 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
 and his mercy endures for ever.
- A 2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim
 that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- B 3 He gathered them out of the lands;
 from the east and from the west,
 from the north and from the south. (a)
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways;
 they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food
 and drew near to death's door. (a)
- 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
 and he delivered them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them
 and saved them from the grave. (a)
- 21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy
 and the wonders he does for his children.
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving
 and tell of his acts with shouts of joy. (a)

The Epistle

Reader: A reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

2:1-10

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn

Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of My Heart

H 488

Hymn Leader, Susan Oris



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, — by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

The Gospel

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

3:14-21

Jesus said, “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.”

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti

The Nicene Creed

BCP 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 human.
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

Deacon: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world, and may our response be, "Hear our prayer."

Intercessor: Incarnate God, through your Word you teach us to be prayerful, and to be thankful for all people. Today, we pray that your Church Universal may continue to be inspired by the Spirit of truth, unity, and peace. And as we confess the holiness of your Name, bring us to live according to your Truth. God of grace,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Bless all bishops and other ministers especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Deon, our Bishop, Laurie, our Vicar, Rebecca, our Deacon; that their actions and words be reflective of your life-sustaining Teaching, so as to administer your holy Sacraments with a spirit of love and respect. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for the people and ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church, DeSoto, and for Gary their priest. God of grace,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Draw all people into your protective fold, and especially this congregation gathered here; that, we may receive and inwardly digest your life-giving Word of Love, so that we may be united by the Spirit of Christ, and generously serve others in his name. God of grace,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: God of Wisdom, bless those who are charged with the authority of government with a vision of peace and reconciliation. Give them knowledge of your will, regard for your laws, and respect for the whole human family. God of grace,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: God of all Creation, since the beginning you have created all things, and you have invited us to be faithful stewards of your creation. Give to all persons a reverence for our earthly home that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others. God of grace,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Abiding Spirit of God, we place in your hands those for whom we want to pray: for our parishioners Noel, Roger, Paul, Mary, Max, and Ann; and for those who have asked for our prayers for Luke, Brittany, Virginia, Lisa, Gigi, Darlene, Carly, Chris, Molly, and Penny, that they may find comfort in the goodness of your love for their trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or other adversity. We also remember those who are recovering from the severe storms that impacted Texas, and other southern states. God of grace,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Eternal Spirit, we pray for all those whom we love but see no longer, especially Randy Hrovatt, grant to them eternal rest where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life that knows no age. May we, following the good examples of Francis and all the saints, and in our own time, come to the joy of your heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People: **Amen.**

Please see our parish Prayer Lists, which can be found on page 14 of this bulletin, for additional biddings and concerns. If you would like to make a prayer request, please complete our Prayer Request Form which can be accessed on our website.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We invite you to take a moment and extend the peace of God to the members of your household and then to people in the world that you love and struggle to love.

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

The Offertory

Instrumental music plays as our ushers collect our offerings to God.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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:

Celebrant and People:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious God: 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 Maker of all.

Jesus 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:

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, 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 Jesus Christ, our Savior. By Christ and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

People: **AMEN.**

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

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.**

Celebrant and People:

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, grant us your peace.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. However because of Covid, we cannot all receive from the same cup at the same time, but our cup remains common to us all as a different parishioner receives the cup at each service on behalf of the entire community. If you prefer not to receive Communion, please just cross your hands over your heart when the clergy come to your car .

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 * 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, John Rees (19th cent.) Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919) Copyright ©1974 by Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: **Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of Jesus Christ, our Savior, 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 hearts; Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant: May this blessing be the road that returns you. Let it be the strength to carry through the wilderness, and in the name of God—Parent, Child and unending spirit—be with you always.
People: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Sometimes I Feel Discouraged

H 676

Hymn Leader, Kathleen McDonald

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil - e - ad, to make the wound - ed
whole, there is a balm in Gil - e - ad, to
heal the sin - sick soul. 1 soul. 2

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you
think my work's in vain, but then the Ho - ly
can - not pray like Paul, you can tell the love of
Repeat Refrain
Spi - rit re - vives my soul a - gain.
Je - sus, and say, "He died for all."

Words: Afro-American spiritual

Music: *Balm in Gilead*, Afro-American spiritual; acc. David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright ©1982, David Hurd. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Prayer Lists

Our homebound parishioner: Noel

Our parishioners: Roger, Paul, Mary, Max, and Ann

For those who have asked for prayers: For Luke, Brittany, Virginia, Lisa, Gigi, Darlene, Carly, Chris, Mary Jo, Molly, and Penny; first responders, healthcare professionals, and educators who continue to work during this pandemic; the manufacturing and equitable distribution of Covid-19 vaccines

For those who have died and those who mourn: For Randy Hrovatt, and for those who have suffered loss from natural disasters, especially in Texas and our parts of our southern states; for the law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty and their families; and for all in St. Louis who have suffered directly from gun violence this year and those whose lives were lost and their families

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: For the people and ministry of the Trinity Episcopal Church, DeSoto and for Gary, their priest

For those committed to our ongoing prayers: Deaconess Anne House interns and those discerning a call to ordained ministry; the ministry of the chaplains, staff, volunteers at Episcopal City Mission, and the youth in detention and their families; patients, families, & communities affected by substance use disorders and those suffering from untreated & undertreated pain and chronic diseases; those who serve in our military; all whose lives have been impacted by Covid-19

Today's Ministers of Worship

Celebrant	The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti
Deacon	The Ven. Rebecca Barger
Music Director	Cheryl Foster
Altar Guild	Kathleen O'Reilly
Greeter	Sue Schmidt
Ushers	Rich Mayfield
Lectors	Barb Sacco and Della Thompson
Intercessor	Kathleen McDonald
Livestream	Paul Jokerst and Michael Booker
Tellers	Chris Kinder and Joe O'Reilly

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Prayers of the People Rite 1, BCP pg. 328-30; modified for use at St. Francis' Episcopal Church.

AUDIO

To listen to today's service, tune your car radio to 99.5 FM.

SINGING

We encourage you to sing along. Mask free is safe while you're in your car; if you exit your car or roll down your windows, please leave your mask on.

RECEIVING EUCHARIST

Everyone is invited to receive. Clergy members will come to the driver's window wearing a mask and hand the driver wafers for everyone in your car. Each wafer is individually wrapped in a sanitized plastic bag.

We will only be receiving in one kind. The bishop's guidelines do not permit the distribution of wine or juice at this time. Our cup remains a common cup by our inviting one parishioner to drink from it at each service.

If no one in the car would like to receive, simply cross your arms over your chest with your car window up.

MASKS

All attendees 2 years and older must wear masks any time you open car windows or step out of your car.

DISTANCE

Please stay within your car's parking spot, whether you remain in the car or sit outside of it. Greet one another with waves for now until we can safely offer hugs and handshakes.

CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome donations to support the work of St. Francis', whether a payment on a pledge or simply an offering. Ushers have baskets to collect offerings.

