



# Morning Prayer

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

## OPENING SENTENCE

*Officiant:* Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. (*Joel 2:13*)

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**People:** God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

*Officiant:* 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 INVITATORY

*Officiant:* Lord, open our lips.

**People:** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**All:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen!

*Officiant:* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

**People:** Come, let us adore him.

## THE VENITE (*Psalms 95:1-7*)

**All:** Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

## PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**All:        Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen!**

### **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.

*Reader:*     The Word of the Lord.

**People:    Thanks be to God.**

### **A SONG OF THE WILDERNESS (*Canticle D*)**

*Isaiah 35:1-7,10*

**All:        The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weary hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you." Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf be unstopped. Then shall the lame leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; The burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground, springs of water. The ransomed of God shall return with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads. Joy and gladness shall be theirs, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

### **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.

*Reader:*     The Word of the Lord.

**People:    Thanks be to God.**

## A SONG OF FAITH (*Canticle M*)

1 Peter 1:3-4,18-21

**All:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by divine mercy we have a new birth into a living hope; Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, we have an inheritance that is imperishable in heaven. The ransom that was paid to free us was not paid in silver or gold, But in the precious blood of Christ, the Lamb without spot or stain. God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory so that we might have faith and hope in God.

## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (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."

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## THE SERMON

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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.

### THE PRAYERS

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

**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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Officiant:* Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

**People:** Govern and uphold them, now and always.

*Officiant:* Day by day we bless you;

**People:** We praise your name for ever.

*Officiant:* Lord, keep us from all sin today;

**People:** Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

*Officiant:* Lord, show us your love and mercy;

**People:** For we put our trust in you.

*Officiant:* In you, Lord, is our hope;

**People:** And we shall never hope in vain.

## THE COLLECTS

### *The Collect of the Day*

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.

### *A Prayer for the Parish (BCP 817)*

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *A Collect for Mission*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

**All:** Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

## A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

## THE DISMISSAL

*Officiant:* Let us bless the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

