

# The Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021



**St. George's Church ☩  
Glenn Dale, Maryland  
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington**

*Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to see you this morning, whether in person or virtually. This service booklet has everything you need to participate fully in today's worship service, including scripture readings as well as prayers and music.*

**Prelude: *As the Deer Runs to the River* arr. Carol Wahl**

**Opening Hymn: Voices Found # 60 *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom***

Words: Ruth C. Duck from *Circles of Care, Hymns and Song* © 1996 The Pilgrim Press. Music: David Hurd © GIA Publications, Inc.  
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Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when earth was new. Fol-low  
Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the mark - et place. Hear the  
Sist - er Wis-dom, come, as - sist us; nur-ture all who seek re - birth. Spir - it-



close - ly what she teach - es, for her words are right and true. Wis - dom  
Word made flesh a - mong us, full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the  
- guide and close com - pan - ion, bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us



clears the path of jus-tice, show-ing us what love must do.  
word takes root and rip-ens, peace and right-eous-ness em-brace.  
to be-come your peo-ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

**Celebrant:** Our God is full of compassion and mercy:

**People:** **So let us return again to you, O God.**

**Celebrant:** Blessed be the God of our salvation.

**People:** **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

### **Confession and Absolution**

We come to the table of our Lord recognizing our need for divine grace.  
In humility, let us confess our sins to God.

*A time of silence is kept. Then, all pray together:*

**Holy and gracious God, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully. We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us. We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry. We are thoughtless, storing up goods for ourselves alone, rather than acting for the good of all. Forgive us, we pray, and grant us true repentance, through the compassion of your Son and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **LEVAS # 236 Kyrie**

Leon C. Roberts, *Mass of St. Augustine*. © 1992 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord,  
have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer -  
- cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy on us.  
Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer -  
- cy, Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray together 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.**

### **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.

The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 19**

The heavens proclaim the glory of God: **and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.**

One day speaks to another: **and night shares its knowledge with night.**

and this without speech or language: **their voices are not heard.**

But their sound goes out into all lands: **their words to the ends of the earth.**

In them God has pitched a tent for the sun:

**which comes out like a bridegroom, like an athlete eager to run a race.**

Its rising is at one end of the sky, it runs its course to the other:

**and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul:

**the instruction of the Lord is sure, and gives wisdom to the simple.**

The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:

**the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures forever:

**the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous every one.**

They are more to be desired than gold, even much fine gold:

**sweeter also than honey, pure honey from the comb.**

By them is your servant taught: **and for keeping them there is great reward.**

Who can discern unwitting sins?: **O cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the better of me:

**then shall I be clean, and innocent of great offence.**

Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart:

**be acceptable in your sight, O Lord my strength and my redeemer.**

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

**John 2:13-22**

The Passover 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." They 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." They 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon:** The Rev. Todd Thomas

*The Celebrant says*

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**The Nicene Creed**

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.

## Prayers of the People

As we journey through this season of Lent we lift up our hearts and minds to you, O God, offering our prayers of intercession, praise and thanksgiving with humility, faith and trust. We pray: **Lord in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority in society. Gift them with fortitude to confront the challenges we face, that the leaders of the world, of our Nation, and our State may act with justice and lead with truth and compassion. Guide them and us to confront divisions in our society and challenge them to redress the legacy of prejudice, animosity, and injustice. May they also make decisions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic that promote healing, we pray: **Christ in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

We pray for our church and its leaders, for Michael our presiding bishop, for Mariann our bishop, Connie our rector as well as for Todd and Thelma who will minister to us. We lift up the community of St. George's as we reach out to support one another, thankful for the gifts of lay ministry that we employ to serve one another. We pray: **Lord in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

We turn to you, O God, ever confident of your enduring presence in our lives, even in the midst of fear and isolation. May we be assured of your love as we lift up those who suffer in mind, body and spirit. We pray: **Christ in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

We pray for our rector, Connie. We raise up her family and friends who give her comfort. Give Connie confidence and peace as her healing proceeds, that she may know that God's presence surrounds her. We pray: **Lord in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

We ask, O God, for your healing presence, especially as the Covid-19 pandemic rages across our country, our community, and the world. We hold up the health-care workers who serve those who suffer from the virus.; we raise up parents and teachers as they care for children in this time of difficulty. Grace us all with resilience to endure the challenges that face us. We pray: **Christ in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

We pray, O God who gives comfort, for those who have died. We grieve for the more than 520,000 lives lost to the pandemic in our country and for the over 2.5 million around the world who have died. Bring peace for all who mourn, we pray: **Lord in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

Make us mindful, O God, as we pray for the most vulnerable in our midst, especially for those who experience hunger and those who are out of work. We pray for the families of Gaywood Elementary School, those served by the Bowie food pantry, and those who are homeless. That we may be God's hands and heart in our communities to do the work of justice and love, we pray: **Christ in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

We pray in thanksgiving to the God who brings joy for all the blessings of our lives, and especially for those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week. We pray:  
**Lord in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

Throughout all the times and seasons of our lives, O God, we know that we are on a journey without knowing where it will lead. And we know that you are with us for every step of that journey. Help us live this day in hope, trusting in the life of Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

**People: And also with you.**

### **Announcements and Blessings for Birthdays & Anniversaries**

*The celebrant then offers the following prayer for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries:*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) and anyone celebrating their birthday or anniversary this week as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Offertory**

*The Celebrant says*

Do good works and share what you have, for these are the sacrifices pleasing to God.

*Many thanks for your financial support of St. George's. We encourage you to give electronically wherever possible. You can use your phone to text stgeodragon to 72356. Or just use your web browser to go to [www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give](http://www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give). If your bank offers Zelle, you can use your banking app to send a donation via Zelle to [donations@stgeo.comcastbiz.net](mailto:donations@stgeo.comcastbiz.net).*

### **Offertory Anthem: Lord of the Dance arr. Neil Harmon**

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

*Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

*I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
they came with me and the Dance went on*

*Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,  
the holy people said it was a shame:  
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;  
and they left me there on a cross to die.*

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
but I am the Dance and I still go on.*

*They cut me down and I leapt up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die,*

*I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all,  
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

## 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.

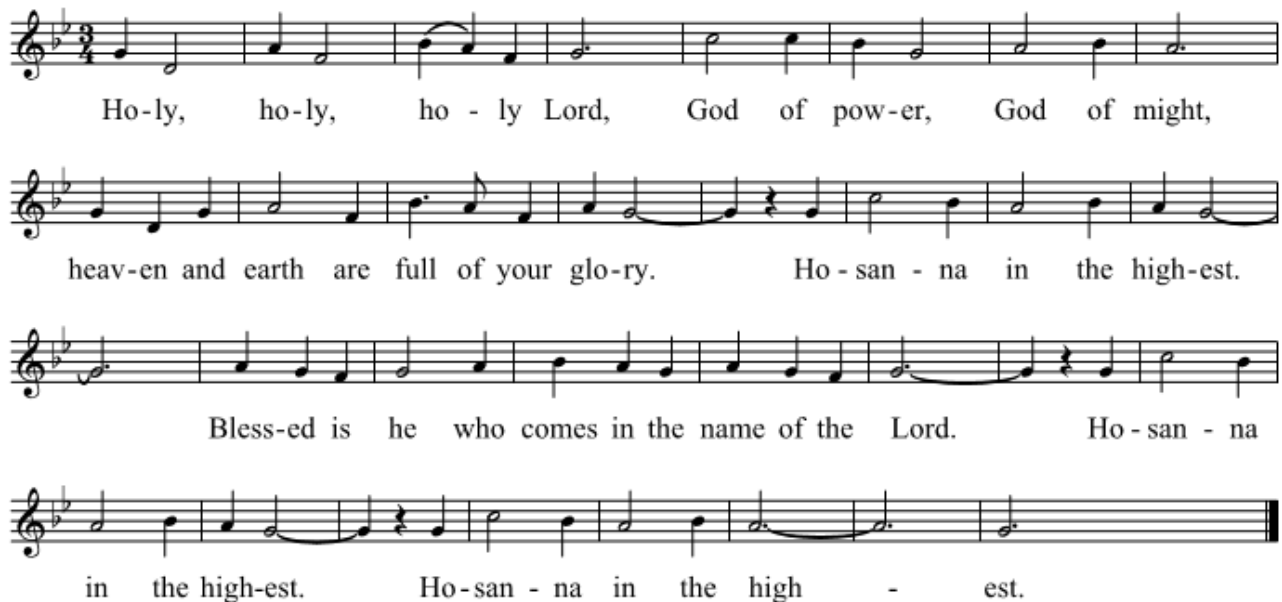
**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ your Son. You bid your faithful people cleanse our hearts, and prepare with joy for the Easter feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, we may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

And so we lift our voices together, forever praising you and singing:

### Gather # 223 *Sanctus*

Marty Haugen, adapted by Rob Glover, © GIA Publications, Inc. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues:*

You are holy, O God of majesty, and you pour on us the abundance of your compassion and grace. When we gave up hope in the wilderness, succumbing to the poison of bitterness and despair, you kept us alive, and set us back on the path to the Promised Land. You have made a new covenant with us, and written it on our hearts, that we may truly know you.

**Then in the fullness of time, you sent us Jesus, your Son. After he was baptized by John in the Jordan River, anointed by your Holy Spirit, and tested in the wilderness, Jesus proclaimed to all people the good news that the time was fulfilled and your kingdom had come near.**

He turned the tables on injustice and corruption; he came to restore and renew the temple of your presence by offering his risen body, that all who trust in him may not perish, but have abundant life.

And so we remember that that night before he died, Jesus took break, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.” In the same way after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Recalling your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we present to you, O God, from your creation, this bread and this wine. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the Communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and all your people, and strengthen us to proclaim the good news of your love.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, O Holy One, now and forever. Amen.**

### The Lord’s Prayer

*Celebrant:* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray with boldness:

**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. 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

*The bread is broken and silence is kept*

### Fraction Anthem - S161

David Hurd. From *New Plainsong*. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.



**Celebrant:** The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. Everyone is invited to share the bread and wine, for this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.

*The Celebrant then says*

Mindful that not all are present physically to receive the sacrament, we pray with those who receive spiritual Holy Communion this day:

**Lord Jesus, in union with your faithful people, we offer to you our praise and thanks. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you come spiritually into our hearts. Strengthen us with your grace, O Lord, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

### **The Communion**

*Wherever you are on your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, know that you are welcome at this table. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.*



### **Communion Anthem: *May the Words of My Mouth* by Gershon Kingsley**

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart  
be acceptable unto Thee Oh, Lord my rock and my redeemer.  
Amen

### **Post- Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray: **Holy God, gracious beyond measure, you gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never be hungry. May we who eat at his table of blessing and share in his love go forth now to reflect his life in our words and in our deeds, that all of those we encounter may know the power of Jesus' compassion. In thanks and praise to you, we pray. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

As we go forth this season of Lent,  
let us be marked not for sorrow, but for joy;  
let us be marked not with shame, but with grace;  
let us be marked not for thinking ourselves less than what we are,  
but recognizing the gift to the world God calls us to be.  
And may the blessing of God who creates, redeems and sustains us be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #495 *Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus*

Words: John Bakewell and Martin Madan. Music: *In Babilone* from *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradanseu*, 1710.

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Hail, thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, thou Gal-i - le - an King!  
Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, all our sins on thee were laid:  
Je - usus, hail! en - throned in glo - ry, there for ev - er to a - bide:  
Wor - ship, hon - or, power, and bless - ing thou art wor - thy to re - ceive;



Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us; thou didst free sal - va - tion bring.  
by al - might - y love a - noint - ed thou hast full a - tone - ment made.  
all the heav - en - ly hosts a - dore thee, seat - ed at thy Fa - ther's side.  
high - er prais - es, with - out ceas - ing, right it is for us to give.



Hail, Thou u - ni - ver - sal Sa - vior, bear - er of our sin and shame!  
All thy peo - ple are for - giv - en through the vir - tue of thy blood:  
There for sin - ners thou art plead - ing: there thou dost our place pre - pare;  
Help, ye bright an - gel - ic spi - rits, all your no - blest an - thems raise;



By thy mer - it we find fa - vor; life is giv - en through thy Name.  
o - pened is the gate of hea - ven, re - con - ciled are we with God  
ev - er for us in - ter - ced - ing till in glo - ry we ap - pear.  
help to sing our Sa - vior's mer - its, help to chant Em - man - uel's praise!

### The Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People:* Thanks be to God!

**Postlude: *The Wideness of God's Mercy* arr. P. F. Tillen**