

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 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: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (Hamburg) arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #142 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman. Music: St. Flavian, melody from *Days Psalter*, 1562. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend and didst the vict - ory win,
As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, grac - ious Lord,
And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,
A - bid with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
yea, ev - er more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bid.
an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

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.

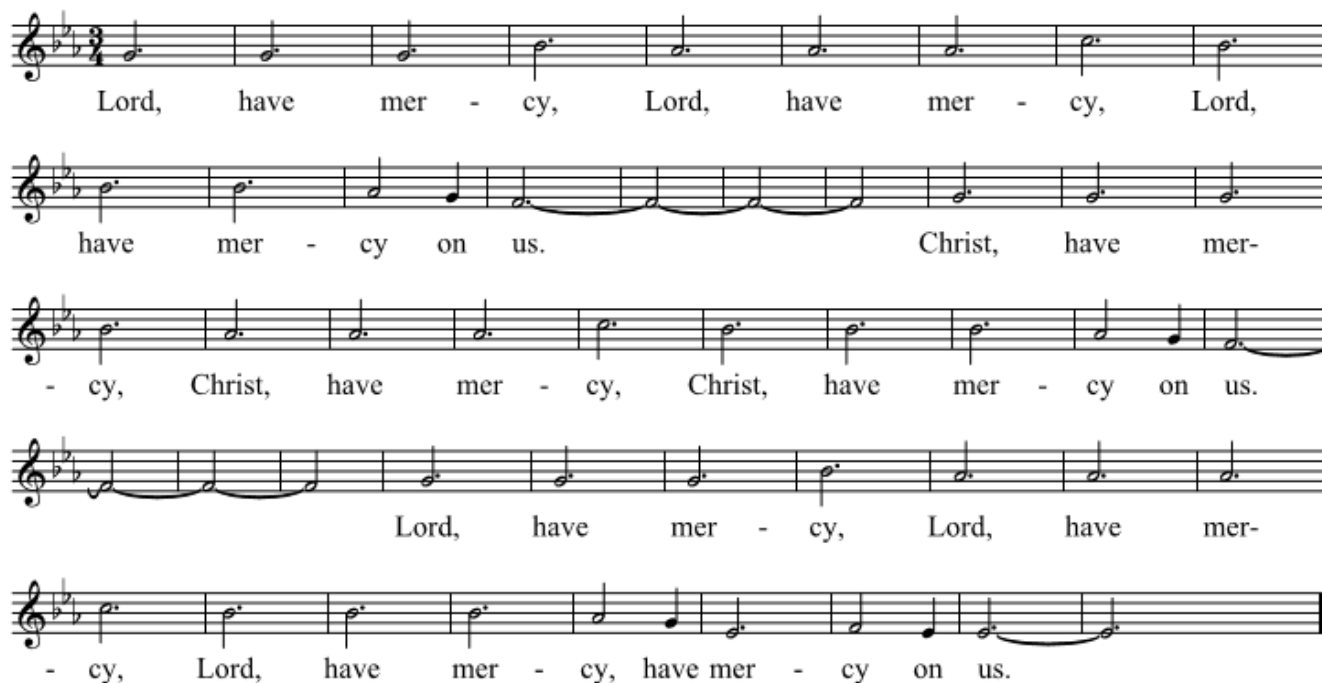
A time of silence is kept. Then, all pray together:

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



Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together 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.**

Ephesians 2:1-10

Read by Dan Ryan

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. 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.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

O give thanks for the Lord is gracious: **God's steadfast love endures forever.**

So let the people say whom the Lord has redeemed:

whom the Lord has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,
and gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west:
from the north and from the south.

Some were sick because of their sins; **afflicted on account of their wrongdoing.**

They loathed every kind of food; **and drew near to the gates of death.**

Then they cried to you O Lord in their trouble: **and you rescued them from their distress.**

You sent forth your word and healed them: **and saved their life from the grave.**

Let them thank you O Lord for your steadfast love: **for the wonders that you do for us.**

Let them offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving: **and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.**

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

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."

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

Led by Renée Moore

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 2.6 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](https://www.stgeodragon.com) to 72356. Or just use your web browser to go to 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.

Offertory Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #686 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Words: Robert Robinson. Music: Nettleton, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Come, thou fount of ev - ery bles - sing, tune my heart to sing thy
Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er by thy help, I've
Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to



grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est
come; and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at
be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to



praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a -
home. Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering from the fold of
thee: prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I



- bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
God; he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
love; here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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.

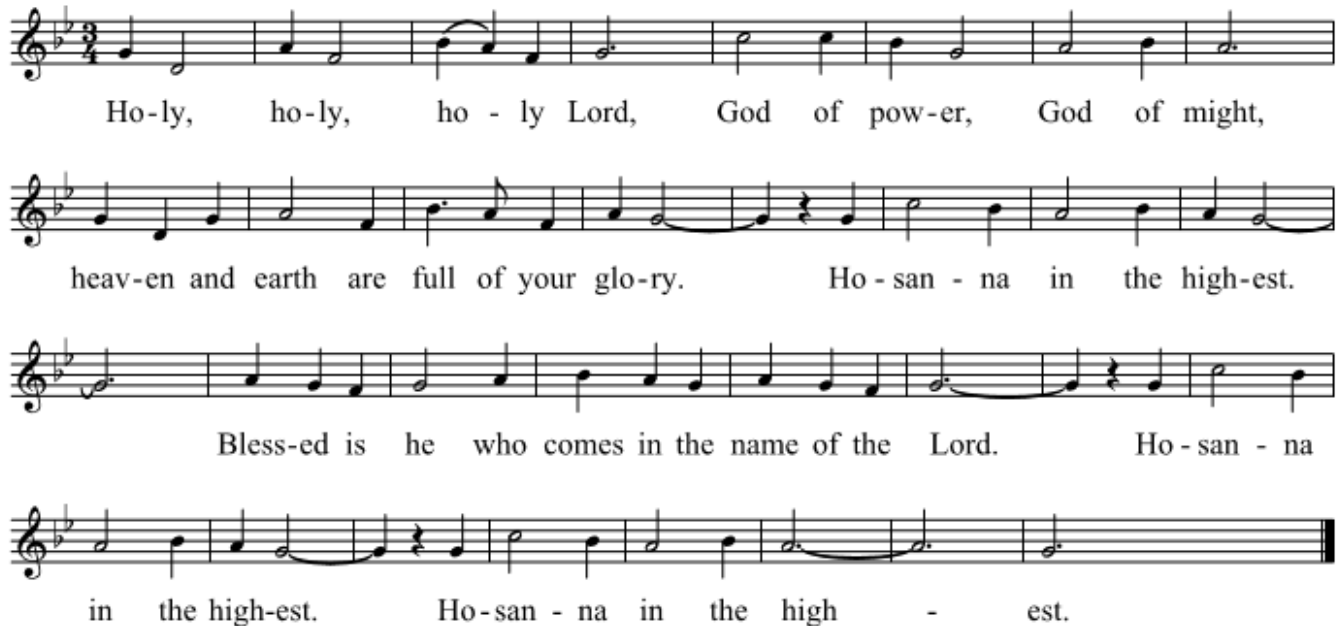
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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:

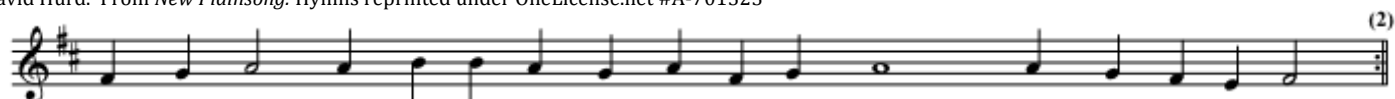
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, 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: *God So Loved the World* by John D. Horman

*God so loved the world, God so loved the world
that to us a son was given, a son was given.*

*And whosoever believes in him, and whosoever believes in him
shall live forevermore.*

*God so loved the world, God so loved the world
that to us, to us a son was given, a son was given,
a son was given.*

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: LEVAS # 181 *Amazing Grace*

Words: John Newton and Asa John Rees. Music: *New Britain, CM Virginia Harmony*, 1831.

Harmony by John Barnard, © 1982 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved:
The Lord has pro - mised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;
Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,



I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
He will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (Nettleton) arr. Faye Lopez (b. 1955)

Lent

Prayer for the good of the soul

Fasting for the good of the body

Alms giving for the good of our neighbor