

MORNING PRAYER II LENT IV MARCH 14, 2021

PRELUDE *I want to walk as a child of the light*

WELCOME

Good morning and welcome to St. Matthew Episcopal Church. I am Mother Patricia and it is a pleasure to worship with you on this fourth Sunday in Lent. This bilingual service is in English and Spanish. If you would like follow along, click on the link above the Facebook announcement for this service for a worship booklet in either English or Spanish.

If you have prayers for special intentions, please write them in the comment section on your Facebook page.

HYMN *Luz de Cristo (Light of Christ)*

*Refrain*

Christ's light, illuminates our lives,  
vanishes all wounds.

Christ's light, illuminates our lives,  
vanishes all wounds.

1. Sun of justice, Light of love.  
Divine Sun, O light of peace.

*Refrain*

2. Light of life, shining.  
Eternal light, like no other.

*Refrain.*

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

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.*

*The Officiant says,*

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*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

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.

*Officiant says*

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 AND PSALTER

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Jubilate Psalm 100

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \* serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \* he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \* give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \* and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

The Psalm for today is Psalm 107 (1-3, 17-22)

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

#### THE LESSONS

##### 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.

Here ends the reading

##### *The First Song of Isaiah*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.  
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*

from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say, \*  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;  
Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.  
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A reading from Ephesians

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.

Here ends the reading

*Invocation*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for  
ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, \* praise him and highly exalt him for  
ever.  
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him  
for ever.

*Doxology*

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \* praise him and highly exalt him for  
ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

HYMN *I want to walk as a child of the light*

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
*Refrain*  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
  
2. I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father.  
*Refrain*
  
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus.  
*Refrain*

A Reading from the Gospel of John

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.”  
Here ends the reading.

#### SERMON

The Apostles' Creed

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

*The people stand or kneel*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth  
as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

#### Suffrages B

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
R. For we put our trust in you.  
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;  
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

#### 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 Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

#### For our Country

Almighty God, you have given us this good land to care for: We humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here from many lands and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

#### Prayers of the People

*Intercessor says,*

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion, hear our prayers.

We pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers, and all the holy people of God.

*(pause)*

Wash us through and through, and cleanse us from our sin.

We pray for our nation, for all the nations of the earth, and for all who govern and judge.

*(pause)*

Purge us from our sin, And we shall be pure.

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who cry out for justice, those who live under the threat of terror, and those without a place to lay their head.

*(pause)*

Make them hear of joy and gladness, that those who are broken may rejoice.

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely, especially .....

*(pause)*

Give them the joy of your saving help, and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

In this season of Lent we pray for those who prepare for baptism, and we pray that we all might be given the grace and strength to repent and grow closer to you, O God.

*(pause)*

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

We pray for those who have died, (especially \_\_\_\_\_ ) and who have entered into the land of eternal Light and your abiding peace.

*(pause)*

Give rest of Christ, to your servant(s), where sorrow and pain are no more.

You may add your own prayers at this time either silently or aloud.

*Officiant says*

Lord Jesus, you proclaimed the Good News in Galilee, saying that the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; grant us the strength and wisdom to repent and believe in the Good News, this day and always. Amen.

HYMN *O Praise ye the Lord!*

1. O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;  
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;  
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,  
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.
2. Praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,  
in tuneful accord, all ye of new birth;  
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,  
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.
4. O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured all ages along!  
For love in creation, for heaven restored,  
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord.

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.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for our final Lenten Devotion and Study this Wednesday, March 24 at 6:30 pm. If you have not already registered, there is registration information on our Facebook page.

Our Gospel lesson for next week is from John which reads in part, “Whoever serves me must follow me.” Please join us right here at 11:00 as we conclude our series entitled “Soul Wrestling: Living in the Light, following Jesus.”

Sunday, March 28, 2021 is Palm Sunday. Following the 11:00 am service, you may drive by the church to receive your blessed palms, in much the same way that you received ashes on Ash Wednesday.

See you next Sunday. God bless you.