

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHAPEL



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 21, 2021



MORNING PRAYER
PR. BRUCE A. STEINWAY, OFFICIANT

Prelude 618(BWV) *O Lamb of God, most stainless* J.S. Bach
O Lamb of God, most stainless!
Who on the Cross didst languish,
Patient through all Thy sorrows,
Though mocked amid Thine anguish;
Our sins Thou bearest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy upon us, O Jesu!
Grant us Thy peace today, O Jesu!

This paraphrase of the Agnus Dei gently hints at the suffering yet to fall on the lamb of God. Bach hides the chorale melody, in canon, between the alto and tenor voices. Our attention is drawn to the sighing motive that captures the humility and vulnerability of Christ on earth. We take comfort knowing that Christ is amongst us even if we are not aware of his presence.

Welcome and announcements

Blessed be God: Father, [+]Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord:

Who made heaven and earth.

I said, "I will confess my sins unto the Lord."

And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

May the Lord be on our lips and in our hearts, that we may truly and humbly confess our sins...

[kneeling or sitting, silently reflecting]

Hymn #599 ELW; #641 1982 *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

1. Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin; from selfish passions set me free and make me pure within.
2. Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed; let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest.
3. Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray; through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.
4. Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when the flood is past, I may the eternal brightness see and share your joy at last.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence.

And take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation:

And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.

Hymn #319 ELW; #142 1982 *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

1. O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.
2. You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured; lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's eternal word.
3. Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above; so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.
4. Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

O Lord, open my lips: **And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Give glory to God, our light and our life:

O Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to rock of our salvation. Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving, and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms. For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods. In your hands are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours. The sea is yours, for you made it; and your hands have molded the dry land. Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our maker. For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. 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.

Scripture readings

I Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10 *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *

- let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
- 10 For your Name's sake, O LORD, *
forgive my sin, for it is great.

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Hymn #328 ELW *Restore in Us, O God*

1 Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love; renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

2 O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r; from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flow'r.

3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy; baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

4 Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace, that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord be with you: **And also, with you.**

Let us pray. Mighty God of glory, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of the risen Lord who makes every day new. Especially do we thank you-
for the sustaining goodness of your creation...

for the new creation in Christ, and all gifts of healing and forgiveness...

for the gifts of community with others...

for the communion of faith in your church...

for light in our darkness...hear us, O Lord: **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray-

for those who govern the nations of the world, especially the new President and Congress of this nation...

for people in places ravaged by strife or warfare...

for all who work to bring peace and justice...

for all who strive to save and protect the earth...

for the church of Christ in every land...

for those whose needs we know, especially Maria, Zoma, Marilyn, Peter, Kerri, Rich, Janet, Nancy, Frank, Caroline, Mary, Gloria, Jack, Karla, John... and for those who have no one else to pray for them...

Hear us, O Lord: **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father...

Hymn #325 ELW *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

1. I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me; all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me; when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Concluding Prayers and Blessing

Almighty and Everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin or be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn #504 ELW; #687/688 1982 *A Mighty Fortress is our God*

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

2. No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

3. Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us, we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overcome us. Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage! His might is doomed to fail; God's judgement must prevail! One little word subdues him.

4. God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Almighty God: Father, [+]Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us, now and forever. **Amen.**

Postlude 620(BWV) *Christ, by Whose all-saving Light* J.S. Bach

Christ, by Whose all-saving Light

Mankind benefited,

Was for Sinners in the Night

As a Thief committed.

Dragged before a wicked Court
Of the Jewish Clergy;
Where they tried their worst Effort
'Gainst the Lord of Mercy.

Grant, O Jesu, blessed Lord,
By Thy Cross and Passion,
Thy blest Love may be adored
By the whole Creation:
Hating Sin, the woeful Cause
Of Thy Death and Suffering,
Give our Heart to obey Thy Laws
As the best Thanks-offering.

Bach chose truth over beauty, as depicted by the jarring and frightening power of this chorale prelude. The chorale is presented in canon between the soprano and bass. We are fenced in and forced to face ugliness and violence as the alto and tenor combat each other with a melody replete with dissonance, also in canon.