



WELCOME

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: **His mercy endures forever. Amen.**

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Leader and People

Most holy and merciful Father:

**We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Leader: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Leader: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Leader: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Leader: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Leader: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Leader: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Leader: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Leader: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

The Celebrant continues

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.
People: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 19

Officiant and People

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *

**sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.**

**11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.**

**12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

**13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.**

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

THE SECOND READING

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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Passover of the Jews 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." The Jews 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." The Jews 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.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Reverend Jackie Whitfield

THE NICENE CREED

Officiant and People

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

From Praying the Scriptures, by Jeremiah D. Williamson

Leader: God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Therefore, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "O Lord, our strength and our redeemer, *hear our prayer.*"

Almighty God, you are most fully present, not in any building, but in your Son Jesus: give us the wisdom and strength to remove any obstacles that prevent your people from experiencing your presence. *Silence.*

People: O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,
Hear our prayer.

Leader: Righteous God, your statutes are just and rejoice the heart: may your justice revive weary souls around the world. We long for the day when your perfect law is valued more than fine gold. *Silence.*

People: O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,
Hear our prayer.

Leader: Creator God, the heavens declare your glory: train our ears to hear and value the testimony of your handiwork. *Silence.*

People: O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,
Hear our prayer.

Leader: O Lord, you give wisdom to the innocent: we thank you for libraries and schools and other oases of learning. We thank you for those places where all people, rich and poor, young and old, can

increase in knowledge of you and of all you have made.

The people are invited to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.

O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Gracious Lord, your steadfast love extends to the thousandth generation of those who love you: we pray that you will defend us, and all whom we love, from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt our soul. *The people are invited to add their petitions, followed by silence.*

O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Everliving God, you raised Jesus from the dead: we entrust the dead to the Crucified One in the hope that those who have died in Christ will also be raised to new life in him. *Silence.*

O Lord, our strength and our redeemer,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant and People

**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.**

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Deacon: Bow down before the Lord.

Celebrant: Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

John Rutter

The Peace of God
Choir of All Saints'

The peace of God, Which passeth all understanding
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
And of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:
The peace of God Which passeth all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
And of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, Be amongst you and remain with you
always
Amen.

“The peace of God” words: Book of Common Prayer (1662) & music: John Rutter

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VOLUNTARY

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A NOTE ON TODAY'S READINGS

The Third Sunday in Lent – Year B

Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church. The ultimate saving action of God, in the dying and rising of Jesus, was preceded by a series of salvation events in the history of Israel. Today, in that series of events, we reach the most important of the Old Testament actions of God, the time of the Exodus when Israel is definitively established as the chosen people and God makes the Covenant with the people at Mount Sinai. God's salvation of Israel requires a response by the people which is described in the Decalogue (Ten Commandments). Note that the grounds for these commandments is stated at the beginning, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

In the second reading, Paul speaks of the true wisdom which brings salvation. Rather than human wisdom, God places before us what seems to be foolish, the crucifixion of Jesus. In the dying and rising of Jesus, God showed that the divine power is greater than any human power or wisdom.

The Gospel reading is John's account of Jesus cleansing the Temple. That event may be taken as an image of Christ cleansing us from sin in Baptism. We are the continuation of the ancient people of God who were saved in the Exodus and given the Commandments. In the dying and rising of Jesus, salvation has been extended to all people. Through Baptism, we have become part of Jesus' Body and have died and are being raised with him. We use this time of Lent to recall all that God is doing for us in Jesus, and to prepare for the renewal of our redemption at Easter.

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