

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Penitential Order All stand. BCP P. 351 (LOC P. 273) Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins; Celebrant: People: His mercy endures forever. The Decalogue Kneel as you are able. BCP P. 350 (LOC P. 272) Celebrant: 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. People: Amen. Lord have mercy. Celebrant: You shall not make for yourself any idol. People: Amen. Lord have mercy. Celebrant: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God. People: Amen. Lord have mercy. Celebrant: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. People: Amen. Lord have mercy. Celebrant: Honor your father and your mother. People: 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.
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Celebrant: 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 of Sin

BCP p. 359

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Silence may be kept.

#### 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.

#### The Priest stands and 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.** 

Kyrie

See pew card for music.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy, have mercy.

The Collect of the DayCelebrant: The Lord be with you.People: And also with you.Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

# The Lessons *The people sit.*

The First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

Silence may follow.

Psalm 121 Remain seated. Prayed together.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *	
from where is my help to come?	
2 My help comes from the Lord, *	
the maker of heaven and earth.	
3 He will not let your foot be moved *	
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.	
4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *	
shall neither slumber nor sleep;	
5 The Lord himself watches over you; *	
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,	

- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \* nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; \* it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \* from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Remain seated.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

Sequence Hymn The God of Abraham praise

#### All stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 401 *Leoni* 

- The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above; Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love; the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed: we bow and bless the sacred Name for ever blest.
  - 2 He by himself hath sworn: we on his oath depend; we shall, on eagle-wings upborne, to heaven ascend: we shall behold his face, we shall his power adore, and sing the wonders of his grace for evermore.
- 3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Righteousness, triumphant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace; on Zion's sacred height his kingdom he maintains, and, glorious with his saints in light, for ever reigns.
  - 4 The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing, and "Holy, holy, holy," cry, "Almighty King!
    Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be: eternal Father, great I AM, we worship thee."
  - 5 The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high; "Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" they ever cry; hail, Abraham's Lord divine! With heaven our songs we raise; all might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.

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# The Gospel *All remain standing*.

# Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

# John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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."

Deacon:The Gospel of the Lord.People:Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Emily Badgett

The Nicene Creed

All stand.

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

All remain standing.

From Praying the Scriptures, by Jeremiah D. Williamson

Intercessor: Behold, children of God, it is the Lord who watches over you. As people sent forth into the world let us pray, saying, "Lord, bless us, *so that we may bless others.*"

Intercessor: Lord, preserve your Church from all evil. May we, who have been born of water and the Spirit, proclaim the kingdom of God in all the world. *The people are invited to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.* Lord, bless us,

People: So that we may bless others.

Intercessor: O God, may the leaders of the nations ever seek the truth. Open their hearts to true conversion and divine guidance. *Silence*. Lord, bless us,

People: So that we may bless others.

Intercessor: Maker of heaven and earth, you have blessed us with a wondrous and dynamic creation. Protect us from its rage; comfort us by its tranquility. Give us eyes to see your handiwork in the world around us. *Silence*. Lord, bless us,

People: So that we may bless others.

Intercessor: Lord, your eyes never close on your people. We thank you for your mindfulness of us and our community. Be our help and our safety. *Silence*.

Lord, bless us,

People: So that we may bless others.

- Intercessor: You did not send your Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world may see and experience your salvation.Bring wholeness to those who look to your Son for their help.*The people are invited to add their petitions, followed by silence.*Lord, bless us,
- People: So that we may bless others.
- Intercessor: O God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist, keep the dying and the dead from this time forth and for evermore. Give eternal life to all those who trust in you. *Silence.* Lord, bless us,

People: So that we may bless others.

#### Peace

BCP p. 360

All standCelebrant:The peace of the Lord be always with you.People:And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

A note about receiving Holy Communion: In the Episcopal Church, we understand that Christ is "really present" in the bread and wine provided from God's table. All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church. Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of their parents.

Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Receive the consecrated wafer in the palm of your outstretched hand from the first person who comes to you. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms down. Wine may be received by lightly dipping the bread into the small cup in the center of the plate/paten from which you received the bread. Alternatively, you may choose to drink from the larger cup/chalice which the next person will offer you. Receive the consecrated wine by guiding the offered cup to your lips and sipping. Those who distribute the wine will wipe the chalice with a food safe sanitizer and turn it for the next person after each person receives. You may also decide to take the wafer only. If you choose not to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing as your presence is a blessing to all of us. Once you have been blessed or received communion, you may offer a short prayer and then return to your seat.

If physical limitations make it difficult to come forward, please let an usher know that we may have the honor of bringing communion to you.

## Offertory Sentence

#### BCP p. 376

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14* 

arr. Ronald Turner

# Offertory Anthem Come, ye sinners, poor and needy

Weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, Full of pity, love and power.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify; True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh.

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms; In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

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Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant:All things come of thee, O Lord.People:And of thine own have we given thee.

# The Great Thanksgiving

#### Sursum Corda

The People remain standing.

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 him thanks and praise.

#### BCP p. 361

#### Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus

See pew card for music.

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel.

#### The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

See pew card for music.

Memorial Acclamation *Celebrant and People*  **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.** 

#### The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

March 5, 2023

See pew card for music.

#### The Great Amen

# The Lord's PrayerBCP p. 363And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,People and CelebrantOur Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,<br/>thy kingdom come,<br/>thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.Give us this day our daily bread.And forgive us our trespasses,<br/>as we forgive those<br/>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,<br/>for ever and ever. Amen.

#### The Breaking of the Bread

#### Fraction Anthem

See pew card for music.

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace, give us our peace.

Invitation *The Celebrant says* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

BCP p. 364

# Spiritual Communion Prayer

A prayer for those joining online to be unified in Communion with Christ.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.** 

Communion Songs

#### Michael Ryan

And He never said a word

Bell's of All Saints'

"And He never said a word" words & music Michael Ryan © 2011 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corp. CCLI License #11109172

When Christ was lifted from the earth

The Hymnal 1982 – 603 *St. Botolph* 

- 1 When Christ was lifted from the earth, his arms stretched out above through every culture, every birth, to draw an answering love.
  - 2 Still east and west his love extends and always, near or far, he calls and claims us as his friends and loves us as we are.
  - 3 Where generation, class, or race divide us to our shame, he sees not labels but a face, a person, and a name.

4 Thus freely loved, though fully known, may I in Christ be free to welcome and accept his own as Christ accepted me.

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Lay Eucharistic Minister Prayer (as needed)

Celebrant: In order that all may receive Holy Eucharist, \_\_\_\_\_ will take the Eucharist to \_\_\_\_\_ today.

All: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The Post-Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

#### Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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**.

#### Announcements

# Post-Communion Hymn Lift high the cross

Hymnal 1982 – 473 *Crucifer* 

*Refrain*: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred Name.

1 Led on their way by this triumphant sign, the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine. *Refrain* 

2 Each new-born servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died. *Refrain* 

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. *Refrain* 

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory. *Refrain* 

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#### Dismissal

Deacon:Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.People:Thanks be to God.

# Voluntary

Leoni

#### arr. Joel Raney

"I worship you, Almighty God" arranged by Joel Raney © 2020 Hope Publishing Company CCLI license #11109172

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# A Note on Today's Readings

Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church. Today's readings focus on the theme of journey. Whenever we travel, we undergo the pain of leaving behind familiar things and the uncertainty of a new future. In Lent, Christians remember that they are life-long "pilgrims in a strange land," people on a journey into the future that God has prepared for us.

The Old Testament reading tells of the story of Abraham's calling by God, and the beginning of his journey into the Promised Land. In this new and unknown place, God opened up new rivers of grace for Abraham and Sarah. In the second reading, Paul expounds on Abraham as the father of faith and as our ancestor in the faith. The journey begun by Abraham and Sarah is a journey that continues in our lives and a journey begun this Lent by all those among us who seek baptism at Easter.

Nicodemus is also interested in a journey – the journey into God's Kingdom. Here a leading rabbi comes to discuss God's Word with Jesus, whom he recognizes as a fellow rabbi. John tells us this was Passover season and it was accounted specially blessed for rabbis to discuss God's Word through the night during that season. Jesus reveals the way into God's Kingdom to be a new birth, a birth from heaven (the original text means both) through water and the Holy Spirit.

We gather to support each other in our journey, to pray for those who will be baptized, and to be nourished by Christ in his Word and Sacraments – they are our food for the journey.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.* Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

# This Week's Announcements

**First Sunday Offering** | The first Sunday of each month we designate the "loose offering" for a specific outreach. Today's offering will go to Cabarrus Meals on Wheels (CMOW).

Lent Materials are available in the Welcome Center. You are invited to enrich your at-home worship during Lent with beautiful and thoughtful resources. This week: New Pocket Lent cards are ready for you!

Men of the church are invited to a social time THIS Tuesday, March 7. We'll be gathering at Cabarrus Brewing Company (329 McGill Ave, Concord) at 5:30 PM. Questions? Contact Mark Robinson <u>mrobinson0982@gmail.com</u>.

**OWLs (Older Wiser Laity) meet on Thursday, March 9 at Noon for Bible study and fellowship.** Bring your own lunch to enjoy. We will be meeting in the church's downstairs community room this month because another event is being hosted in the building. Please park in the back parking lot off Country Club Dr. Questions? Contact Deacon Vern at 704-699-0810.

**Women Gathering on Saturday, March 11** | Join All Saints' women for the final gathering of "Resilience and Perseverance in a post-COVID world" on March 11, from 8:30-10:30 AM. Our winter series is led by Rachel Berg, who will guide us through learning and sharing together. All women are welcome!

You are invited to join a Foyer Group! This is a fun social way to get to know your fellow church members on a more personal level. For more information and to sign up, go to the church website at <u>allsaintsconcord.org/foyer-groups-2/</u>. Questions? Contact Alice Baxter at 704-996-3311 or email her at <u>dbaxterclan@gmail.com</u>. *Please sign up by March 12, 2023*.

**It's Easter Flower Time** |Help beautify worship spaces this Easter by contributing flower donations as a memorial, thanksgiving, or in celebration of folks dear to you! Fill out the form on our website or the printed form provided today.

**The Saturday Men's Group starts a new book study on March 11** – We'll be reading *Prayer: Does it Make a Difference?* by Phillip Yancey. We meet on Saturday mornings at 8 AM in the Welcome Center. All men are welcome! Questions? Contact Mark Robinson <u>mrobinson0982@gmail.com</u>.

**Pie Fundraiser for Honduras Medical Mission** | The Stegmans are returning to Honduras this August to serve with the Friends of Barnabas Mountain Medical Missions team. They are raising funds for medications and supplies. Homemade apple pies are \$25/each. Pre-order by Saturday, March 25 by notifying Debbie at <u>debbiestegman@gmail.com</u>.

**Sunday Youth programs** – Sunday school at 10 AM, Middle School youth group at 4 PM, dinner for Middle & High school, 5-5:30 PM, High school youth group meets 5:30-6:45 PM. Questions? Contact Tiffany Fulton at tfulton@allsaintsconcord.org

**Prayer is the foundation of the ministry of this parish.** If you would like to request prayers, please let us know at <u>allsaintsconcord.org/prayer-requests/</u>. You can also request that clergy or prayer team contact you.

**Giving** – There are a variety of ways to give at All Saints'. For details, go to <u>www.allsaintsconcord.org/online-giving</u>.

For more announcements and information, scan the QR code with your camera phone to view All Saints' *Weekly Word* newsletter.





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