



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

302 South Queen St.
Windsor, NC 27983
(252) 794-3420

www.stthomaswindsor.org
stthomasbiblestudy.com
email: stthomaschurch1@embarqmail.com

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Morning Prayer: Rite Two

Prelude

God So Loved The World

Stainer

Opening sentence

p. 76

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8, 9*

Confession of Sin

p. 79

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us in silence and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept. Officiant and People together

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 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.

p. 80

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.

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

Venite *Psalm 95:1-7 (all recite in unison)*

p. 82

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (read responsively by whole verse)

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 First Lesson Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the Book of Numbers.

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.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Canticle 14 A Song of Penitence *Kyrie Pantokrator*

Prayer of Manasseh 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15

Especially suitable in Lent, and on other penitential occasions

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

p. 90

and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array. All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.
O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.
You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

The Second Lesson Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the 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.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Anthem

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

Olivet

The Gospel John 3:14-21

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."

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together

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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

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

**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.**

Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages

A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. **And grant us your salvation.**

p. 97

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit**

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

p. 98

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.**

A Collect for Peace

p. 99

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

p. 101

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Anthem

Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound!

New Britain

For the Human Family

p. 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Sick

p. 459

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants **Ashley Burnett, Jeanine Wilson, Al Cowand, Randy Tyler, Ben Procter, Joan Leggett, Kay Barnacascel, Becky Godwin, John Tolbert, Coley McCally, Karen Gudiksen, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Libby Smith, Marian Watts, Lena Evans, Charles Taylor Spruill, Larry Watson, Julia Credle, Joey Ezelle, Racheal Coward, Peggy Parker, Sylvia Dawson, David Dunn, Elsie Benson, Riley Raines, Andy Walker, Will Copeland, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, Thomas Roach, Stan Johnson, Mary Chappell, Lucy, Wayland, Isabella, Lucy, Sally, and Sarah Hunter Spruill, those with COVID-19, and others known to us, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.****

For our Country

p. 820

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy 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 hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy 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 thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

The General Thanksgiving

p. 101

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

p. 102

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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Officiant may then conclude with the following

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*

Postlude

Lift High The Cross

Crucifer

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Officiant: The Rev. Bonnie Smith

Organist: Tom Parker

Altar: Pat Ivey, Kristen Warren, Harriet Stout

Lector: John Hill

Soloist: Karen Ray

Money Counters: Rosanna Rhea, Janet Capehart

Hostesses: Cham Trowell, Brown Miller, Lucy Spruill

Ushers: Joe Rhea, Chip Warren

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weather permitting, we will continue with outdoor worship next Sunday at 11:00 a.m., with video on Facebook.

Daylight Saving Time began this morning. Did you set your clocks ahead one hour?

Mite boxes are available for your Lenten devotion this year. These alms will go to Trinity Center. They are available on the chest outside Cooper Hall.

Volunteers are needed for parts in the Passion Gospel according to Mark, to be read on Palm Sunday, March 28.

Youth Evening Prayer will be offered by the three NC Episcopal dioceses on Sunday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Register here:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUIdaiqqz4tGdMuuVztrHFjjsWdEamIPChp>

Episcopal Relief and Development is working with local partners in Texas and nearby states to provide food and shelter. If you would like to help, donations can be made online here:

https://support.episcopalrelief.org/disasters?ID=210200DPADS0100&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=fy21coldresponse&utm_source=210200DPADS0100

Updates on vaccine clinics are shared on the St. Thomas' Facebook page.