



The Second Sunday in Lent

March 5th, 2023 ~ 10AM

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Opening Hymn

#401~ *The God of Abraham praise* (verses 1,3,5)

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 forever blest.

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.

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.

A Penitential Order

Officiant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Officiant 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 are no two commandments greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Confession and Absolution

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 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

#S 96 ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

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

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant 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.*

Old Testament

Genesis 12:1-4a

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.

The Psalm

Psalm 121

- 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 Epistle

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

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.

Gospel Hymn

#558 ~ *Faith of our Fathers*

Faith of our fathers! living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy, when-e'er we hear that glorious word:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! faith and prayer shall win all nations unto thee;
and through the truth that comes from God, mankind shall then indeed be free.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife:
and preach thee too, as love knows how, by kindly deeds and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

The Gospel

[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.”

The Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

The Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of the People

Leader	God our Helper, we thank you for keeping our lives always in your care and protection and pray for any and all who are in harm's way. For those walking in the midst of danger... For those who are treading a slippery path... For those exhausted and seeking relief... For those who face a mountain of worry or debt or any other obstacles... Be our Guardian and Guide, we pray, setting all our feet on your paths of righteousness and peace. Lord, in your mercy,
People	Hear our prayer.
Leader	We pray for those who are struggling with a new challenge or call... With a major transition in life or livelihood... With their faith and understanding...

With grief, ancient or new...

Keep in your tender care and mercy, O God, those who are sick in mind body, or spirit, especially Mark Armentrout, Elin Babin, David Bell, Diane Brophy, Paul Brophy, Marie Conners, Barbara Cox, Don DiGiacomo, Oriol Pi-Sunyer, Janet Dunton, Beth (Manoogian) DuPlessie, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne Felci, Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Carolyn Hashem, Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Dennis Lancaster, Janet Lancaster, Elizabeth Littlehale, Robert Long, Janet Macrina, Matt, Lori M., Mary & Dante, Trudy Miller, Harriet Miraglia, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Bonnie Muise, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Sandy St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Kelly Shaw, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Victoria Smith, Meghan Tapley, Addison White, Walter, and Rachel.

Those weighed down by depression or pain...

Those recuperating from surgery or accident...

Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Protect not only us and those we love, but also the whole wide world you so love.
In places of war bring peace...

In places beset by natural disaster, bring calm and restoration...

Where there is unrest and injustice, make justice our aim. Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Where hope has grown tired and thin, lift our sights, so that we may see hope beyond hope, life beyond death, and you, lifted up before us, In the name of Christ, who gave himself for our sake, we pray.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Anthem during the preparation of Altar

Officiant God our refuges and our strength, receive all we offer you this day, and through the death and resurrection of your Son transform us to his likeness. We ask this in his name.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving:

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

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

S 129 ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Officiant 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, 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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Officiant 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. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Officiant Behold the true Light of the world, the Beloved of God, anointed by the Spirit.
Blessed are those called to the banquet of the Lamb.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The Officiant invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, 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.

Fraction Anthem

#S 156 ~ *Christ, our Passover*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.

Officiant The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is the Lord's table and all are welcome here.

Post-communion Prayer

Faithful God, in this holy bread you increase our faith and hope and love. Lead us in the path of Christ who is your Word of life. We ask this in his name.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn

#48 ~ *O Day of Radiant Gladness*

O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
this day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God Triune.

This day at the creation, the light first had its birth;
this day for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;
this day our Lord, victorious the Spirit sent from heaven,
and thus this day most glorious a triple light was given.

This day, God's people meeting, his Holy Scripture hear;
his living presence greeting, through Bread and Wine made near.
We journey on, believing, renewed with heavenly might,
from grace more grace receiving on this blest day of light.

That light our hope sustaining, we walk the pilgrim way,
at length our rest attaining, our endless Sabbath day.
We sing to thee our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
the Church her voice upraises to thee, blest Three in One.

Blessing

Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Altar flowers and candles given in loving remembrance of:

William St. Clair, Margaret L. Hurl, John Kelly, Sr., Kevin Noonan,
James & Doris Smith, and William Cox

Announcements

From the Diocese

‘An ambitious goal has been set to raise \$300,000 for 2023 through the renewed Bishops’ Annual Appeal in support of shared mission as a diocesan community committed to being disciples of Jesus, seekers of justice and protectors of creation.’

If you have not read it already, kindly see the Bishops’ appeal letter posted in Ashworth Hall, and the accompanying booklets displayed in the vestibule and foyer.

Thank you for your support!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Prayer List

We appreciate your help in keeping our weekly prayer list current – please contact the parish office with any changes or additions.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Ray Mears, Worship Leader & Stephen Belyea, Verger & L.E.M.

St. John’s Episcopal Church

8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906
Tel: 781-233-1242 Email: StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com