



St. Mary's Episcopal Church
"The Little Church with a Big Heart"

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

Officiant: Nancy Talmo

FIRST ACCLAMATION – BCP 351

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

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

Officiant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

COLLECT- BCP 264

Officiant ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 – Grissell De Haan

First Reading BLOW THE TRUMPET in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near-- a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

Together **PSALM 103: 8-14**— (Beginning & ending with the Refrain)

REFRAIN – *The Lord remembers that we are but dust*

⁸ The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹ He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

¹² As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

¹³ As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

¹⁴ For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.]

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 – Vernon Proctor

*Second
Reading*

WE ENTREAT YOU on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 — Nancy Talmo

*Holy
Gospel*

JESUS SAID, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT — BCP 264 – *All Kneeling*

Officiant

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES – BCP 265

Officiant

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Together

PSALM 51 – BCP 266

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.

⁵ And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment

⁶ Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁷ For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸ Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹ Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice

¹⁰ Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹¹ Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹² Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

¹³ Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹⁴ I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.

¹⁵ Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.

¹⁶ Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁷ Had you desired it, I would have offered
sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

¹⁸ The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not
despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE — BCP 267-269 — All kneeling

Together 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.

Officiant 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.***
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.
Have mercy on us, Lord.
We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
We confess to you, Lord.
Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.
Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.
Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.
Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.
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,
Accept our repentance, Lord.
For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.
For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.
Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.
Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.
By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN – BCP 352

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.*

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.*

COLLECT FOR RENEWAL OF LIFE – BCP 99

Officiant O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE – BCP 100

Officiant Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER — BCP 364

Together 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 GENERAL THANKSGIVING – BCP 101

Together 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.*

PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

DISMISSAL – Nancy Talmo



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