# 2 LENT | THE HOLY EUCHARIST & THE GREAT LITANY

Faith leads us into a relationship with God and saying "yes" to Jesus.

#### **About this Gathering**

Lent is our time of intentional preparation to experience anew the passion and death of Jesus and then to receive with freshness and renewed vitality the mystery of the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. So during these 40 days, we contemplate the suffering of Jesus because that suffering makes the resurrection not only possible, but powerful. We invite you to celebrate the joyous mysteries of Jesus the Christ as we walk through the hard parts of the Biblical story. During Lent then, listen intently to God's Word in Scripture, sing the hymns with gusto, read the prayers with great intention and greet your fellow worshippers with energy and a smile!

#### Prelude







MASKS & GATHERINGS Due to the ever-changing environment surrounding the pandemic, we ask that while at the Gathering: fully vaccinated mask optional, not fully vaccinated mask requested and everyone soft singing.





# **PENITENTIAL ORDER**

Create in us a clean heart, O God. And renew a right spirit within us.

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

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving-kindness. In you great compassion blot out our offenses. *Renew a right spirit within me.* 

Wash us through and through from our wickedness and cleanse us from all our sin. *Renew a right spirit within me.* 

For we know our transgressions and our sin is ever before us.

Renew a right spirit within me.

Purge us from our sin, and we shall be pure; wash us, and we shall be cleansed indeed. *Renew a right spirit within me.* 

Give us the joy of your saving help again. And sustain us with you bountiful Spirit. *Renew a right spirit within me.* 

Glory to God Creator, God the Redeemer and God Sustainer.

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

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

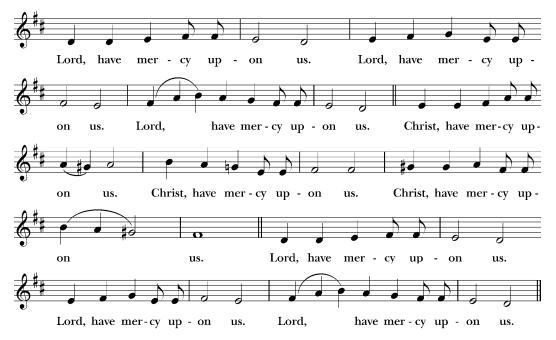
Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word.

# WORD OF GOD

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins

**S 91** | Lord, have mercy upon us



# WORD OF GOD

# Collect

God be with you.

And also with you.

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*.

# Genesis 12:1-4a

Abraham and his descendants are chosen to inherit a land, become a great nation and mediate blessing to all the world.

A Reading from Genesis.

Now 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. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Thanks be to God.

# Psalm 121

The Lord, the Creator, will watch over the people day and night.

Let us read Psalm 121 responsively.

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*

from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD, \*

the maker of heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved **\*** 

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel **\*** 

shall neither slumber nor sleep;

<sup>5</sup>The LORD himself watches over you; \*

the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

6So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*

nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup>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,  $^{\star}$ 

from this time forth forevermore.

# Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Paul argues that Abraham's faith, his readiness to believe and act upon God's promise, was "reckoned to him as righteousness."

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

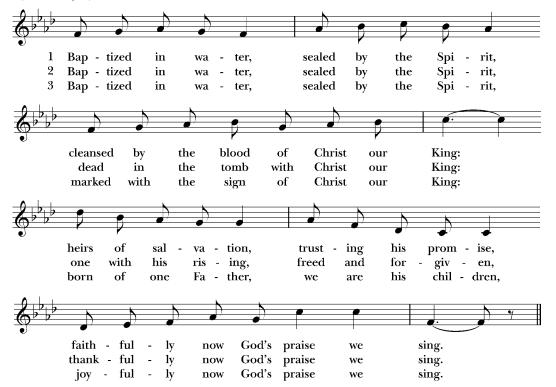
What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but 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. For 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 transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who 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,[a] who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 294 | Baptized in Water



#### John 3:1-17

Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, comes to Jesus at night because of his interest in Jesus' works. Jesus expands the conversation. The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now 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 unless God is with that person." 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 the 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 Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### Sermon

Creed | Said responsively

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, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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 worshipped 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**

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.*"

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 add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

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,

So that we may bless others.

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,

So that we may bless others.

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,

So that we may bless others.

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 add their intercessions and petitions, followed by silence.

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

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.

The people add their remembrances, followed by silence.

Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Lord, bless us,

So that we may bless others.

#### Peace

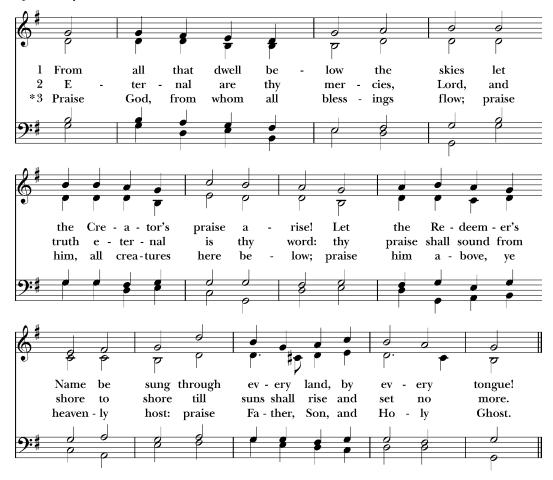
The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

# HOLY COMMUNION

**Offering** | An Invitation to Joy & Gratitude | Please click the "Giving" tab to make a secure online offering | Please share communion with us Following Jesus' prophetic example to welcome everyone to His table, St. Mary's welcomes everyone to take communion with us. So, as Jesus the Christ commands his Church to "Do this for the remembrance of me.", St Mary's gathers in person or remotely to follow this command believing that by the power of the Holy Spirit the Word of God is proclaimed and the bread and wine at the church table and at your home become for us the holy sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Hymn 380 | From all that dwell below the skies



# Offering

For these and all of God's gifts; May God's holy name be praised.

# The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

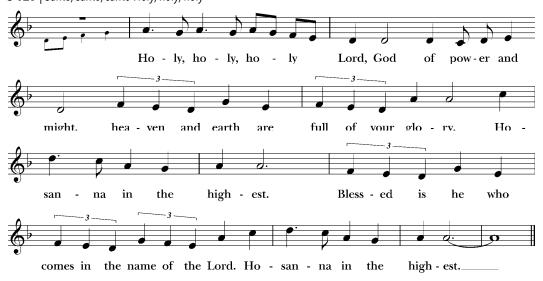
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, 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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:



Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

**S 129** | Santo, santo, santo Holy, holy, holy

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Mary Magdalene and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN.** 

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray in our chosen language and voice. The people pray the Lord's Prayer in the version and language of their choosing. The contemporary version listed below is optional.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Jesus, Lamb of God:

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

### **Prayer of Humble Access**

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

### Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. *Amen*. | The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. *Amen*. We come forward take the Bread and, for those who choose, the Wine. St. Mary's upholds the Doctrine of Concomitance that the fullness of communion is available by receiving either the holy bread or wine or both.

### **Sending Prayer**

Let us pray.

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**

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.



Hymn 448 | O love, how deep, how broad, how high

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#### Dismissal

Go in peace and love to serve Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

### When I say I am a Christian - by Maya Angelou

When I say "I am a Christian"

I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'", I'm whispering "I was lost, now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say ... "I am a Christian"

I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian"

I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say. "I am a Christian"

I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

#### When I say ... "I am a Christian"

I'm not claiming to be perfect, My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"

I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches. So I call upon His name.

### When I say "I am a Christian"

I'm not holier than thou, I'm just a simple sinner

Who received God's good grace, somehow.

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