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**Morning Prayer for Sunday, March 21, 2021**

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

**Opening Sentences**

Jesus said, "If anyone will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."     *Mark 8:34*

**Confession of Sin**

*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 kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*The 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 alone 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.

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*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.

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

The Venite      *Psalm 95:1-7*

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!

The Psalm or Psalms Appointed Psalm 119:9-16 *In quo corrigit?*

1. How shall a young man cleanse his way?
By keeping to your words.
2. With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not stray from your commandments.
3. I treasure your promise in my heart,
that I may not sin against you.
4. Blessed are you, O Lord;
instruct me in your statutes.
5. With my lips will I recite
all the judgments of your mouth.
6. I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees
than in all manner of riches.
7. I will meditate on your commandments
and give attention to your ways.
8. My delight is in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

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 Lessons**

A Reading from the Book of Numbers *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

 Here ends the reading.

**Canticle 10**         The Second Song of Isaiah        *Quaerite Dominum*  *Isaiah 55:6-11*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
    call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
    and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion,
    and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
    nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
    so are my ways higher than your ways,
    and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
    and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth,
    seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
    it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
    and prosper in that for which I sent it.

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.

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews *Hebrews 5:5-10*

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Here ends the reading.

**Canticle 14**  A Song of Penitence     *Kyrie Pantokrator*

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

A Reading from the Gospel of John *John 12:20-33*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

 Here ends the reading.

**The Homily**

**The Apostles' Creed**

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.

The Suffrages “B”

V.    Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
R.    Govern and uphold them, now and always.
V.    Day by day we bless you;
R.    We praise your name for ever.
V.    Lord, keep us from all sin today;
R.    Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.
V.    Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R.    For we put our trust in you.
V.    In you, Lord, is our hope;
R.    And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*Amen.*

A Collect for Sundays

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 the Renewal of Life

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.*

A Prayer for Times of Great Sickness and Mortality

O Most mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*  *(from the 1928 BCP)*

Special Needs and Concerns of the Congregation

Heavenly Father, we pray to you that your comfort may descend upon those on our Prayer List…and all those whom we remember in our hearts. We give thanks to you for those celebrating birthdays in the coming week—Linda Gaines, Kipp Cortez, and John Kersey. We ask your guidance to be upon the temporal leaders of our society—for Joe, our President, Jim and Ralph, our governors, for Ron and Donnie, our mayors, and for all those in authority in this and every land. We humbly request of you, O Lord our God, to look favorably on the mission of the Diocese of West Virginia, and especially on the Special Ministries in the Diocese: Iona: Canon Mark Seitz, Reading CampL Sally Lane, and UTO: Ms. Becky Szabo. May your blessing ever be upon those who put their trust in you. *Amen.*

Collect for Mission

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.*

**Announcements**

**The General Thanksgiving**

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 ourselves 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.

**Concluding Versicles**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The Officiant then concludes the service with*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*     *II Corinthians 13:14*

**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarette Joplin, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Jay Kephart, Rick Longworth, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kathy, Hamilton Jones, Kensley, John, Emily, and Kathleen Nieman.

**Birthdays This Week:** Linda Gaines, Kipp Cortez, and John Kersey

**Calendar of Events**

Wednesdays in March Bible Study 10:30am

Wednesday – March 24 Online Bible Study “The Annunciation” 10:30am

Monday and Tuesday March 29-30 Online Prayer Service 7:00pm

Wednesday – March 31 Tenebrae Service Online 7:00pm

**Announcements:**

 Online Bible Study: Join us on Wednesday’s at 10:30 am for Bible study via Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting is included in each week’s email. A link to a tutorial on how to use Zoom, if you are new to it, is available in the email as well. For more information, please see Fr. Chad.

Diocesan Prayer Shawl Ministry Formed: Please join us as we begin a new ministry where the love of knitting and crochet will be combined with prayer to reach out to those in need of comfort and solace.  At this time, the group plans to meet regularly via Zoom and will spend time in prayer and friendship while knitting or crocheting lap blankets and shawls to be given to others. Completed shawls or blankets are for anyone in need of comfort such as those undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress; during bereavement; prayer or meditation; commitment or marriage ceremonies; birth; adoption; bridal shower or wedding gift; during an illness and recovery; ministering to others; graduation, birthday, anniversary, ordination, holiday gifts; or simply friendship. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is an opportunity to offer others compassion and love and to learn that God works through us when we care for friends and strangers alike. Our first Zoom meeting is scheduled for March 1 at 7:30 pm. Please contact Karen Klein at mansiongal@gmail.com for more information on how you can get involved and links for the upcoming Zoom meeting.

Help us decorate for Easter!: Our beautiful sanctuary will be richly decorated this year as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ! As is our custom, Easter Lilies will be available to sponsor in memory or honor of a loved one. Lilies will be $15. Please contact the church office to secure one or mail your check to the church. Please be sure to include any dedication you would like placed in the Easter bulletin. Thank you!

Items Needed: Providing compassionate care to patients undergoing chemotherapy is a top priority in the Outpatient Oncology Unit at Princeton Community Hospital. Ashleigh Brookman, RN is a student in Betty Nash’s Senior Practicum Course at BSC. She is working on a project to decrease the patient’s stress during the chemotherapy treatments by providing music therapy at the bedside. Many studies have shown that music greatly reduces anxiety. She is looking for 10 CD players (new or used). If you would like to help, you may contact Betty Nash at bnash@bluefieldstae.edu

**Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish**

the Rev. Chad Slater Rector

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr. Organist & Choirmaster

Ms. Emma Bennett Parish Administrator

Mrs. Vanessa Hall Sexton

Mr. David Kersey Senior Warden

Mr. Tom Coughlan Junior Warden