



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

*The
Season
of
Lent*



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-6861
www.cecblf.org

Prelude

The people stand

The Processional Hymn *Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim* **H 473**

Welcome!

At this time, all children are invited to follow the cross and teachers to their classrooms.

Celebrant Blessed the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever. *Amen.*

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant

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.*

The people remain standing.

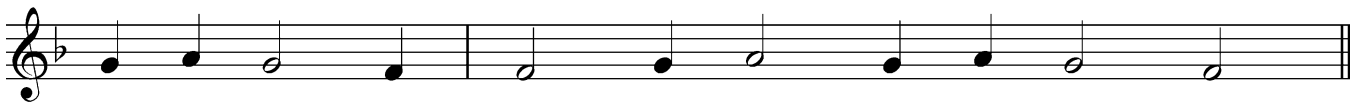
The Kyrie

The Kyrie is then sung, all standing

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #90



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer -



cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: John Merbecke (1510?-1585?); adapt. *Hymnal 1982*; acc. Thomas Foster (b. 1938). Melody: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect for 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.*

The people sit.

The First Lesson

Numbers 21:4-9

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!

The Psalm

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Confitemini Domino

The Psalm will be 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.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 2:1-10

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!

The people standing.

Hymn

Sing, my soul, his wondrous love

H 467

The Gospel Lesson

John 3:14-21

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Paul Barker

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

All stand as they are able and say together:

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.

The Prayers of the People, Form III

BCP 387

The people may stand or kneel.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Matthew, our Bishop, for Paul
our Priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

In our Diocesan Cycle of prayer, we pray for the Episcopal Church Women & Episcopal Church Men.

We pray for all who are on our parish prayer list, and for any others that we might now name, either silently or aloud

Pause

We pray for all who have died, especially our loved ones who have gone before us, and for any others that we might now name, either silently or aloud

Pause

We give thanks for all of the blessings of this life, for our family, friends and loved ones, and for any other thanksgivings we might now name, either silently or aloud.

Pause

The Celebrant concludes the prayers

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin

BCP 360

The celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Silence may be kept

The Celebrant and people say:

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 Celebrant 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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of God's love.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn *Jerusalem, my happy home*

H 620

After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand and sing 380 vs. 3 to the familiar tune of the "Old 100th"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The people remain standing

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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,

People and Celebrant

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 Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread and says

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Celebrant then presents the Sacrament to the People

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 Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and encouraged to receive the sacrament. Communion is distributed at the altar rail. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats and another group may move forward to the rail. If you need assistance receiving the sacrament, please notify the usher. Gluten free wafers are available by asking the priest. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please join us at the rail and cross your arms over your chest. Depart through the doors at either side of the rail, returning to your pew through the door by the reader's lectern.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Should you prefer not to receive the physical elements of the Holy Communion, you are invited to read the following in silent prayer:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to 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.

Communion Hymn

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

H 671

Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

My faith looks up to thee

H 691

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, Martha Linkous, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Jim and Chris Justice, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ and Debbie Hatfield and family, Mary Lou, Brian, Don Harris, Ted and Katherine Lewis, Jim Dyer, Brian, John and Becky Beckett, Jim Paine, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, Eddie Hughes, Doug Truter, Jenessa, Ameiah, Beth Kane, Debbie H., Kimberly Norriss, Eric, and Mark.

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by Linda, Grey, and Stan. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys, learn ways we can pray for each other, and get to know one another better. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us!

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

The Rev. Paul Barker

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Becky Kersey

Lector

Mike Lilly

Altar Guild

Elizabeth Clement, Betty Nash, Lisa Van Dyke

Attendance Last Sunday:

50

Birthdays this week: Diane Sudduth, Jessica Cole, and Peter Taylor.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – March 13

Union Mission 4:00pm

Lenten Evening Prayer Service 5:30-6:00pm

Sunday – March 17

The Rev. Erin Morey will be guest preacher
and celebrant

Tuesday – March 19

Concert with Tim & Maggie Mainland 7:00pm

Wednesday – March 20

Lenten Evening Prayer Service 5:30-6:00pm

Sunday – March 24

Palm Sunday 10:00am

Wednesday – March 27

Thursday – March 28

Friday – March 29

Sunday – March

Wednesday – April 3

Saturday – April 6

Union Mission 3:30pm

Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm

Stations of the Cross 12:00noon

Good Friday Liturgy 5:30pm

Easter Sunday 10:00am

ECW Dinner at the Church 5:30pm

Vestry Retreat in Rowley Hall 10:am – 3:00pm

Announcements:

Easter Lilies: A sign-up sheet for those who would like to purchase Easter lilies given in memory or honor of a loved one is available at the Usher's Table in the Narthex. Lilies will be \$20 each. Please sign up by March 24.

Parish Life: Parish Life Committee will meet today after coffee hour in St. Mary's Conference Room.

ECW Dinner: The Episcopal Church Women will be having a dinner on April 3 at 5:30pm at the Church.

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host will be needed for **April 14, 21**. Please sign up on the whiteboard located outside the library. Contact Mary Catherine Williams at: (276-326-2411) or mkw@dlwco.com if you have any questions. Thank you for helping Christ Church in this important ministry.

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Paul Barker

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Peter Richardson

Priest

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden