

St. John's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday in

LENT

March 29 and 30 2025
Sandwich, MA

The Prelude *Grace*

Clay R. Christiansen

Please use this time during the musical Prelude to reflect silently in your pews.

Solemn Silent Procession

The Opening Hymn *Guide me, O, thou great Jehovah*

The Hymnal 1982, 690

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People **His mercy endureth forever.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Kyrie Eleison

5pm - *Celebrant* Lord have mercy,

People **Christ have mercy,**

Celebrant Lord have mercy.

9:30am - sung 2 times

Wonder Love and Praise, 838

Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

The Confession

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept. Minister and People – you may kneel, or sit

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in thy will,

and walk in thy ways,

to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Absolution

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of 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 First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

In our Old Testament reading it tells of the first Passover kept by the Israelites after they had crossed over the Jordan River into the promised land. Now that they can eat the produce of the countryside, there is no longer need for the miraculous manna of the wilderness. This happens at Gilgal, the name meaning "wheel" which suggests the wordplay as God declares the reproaches of the people to be rolled away.

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response, Psalm 32

Beati quorum

This is a psalm of thanksgiving for the forgiveness of sin.

We will read the psalm responsively, breaking at the half-verse.

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, " I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

In this second letter to the church at Corinth, Paul celebrates the new perspective that comes in Christ, and God's reconciling work in Christ that now makes it appeal to others through his disciples. Those who are united to Christ are part of a new order of creation. For our sake Christ experienced the consequences of human sin that we might have a right relationship with God. Now we are ambassadors of this message of reconciliation.

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; 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

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

The Gradual Hymn *O Love of God, how strong and true*

The Hymnal 1982, 455

The Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

All standing, as able,

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Alan R. Hesse

The Nicene Creed

BCP, page 327

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin
Mary, and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;

and the third day he rose again according to the
Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of
Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic
Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. **Lord hear our prayer.**

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially, Sean Rowe our Presiding Bishop, Julia E. Whitworth our Bishop, Alan our rector, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. **Lord hear our prayer.**

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. **Lord hear our prayer.**

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. **Lord hear our prayer.**

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. **Lord hear our prayer.**

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. **Lord hear our prayer.**

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, (remembering _____), beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. **Lord hear our prayer.**

And we pray for those we remember in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **The Churches of the Cape and Islands Deanery: Church of St. Mary of the Harbor (Provincetown), St. John's Church (Sandwich), Ministries with Older Adults.**

And we pray for Marla Sohegan in whose memory the altar is adorned to the glory of God by Susan and John Harrington.

And we pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, this nation and this world. *Please add your prayers silently or aloud.*

And we pray for those on our prayer list: Mary, Susan, Christy, Brian, Steve, Charlie, Bruce, Dave, Alannah, MaryAnn, Dave, Luke, Bruce, April, Henry, and Steve. *Please add your prayers silently or aloud.*

Celebrant Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

The Peace

All stand, as able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The Offertory Anthem *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

setting by Roland E. Martin

said at 5pm: **All things come to Thee O Lord, and of Thy own have we given Thee.**

The Doxology *sung at 9:30am*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**



The Great Thanksgiving

The Book of Common Prayer, page 333

Eucharistic Prayer, FORM I

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Proper Preface for Lent Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

The Sanctus

said at 5pm,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

sung at 9:30am

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

The Hymnal 1982, S 130

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

The people may kneel, or sit

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

**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 breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Fraction Anthem

sung only at 9:30am

The Hymnal 1982, S 164

**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.**

said at 5pm,

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People **have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People **have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People **grant us thy peace.**

The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

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

Celebrant 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.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Please hold out your hand to receive the host.

You may ask for the chalice or receive the wine in the small cups offered to you in a tray.

If you prefer not to receive the wine, please cross your arms and wait for the minister to say "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

As you return to your seats, deposit your cup in the place provided in a white pedestal table.

If you prefer to receive a blessing you may cross your arms across your chest.

If you would like to remain in your seat and receive communion, please let an usher know.

Celebrant Let us pray

The People may join in saying this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Lenten Blessing

The Announcements and Celebrations

The Closing Hymn *There's a wideness in God's mercy*

The Hymnal 1982, 470

Solemn Silent Recession

The Dismissal

Leader Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude *Organ Voluntary*

Serving this Weekend

Celebrant: The Reverend Alan R. Hesse

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Ames (5pm) and Charles Diana (9:30am)

Lectors: Lillian Woo (5pm); Helen Miller (9:30am)

Musicians: Misao Koyama and Choir

Sunday School: Mary Ames and Will Hibbard

Altar Guild: Melissa Abbott, Judy Cohen, Jann Czarnetzki, and Sharon Therriault

Ushers: Mary Howe

Hospitality: Kathy Uggerholt and Mary Ames

March 29-April 6, 2025

Saturday, March 29

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist

6pm *What is an Episcopalian?* Series

Sunday, March 30

9:30am Family Worship Service with Holy Eucharist

Hospitality following worship, Parish Hall

11am *My Communion Class*

Monday, March 31

9am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

Tuesday, April 1

12noon AA, Parish Hall

Wednesday, April 2

1pm Prayer Chain Group,

1:30pm, Choir Rehearsal, Parish Hall

Thursday, April 3

12noon AA, Parish Hall

5pm Women's Group, Parish Hall

4:30pm Lasit Performing Arts, Church

6pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, April 4

1pm Caring for Creation, Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/892976341>

Saturday, April 5

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 6

9:30am Worship with Holy Eucharist & Sunday School

Hospitality following Worship, Parish Hall

Welcome to St. John's!

Whether this is your first visit to St. John's or you are a long-time member, please know that there is a warm welcome for you here!

Please feel free to participate fully in our service today and in the life of the parish. We are glad you have come and hope you leave feeling closer to God! At several points in the service, you may notice that some people are kneeling, some are standing and some are sitting. We are given this choice and you should feel free to do whichever is most appropriate for you. Please know that you are invited to fully participate in the Holy Eucharist as a Baptized Christian.

If you would like to know more about St. John's and may be interested in membership or interested in being placed on our email mailing list, please contact the church office

Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church of Sandwich Est. 1854

159 Main St, Sandwich, MA



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