

Welcome to St. Mark's Church

*We are glad you have come to worship here this morning.
Please join us in prayerful meditation before the service.
We ask that you turn off cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices.*

Fifth Sunday in Lent March 21, 2021 A Service of Morning Devotion 10:30 AM

The Word of God

Celebrant *Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.*
People *His mercy endures for ever.*
Amen.

The Collect for Purity

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 Kyrie

Celebrant *Lord have mercy.*
People *Christ have mercy.*
Celebrant *Lord have mercy.*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant *The Lord be with you.*
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant *Let us pray.*

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.*

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Lector first says
A reading from Jeremiah

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation Forgive our sins as we forgive

Detroit/Wilbur Held

Psalm 51:1-13 (*said aloud in unison*)

Miserere mei, Deus

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.

Second Lesson

Hebrews 5:5-10

The Lector first says

A reading from Hebrews

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation O wheat whose crushing was for bread

New Life/Shirley W. McRae

The Gospel

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel

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.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily

The Rev. Susan J. Butler

The Nicene Creed

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.

Silence

Intercessions/Prayers of the People

The Reader bids the Intercessions with these words

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.

Remembering especially Robert our Bishop, Don and Paul our Assisting Bishops, Michael our Presiding Bishop, we pray for all priests and deacons, and for the people of our companion and partner Diocese of Cape Coast;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Remembering Joe our President, Brian our Governor, David our Mayor, and Jevin our Chairperson, 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.

Remembering especially Geneva, Joan, Debora, Tracey, Cathie, Jeri, Jane, Amanda, Carolyn, Brenda, Paul, Sue, Sandy & Rick, Bee, Rose, Ethel, Doris, Carol, Bill, Celia, Abbie, Mark, Ryan, Norma, Walt, Edward, Marcus & Rebecca, Bob F., Katie, Linda, Janelle, Beverly F., Colleen, Shana, Sandra, Paula, Beverly P., Ellen Sue, Carolyn & Ray, Regina, David, Nikki, Amanda, Bill, Mike, Addie, Alan, Bo & Toni, and Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, 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.

Silence

We give thanks for caregivers, for home helpers and social workers, and for all of those who find themselves on the frontlines of this coronavirus pandemic: Research scientists, physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, paramedics, firefighters, police officers, chaplains, and cleaning staff;

We offer thanks for those essential workers who continue to provide for our essential needs: Agricultural and other food workers, retail workers, transportation workers, and those who off load supplies and stock the shelves;

We pray for teachers and for the school year that continues, that they may be inspired to patiently nurture the minds of those in their charge and we pray earnestly for the health and safety of all students and teachers;

We pray for those who serve to protect the freedoms we enjoy;

Blane, Aaron, Ashlyn, Allison, Kevin, Ben, Mark D., Jordan, Jonathan, Matthew H., Matthew K., Michael, Rebekah, Todd, Chris, Lindsay, and Mark W.

Lord, we pray for our new rector The Rev Rick Tiff, who will be coming to us soon; that his transition may be made smooth and our thanks along with his welcome be felt deeply

At the end of the Intercessions, the Celebrant adds the following concluding Collect.

LORD, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence

The Confession and Absolution

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People *(said aloud in unison)*

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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, 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

All stand. The Officiant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Lord's Prayer *Officiant and People*

And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Officiant Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Postlude Lift high the cross

Crucifer

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Assisting in Service Today

The Rev. Susan J. Butler, *Clergy and Celebrant*

Beth Nichols, *Music Director*

John Hutcheson & Will Bates, *Readers*

Blake Bennett or Alex Brown, *Tech. Team Leaders*



Thank you for worshiping with us today.

Below is the list of names on our current list which will be adjusted every two weeks and those still on will be moved to the Intercessions list on our Electronic Bulletin Board.

***Parishioners**

*Geneva Albertson	*Doris Shoemaker	Colleen Halverson
*Joan Anderson	*Carol Taylor	Shana Massengill
*Debora Buckner	*Bill Weaver	Sandra Milton
*Tracey Burke	*Celia Williams	Paula Morrow
*Cathie Cope	Abbie	Beverly Pulliam
*Jeri Cotnam	Mark Beckler	Ellen Sue Rhodes
*Jane Harrell	Ryan Buckner	Carolyn & Ray Ridley
*Amanda Hawkins	Norma Burney	Regina Robertson
*Carolyn Hawkins	Walt Brown	David Ronn
*Brenda Hoffmeyer	Edward "Skinny" Calhoun	Nikki Satterfield
*Paul Johnson	Marcus & Rebecca Carrell	Bill Sewell
*Sue Killcreas	Bob Frady	Mike Shoates
*Sandy & Rick Martin	Katie Hasty	Addie Snyder
*Bee Maybank	Linda Hine	Alan Thomas
*Rose Renfro	Janelle Ferguson	Bo & Toni Thompson
*Ethel Rutledge	Beverly Folwell	Rt. Rev. Robert Wright