



## **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**March 10, 2024**

**WELCOME**

to St. Mary's Episcopal Church

a member of the Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant

### **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

Big Rapids, MI

Seeking every day to love God  
with our whole heart, mind, and soul, and  
to love our neighbors as ourselves.

### **St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

Cadillac, MI

We strive to live out the Great  
Commandment: To love the Lord with all  
our heart, soul, and mind and to love our  
neighbors as ourselves.

If you have a faith or are seeking one, you are always welcome here.

If you are visiting or looking for a spiritual home,  
we'd love to get to know you.

## MORNING PRAYER, RITE II

### Opening Sentence

Officiant 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

Officiant 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 body or in spirit, in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

**All 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.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Invitatory and Psalter**      *All stand as able.*

Officiant      Lord, open our lips.

People      **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
**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. Alleluia.**

**Antiphon**

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

**The Venite**

All      **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!**

*After the Psalm:*

**All**    **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**

**Bulletin Insert**

**First Reading**

**Numbers 21:4-9**

After the reading:    Reader            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
                                  People            Thanks be to God.

**First Canticle**

**Canticle 10, The Second Song of Isaiah**

**All**    **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.

**Second Reading**

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

After the reading:   Reader       The Word of the Lord.  
                                  People       Thanks be to God.

**Second Canticle**

**Canticle 20, Glory to God**

All    Glory to God in the highest,  
          and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
          almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
          we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
          you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
          you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
          For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
          you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
          with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Third Reading

John 3:14-21

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

**Reflection**   *The reflection may be a time of silence, a homily, or reading of a text.*

**The Apostles' Creed**                   *Said by all, standing as able.*

**All**           **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was  
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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**                   *The people stand or kneel as able.*

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.**

## Suffrages A

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**People And grant us your salvation.**

Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**People Let your people sing with joy.**

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**People For only in you can we live in safety.**

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**People And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;  
**People Your saving health among all nations.**

Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**People Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**People And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## The Collect of the Day

*The officiant prays the collect of the day, found in the bulletin insert.*

## The Prayers of the People

## *Praying the Scriptures*

Intercessor God, who is rich in mercy, makes us alive together with Christ. Let us pray to God, saying, "Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.  
**Your mercy, O God, endures forever."**

Holy God, you have created us in Christ Jesus for good works: may the Church walk in the light of Christ, that all our deeds might be good and true and to your glory. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop, Nurya, our canon; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant; Standing Committees of Eastern

and Western Michigan; Grace, Port Huron - Shadrack, Priest; Church of the Holy Cross, Kentwood – Mike, Rector. We pray for all those in our diocese discerning calls to ministry, both lay and ordained. In particular, we pray for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Priests, including Barrett, Alex, Matt, Anne Marie, Abraham, John, Stephanie, Thon, Jess, Julianne, Rachel, Cathy, Kathryn, Kris, Johnathan, Theresa. We pray also for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including: Mary, Deb, Laura, Jennifer, Christi, Paige. We remember with gratitude the retired clergy of the diocese. *Silence*

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

**People** **Your mercy, O God, endures forever.**

Intercessor Loving God, you did not send your Son in to the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him: may all people know and experience your love. *Silence*

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

**People** **Your mercy, O God, endures forever.**

Intercessor Jesus, you are the true bread which gives life to the world: feed the world with bread from the earth and heaven. *Silence*

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

**People** **Your mercy, O God, endures forever..**

Intercessor O Lord, you are the deliverer of those in distress: Guide our elected officials, especially Joe, our president; Gretchen our governor; Carla, our mayor. Teach them wisdom and kindness. May they, like Nicodemus, seek to follow in the ways of Jesus. *Silence*

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

**People** **Your mercy, O God, endures forever.**



Intercessor Merciful God, you send forth your word and the distressed are healed: we give you thanks for your mercy and for the wonders you do for your children. We pray for those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer: Terri, Larry, Ron, Shelly, J.P., Zack, Fred, Lynne, Leon, Carolyn, Erin, Larry & Therese, Connie & Mike, Jenn, Luke; For those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer: Nan, Sharyn, Howie, Stacey & Sally, Judy, Greg, Bill, Lorraine & Bob, Melissa & Scott; For our family and friends in the armed forces and who are first responders: Richard, Corey, Matt, Teylor, Tony, Kim, Drew, Jon, Sabastian, Noah, Eli, Jess, Wesley, Owen; And for all those we name at this time. *Silence*  
Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

**People Your mercy, O God, endures forever.**

Intercessor O God, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, that eternal life might triumph over death: save us by your grace and raise us up with Christ Jesus. *Silence*  
Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

**People Your mercy, O God, endures forever.**

Celebrant 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 General Thanksgiving *Said in unison*

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 our selves 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.

## The Celebration of Special Days and Announcements

For a Birthday

Pew Card

For an Anniversary

BCP 431, first prayer

Travelers

BCP 831, #53

## The Dismissal and Concluding Sentence

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Ephesians 3:20,21*

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Paul Martin – *Junior Warden*, 2026  
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