

**The Second Sunday in Lent**  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY  
25 February 2024 Year B  
**10:30 AM**

\* Indicates please stand

**Prelude** Adagio from Concerto in A minor, BWV 593 A. Vivaldi, arr. J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

**\*Processional Hymn** Sing, my soul, his wonderous love (*St. Bees*) **Hymnal #467**

**\*Opening Acclamation** **BCP 355**

**\*Collect For Purity**

**\*Kyrie** **Hymnal #S-96**

**The Collect of the Day**

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The First Lesson**

**Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 22:22–30**

***Deus, Deus meus***

22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; \*  
stand in awe of him, O offspring  
of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23 For he does not despise nor abhor  
the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from

them; \*  
but when they cry to him he hears  
them.

24 My praise is of him in the great  
assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the

presence of those who worship  
him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall  
praise him: \*

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall  
remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations  
shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the  
earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall  
before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's  
for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to  
a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

### **The Epistle Reading**

**Romans 4:13–25**

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**\*Sequence** The God of Abraham praise (*Leoni*)

**Hymnal #401, vs. 1–2**

**\*The Gospel Reading**

**Mark 8:31–38**

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

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**\*Sequence** The God of Abraham praise (*Leoni*)

**Hymnal #401. Vs. 3–4**

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Kit Tobin**

**\*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.

**\*The Prayers of the People**

As Abraham followed the will of God, and was rewarded with an everlasting covenant, through our baptism we have entered the covenant of God's love, to whom we offer our prayers, responding, "Christ, have mercy."

+ That we may be convinced that God fulfills his promises, and bearing witness to all that we have seen and heard through holy scripture, the traditions of our faith, and the reasoning and experience of the community of the baptized; Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

+ For the poor and dispossessed, children who are homeless, adults who are unemployed, and for all whose anxiety and stress seem too much to bear, that Jesus will give us the humility to respond to their needs through our ministry; Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

+ For the Church, that we may reach out to those who have no religious home and share with them the freedom that comes from an acknowledgement of sin, a turning of life, and an acceptance of God's merciful forgiveness; Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

+ For peace throughout the world, that we may aspire to those things that are important in life, and let go of the false treasures of power, money, superficial beauty, and possessions that exceed our needs; Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

+ That people in failing relationships may seek guidance in restoring hope before the flames expire, offer compromises that lead to reconciliation, and call upon God to mend the wounded heart; Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

+ For those who have died, that they may join in the heavenly chorus of all the saints; Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy upon your people, as we continue to lift our voices in faithful prayer.

We pray without ceasing for justice, reconciliation, peace, and an end to hatred and war. We also pray for God to change the hearts of all the leaders and decision-makers in our countries and around the world. For we are in dire need of hearts that love, show mercy, and are willing to live in unity with others; hearts that respect human dignity and choose life rather than death.

*God of peace and justice, hear our prayers. Amen*

God of mercy and compassion, who wept with Rachel as she lamented over her children—be with us, who lament the plague of gun violence that lies heavy over our land. Open our eyes to see the ways we might transform the shadow of strife and death into the way of love and peace. Strengthen us to tirelessly care for one another, that we may truly find our security in the boundless love you call us to, and lead us all to your promised future, where no sword will be drawn against another, and no power known but the power of love. All this we ask through the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially for

Joan	Linda	Edith	Chris	Jeff
Charles	Jim	Kathryn	Carole	Mary Beth
Wes	Gerald	Sarah	Sandy	Jack
Virginia	Cece	Avery	Amelia	Julianne
Shirley	Theodore	Nathan	Michael	
Richard	Lorraine	Jane	Susan	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:  
Monica Van Fleet, Jane Ryan

### Confession Of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.*

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

*Please remain in your pew. Wave!*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*And also with you.*

### Announcements & Welcome

### Offertory Sentence

**Anthem** Lord, in Thy righteousness

Samuel S. Wesley (1810–78)

**\*Presentation Hymn** My faith looks up to thee (*Olivet*)

**Hymnal #691**

### \*The Great Thanksgiving

Expanded Language Prayer A

**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 our thanks and praise.

**Celebrant:** *continuing:* Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy** (*Sanctus*)

**Hymnal #S-113**

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and became 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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, Jesus 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:

**Christ has died**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ.

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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Fraction Anthem**      **Lamb of God** (*Agnus Dei*)

**Hymnal #S-157**

### **The Communion of the People**

*All people are invited to the Lord's Table.*

*Eucharist will be distributed in the center aisle. Please come forward in a single line to receive.*

*You may either intinct your wafer in the small chalice, or you may drink from the larger common chalice after consuming the wafer.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

**Communion Music**      New every morning is the love (*Kedron*)

**Hymnal #10**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*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.*

**Blessing**

**\*Recessional** Hope of the world (*Donne secours*)

**Hymnal #472**

**Dismissal**

**Postlude** Trio in G Minor, Op. 49, No. 1

Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901)

**Acolyte:** Amber Massa

**Liturgical Ministers:** Jeff Bowen, Amber Massa, Susie Backstrom

**Virtual Vergers** Sara VanLooy, Virginia McGhee

*This morning we welcome The Rev. Kit Tobin as our celebrant and preacher.*

**St. John's extends a warm welcome to visitors!**

**May you experience the Lord's presence during worship. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate and stay for coffee in the parish hall after the service.**

**LARGE PRINT EDITIONS OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER ARE AVAILABLE  
IN THE NARTHEX**

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## HYMNS

### **Sing, my soul, his wonderous love (*St. Bees*) Hymnal #467**

1 Sing, my soul, his wondrous love,  
who, from yon bright throne above,  
ever watchful o'er our race,  
still to us extends his grace.

2 Heaven and earth by him were made;  
all is by his scepter swayed;  
what are we that he should show  
so much love to us below?

3 God, the merciful and good,  
bought us with the Savior's blood,  
and, to make salvation sure,  
guides us by his Spirit pure.

4 Sing, my soul, adore his Name!  
Let his glory be thy theme:  
praise him till he calls thee home;  
trust his love for all to come.

### **The God of Abraham praise (*Leoni*) Hymnal #401**

1 The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days,  
and God of love;  
the Lord, the great I AM,  
by earth and heaven confessed:  
we bow and bless the sacred Name  
for ever blest.

2 He by himself hath sworn:  
we on his oath depend;  
we shall, on eagles-wings upborne,  
to heaven ascend:  
we shall behold his face,  
we shall his power adore,  
and sing the wonders of his grace  
for evermore.

3 There dwells the Lord, our King,  
the Lord, our Righteousness,  
triumphant o'er the world and sin,  
the Prince of Peace;  
on Zion's sacred height  
his kingdom he maintains,  
and, glorious with his saints in light,  
for ever reigns.

4 The God who reigns on high  
the great archangels sing,  
and "Holy, holy, holy," cry,  
"Almighty King!  
Who was, and is, the same,  
and evermore shall be:  
eternal Father, great I AM,  
we worship thee."

### **My faith looks up to thee (*Olivet*) Hymnal #691**

1 My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
be wholly thine.

2 May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire.

3 While life's dark maze I tread,  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day;  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.

### **New every morning is the love (*Kedron*) Hymnal #10**

1 New every morning is the love  
our wakening and uprising prove;  
through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
restored to life and power and thought.

2 New mercies, each returning day,  
around us hover while we pray;  
new perils past, new sins forgiven,  
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

3 If on our daily course our mind  
be set to hallow all we find,



new treasures still, of countless price,  
God will provide for sacrifice.

4 Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,  
as more of heaven in each we see;  
some softening gleam of love and prayer  
shall dawn on every cross and care.

5 The trivial round, the common task,  
will furnish all we ought to ask:  
room to deny ourselves; a road  
to bring us daily nearer God.

6 Only, O Lord, in thy dear love,  
fit us for perfect rest above;  
and help us, this and every day,  
to live more nearly as we pray.

**Hope of the World (*Donne recours*)  
Hymnal #472**

1 Hope of the world, thou Christ of great  
compassion,  
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.  
Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,  
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

2 Hope of the world, God's gift from highest  
heaven,  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,  
still let thy Spirit unto us be given  
to heal earth's wounds and end her bitter strife.

3 Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,  
showing to wandering souls the path of light,  
walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways  
lure us away from thee to endless night.

4 Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us  
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,  
we render back the love your mercy gave us;  
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.

5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,  
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,  
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious;  
thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!

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St. John's Church  
210 North Cayuga Street  
Ithaca, NY  
(607)-273-6532

[www.stjohnsithaca.org](http://www.stjohnsithaca.org)

Office email: [office@stjohnsithaca.org](mailto:office@stjohnsithaca.org)

"Like" us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church

**Office Hours** Monday thru Thursday 10–3

#### **Rector**

Beverly Way, Senior Warden  
Parish Administrator  
Elisabeth Wang, Director of Music/Organist

Pamela Talbott, Junior Warden  
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, please call or text the Senior Warden at 607-232-4465.

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter [The Fledgling](#) by contacting the church office.

#### **Please Join Us:**

Coffee Hour has resumed in the Parish Hall following the service. Masks are optional when you are not actively eating or drinking.

**Lenten Soup Supper:** Please join us for our Lenten program of reflection and spiritual connectedness on Friday, March 1. We will begin with soup supper at 6:00 followed around 6:30 by the adult forum based on Richard Rohr's *Wondrous Encounters for Lent*.

**St. John's Game Night** continues with the next event on Friday, March 8. Hot food at 6, and games from 6:30. Come and enjoy the fun and company. Bring friends and a snack if you wish.

**Forward Day by Day** for **February, March, and April** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

**Flowers:** If you wish to give Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, please call the church office (607-273-6532).