

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
10 March 2024 Year B
10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude Adagio from Concerto in A minor J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

***Processional Hymn** Amazing Grace (*New Britain*) **Hymnal #671**

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

***Collect For Purity**

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

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 Lesson **Number 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22

Confitemini Domino

John Blow



1 Give thanks to the Lord, for | he is |
 good, *
 and his | mercy en- | dures for | ever.

2 Let all those whom the Lord has re- |
 deemed pro- | claim *
 that he re- | deemed 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 re- |
 bellious | ways; *
 they were af- | flicted be- |
 cause 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 de- | livered them from | their
 dis- | tress.

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.

The Epistle Reading

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Sequence** Sing my soul, his wondrous love (*St. Bees*)

Hymnal #467 vs. 1–2

*The Gospel Reading

John 3:14–21

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

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

***Sequence Sequence** Sing my soul, his wondrous love (*St. Bees*)

Hymnal #467 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**

We lift our eyes to the one who is rich in mercy as we offer our prayers, responding, “Christ, have mercy.”

+ That the community of faith may support those who will receive the sacrament of baptism this Easter and rejoice with them in the joy of Christ’s risen life; Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

+ That the darkness of death may be lifted from peoples and nations where war and disruption are constant companions; Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

+ That the words of our faith may find expression through the actions of our hands reaching out to assist the poor and lonely, the prisoner and captive, the hungry and homeless, that all may know of God’s redeeming love; Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

+ That the love of God may burst the bonds of fear, moving the Church beyond survival into a glorious rebirth of spiritual fervor and renewal; Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

+ That we may be faithful stewards of the whole of creation, preserving the delicate balance of the earth and her resources, that the generations to come may receive the fruits of the land that we now enjoy; Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

+ That the dead may find rest in the company of the saints and martyrs, receiving the light of Christ that never fades; Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy upon us who cry to you from our deepest despair, and from our abundance of joy, as we continue our intercessory prayers.

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

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

John Jackson, Gabriel Miller, Nancy Ives, Sherry Smart, Charles Ciccone, Christopher Henry

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 O Holy Jesu (*O Bone Jesu*) Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525– or 1526–1594)

***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 My God, thy table now is spread (*Rockingham*)

Hymnal #321

Come, thou font of every blessing (*Nettleton*)

Hymnal #686

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** Lift high the cross (*Crucifer*)

Hymnal #473

Dismissal

Postlude Prelude No. 3 in E Minor, BWV 555

J. S. Bach

Acolyte: Amber Massa

Liturgical Ministers: Lillian Wright, Gwen Freeman, Pamela Talbott

Virtual Vergers Matthew Sanaker, Michael Roman, John Jackson

The Eucharistic and Aumbry candles this month are given to the Glory of God in memory of Irene Noss and Edith N. Arlin by Mary Arlin.

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

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from **One License** with license # **A**

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"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 next Lenten program of reflection and spiritual connectedness on **Friday, March 15**. We will begin with soup supper at 6:00 pm followed around 6:30 pm by the adult forum based on Richard Rohr's *Wondrous Encounters for Lent*.

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

Easter Flowers: If you wish to make a contribution to the purchase of Easter flowers for the altar, please use this form so that we can include your loved one's name(s) on the list of those being memorialized. You may place this slip in the offering plate or mail it to the Parish Office by **Monday, March 25** for inclusion in the Easter Day bulletins.

\$ _____ Given for Easter Flowers in memory of: _____