

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

The First Sunday in Lent



February 26nd 2023

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....Matt Palisch, Organist

Processional.....#401 O God of Abraham Praise, V1 - 2

Salutations *Beginning on BCP p. 351*

Presider: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Decalogue *BCP p. 350*

Presider: Hear the commandments of God to his people:
am the Lord your God who brought you out of
bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider: You shall not make for yourself any idols.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord
your God.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider: Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider: Honor your father and your mother.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider: You shall not commit murder.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider: You shall not commit adultery.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider: You shall not steal.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider: You shall not be a false witness.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your
neighbor.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

The Scripture *BCP p. 351*

The Presider may say one of the following:

Presider: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O
Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the
Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength. The
second is this: Love your neighbor as your as yourself.

There is no other commandment greater than these."
Mark 12:29-31

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, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:12,16*

Confession

BCP p. 352

Presider:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

Presider:

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.**

Song of Praise.....Fletcher Kyrie

Collect of the Day

Presider:

God is with you.

People:

And also with you

Presider:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 32

Beati quorum

- 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.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand for the hymn.

The Sequence Hymn.....Fletcher Trisagion

The Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11



Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Rev. Annette Joseph

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Presider and People together, all standing

All:

**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.

Prayers of the People

Reader: In this season of miracles and wonders, in this time of
 God's showing-forth, help us to pay attention to the
 moments of our days, to the miracle and mystery of
 life in our daily lives.

People: **Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.**

Reader: We give thanks for those miracles and wonders that
 we do recognize, especially (*read thanksgiving
 people have written*) and those you would add (*allow
 people to add thanksgivings*). We pray that we may
 be filled with gratitude for all your blessings,
 especially the miracle of this very moment of life.

People: **Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit**

Reader: O God, there is great healing when we give our
 attention to your presence. Help us to repent, to turn

our hearts and minds to you, and to bravely turn away from those things that entice us, but are not good or healthy for us, our neighbors or our earth.

People: **Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.**

Reader: We pray for the church, that the Unity of Christ will draw us together in the humility of your love and forgiveness. And we pray for all of us who would follow Christ, but have forgotten how.

People: **Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.**

Reader: We pray for the sick, especially those on our prayer list (*here the prayer list may be read*) and others we name (*here allow silence for people to add names silently and aloud*). May they be healed by your life-giving Presence.

People: **Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.**

Reader: We pray for those in need of guidance and strength (*here names on the prayer list may be read*) and others we name (*here allow silence for people to add names silently or aloud*). Be with each of these ones.

People: **Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.**

Reader: We pray for all of us who feel overwhelmed by all that we have to do. May we find the simpler way, trusting you with all our hearts.

People: **Cleanse and heal us by the in-breathing of your Spirit.**

Reader: We remember all those who have died, especially those known to us. (*Names of those who have died*). For those who have passed on from mortal life, we pray.

People: **Lord Jesus Christ, may they be with you today in paradise.**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ. Stay standing for hymn.

Offertory Hymn.....#313 Let thy Blood in mercy poured

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP p. 361

People remain standing

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider proceeds:

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sign this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus.....Fletcher Sanctus

The people stand or kneel. The Presider continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord 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 he 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, according to his command, O Father,

A/: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____. and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Presider then continues:

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

All: 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.

Breaking of the Bread

BCP p. 364

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Fraction.....Agnus Dei Fletcher

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn.....#147 Now let us all with one accord

Presider: Bob, Gloria, Kent, and Marilyn we send you out to share this Holy Communion with those who can't be with us. May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in that community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.

Post Communion Prayer *BCP p. 366*

Presider: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand for the hymn and dismissal.

Recessional Hymn.....#401 O God of Abraham Praise, V3 - 5

Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude.....Matt Palisch, Organist

Notes on the Service

First Sunday in Lent

Gen 2:15-17: 3:1-7 • Ps 32 • Rom 5:12-19 • Mtt. 4:1-11

As the penitential season of Lent gets underway, the tone of services is somber, opening with a greeting from Psalm 103. Hangings are purple or unbleached white. Alleluias and the Gloria in Excelsis are omitted.

The collect was composed in English by William Bright, "in imitation of the ancient model." Addressed to Christ, it began with an allusion to Christ's role of eternal mediator, "Merciful and faithful high priest, who didst deign for us to be tempted of Satan, make speed to aid...."

Lenten Sundays' readings from the Hebrew Bible form a sequence of episodes in salvation history: Today, the fall of humanity; next, the call of Abraham; then, Israel in the wilderness; King David's anointing; Ezekiel's vision of dry bones; last, a poem of the suffering servant. Lenten epistles interpret those passages from Paul's perspective. Lenten Gospels are about events in Jesus' life which complement or contrast with the Hebrew stories, starting today with the contrast between Adam and Christ.

The story of the fall sets the stage to open the drama of redemption. Genesis does not say that the serpent was Satan in disguise, nor that the primordial offense was any sexual act. The tree of knowledge of good and evil represents defining right and wrong for oneself. Eating from it represents experiencing right and wrong for oneself. The couple's sin was their supposing that they knew better than God and thus exceeding their limits as creatures. As a result, they are self-conscious about nakedness, ashamed of themselves.

Ps. 32:1, "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven" might have been the song of Adam and Eve had they repented of their trespass, but Genesis does not show them repenting. Verse 4, "my moisture was dried up...." means, "my vigor waned as in the summer drought."

Paul interpreted Genesis 2-3 to mean that the human race was thereafter condemned. Although he did not use the term "original sin," Paul's interpretation was developed into that doctrine. In this epistle he contrasts Adam whose sin issued in death, and Christ whose resistance to sin issued in life.

As the LORD had exiled Adam from Eden, so the Spirit exiles the New Adam from the Jordan Valley. Jesus refines his identity on a New Testament "vision quest." The young messiah resists three false identities presented to him by Satan, the de facto ruler of this world: economic leadership, providing bread; celebrity leadership, surviving a jump from the temple roof; political leadership, ruling the world as a philosopher-king; temptations all. .

Rev. Stephen Weissman
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