
WELCOME.

*Our service begins and concludes in silence
on this solemn day of penitence and faith.*

*We welcome the Rectors and Choirs from
St. Edward's, St. John's, and St. Thomas.*

Preludes

Recit de Cromhorne

Francois Couperin
(1668 -1733)

In God, My Faithful God

Johann Nicolaus Hanff
(1630-1706)

The Salutation

Priest: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from the Book of Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near--a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, `Where is their God?'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-14 (sung by choir and congregation)

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- +
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see--we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 674, vss. 1-2

1. "Forgive our sins as we forgive"
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

2. How can your pardon reach and
bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 674, vss. 3-4

3. In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew,
how small the debts men owe to us,
how great our debt to you.

4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our
souls, and bid resentment cease;
then, reconciled to God and man,
our lives will spread your peace.

The Sermon

The Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

All stand.

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

The Imposition of Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.**

And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

**Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.**

Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.

**Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice;
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

The Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Celebrant continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel. Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

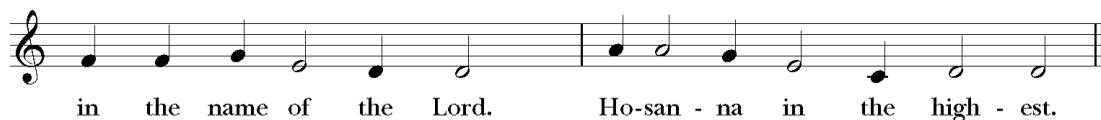
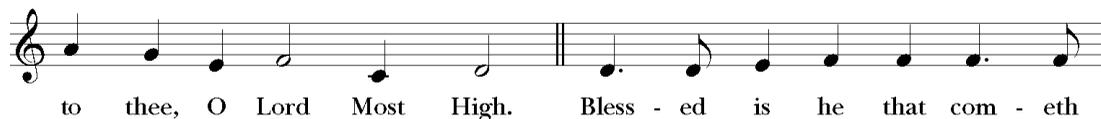
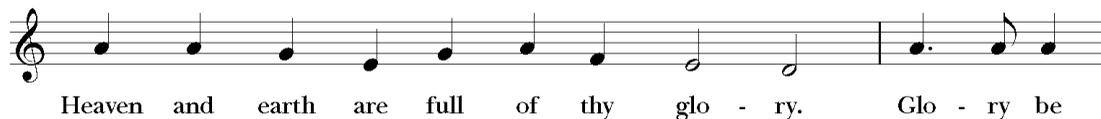
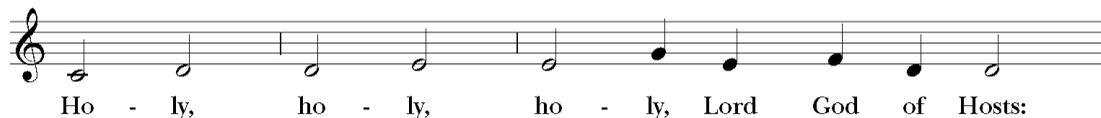
Celebrant Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share in his peace. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant proceeds in thanksgiving before inviting the people to sing:

Sanctus

Hymnal S-113



The Celebrant continues until:

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues until:

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.**

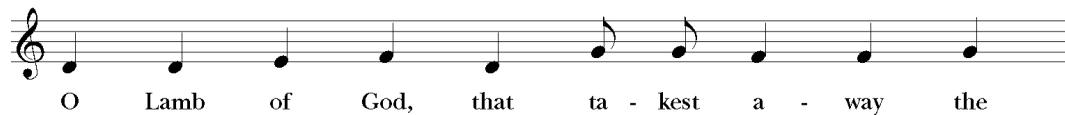
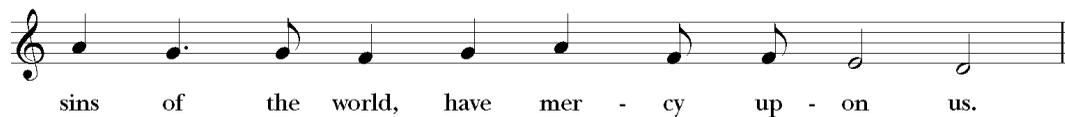
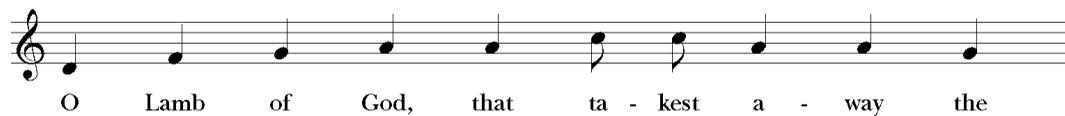
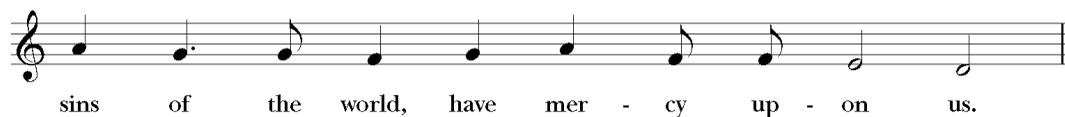
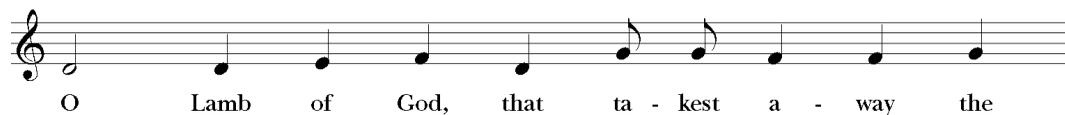
The Fraction

Celebrant Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

People Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Agnus Dei

Hymnal S-157



All Christians are welcome to make their Communion with bread and wine or by bread alone. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you prefer not to receive, we invite you to come forward for a blessing or to remain in your pew as you wish.

Communion Hymn

Hymnal 150

1. Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

2. Should not we thy sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain?

3. Then if Satan on us press,
Jesus, Savior, hear our call!
Victor in the wilderness,
grant we may not faint nor fall!

4. So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

The Post Communion Prayer

Merciful God, you have called us to your table and fed us with the bread of life. Draw us and all people to your Son, as we serve one another in holy love. Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

May Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

Hymnal 149

1. Eternal Lord of love, behold your
Church walking once more the pilgrim
way of Lent, led by your cloud by day,
by night your fire, moved by your love
and toward your presence bent: far off
yet here—the goal of all desire.

2. So daily dying to the way of self, so
daily living to your way of love, we walk
the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your
death: so we are dead and live with you
in God.

3. If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the first-born of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower,
so in the Father's glory shall we wake.

Postlude

Petit Plein Jeu

Francois Couperin
(1668-1733)

Lent at Saint James



Contemplative Prayer: Teaching

Who were the desert mothers and fathers of ancient times? Why did they seek such solitude, and what can we learn from them today? These were just some of the questions we discussed at our Tuesday evening Contemplative Prayer: Teaching sessions during Lent in 2018. ***Blurring the Boundaries: Paradox in the Spirituality of the***

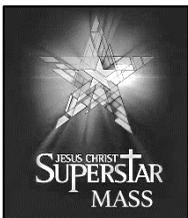
Desert Mothers and Fathers. We'll learn more about these desert elders and the wisdom they offer us.

For the season of Lent, we will also offer gentle movement at 6:30 PM in the narthex with yoga instructor Roberta Strickler. No mat, equipment or special clothing is needed. Come experience how gentle movement can serve as an energy releasing, calming bridge into your meditation at 7 PM!



Men's Lenten Retreat Saturday March 9, 8 AM – 3 PM St. Thomas Episcopal Church

For our March meeting, the Men's Spirituality Group will move to St. Thomas Episcopal Church for a mid-Lenten half-day silent retreat. This is a great opportunity to be together mostly in silence for prayer, meditation, journaling, reading, reflecting on scripture, walking the labyrinth and being inside or outside. The period of silence will be preceded and followed by a brief liturgy with no Eucharist. Men of all ages are invited to participate. For additional information please email Bob Mosebach at rcmosebach@comcast.net or David Rutledge at drutledge1225@gmail.com.



Jesus Christ Superstar April 13, 2019, 5:00 PM

Holy Week at Saint James begins with this special mass on the eve of Palm Sunday featuring music from Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera of the passion story.