

St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church
 White Bear Lake, MN
 The Second Sunday in Lent
 Sunday, February 28, 2021

Prelude

Welcoming Words - The Rev. Art Hancock

Ringing of the bell - Centering Time - Ringing of the bell

Hymn 401—The God of Abraham praise (Leoni)

1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;
 2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;
 3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - eous - ness,
 4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,
 5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;

1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;
 2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend:
 3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;
 4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!
 5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry;

1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:
 2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,
 3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,
 4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:
 5 hail, A - braham's Lord di - vine! With heaven our songs we raise;

we bow and bless the sa - cred Name for ev - er blest.
 and sing the won - ders of his grace for ev - er - more.
 and, glo - rious with his saints in light, for ev - er reigns.
 e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."
 all might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

The Word of God

The people standing, the Presider says

BCP p. 355

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People His mercy endures for ever.

The Presider may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

BCP p.360

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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.*

Let us say (repeat 3 times)

Presider Lord, have mercy.

People Christ, have mercy.

Presider Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

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 ~~thi~~ you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Genesis 17:1-16

Reader A reading from the book of Genesis

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."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Reader Let us read the appointed portion of the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

- 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 ~~poor~~ ^{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 whose 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: Romans 4:135

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 455– O Love of God, how strong and true (Dunedin)

(Note: The musical score was unable to be produced for the bulletin.)

1 O love of God, how strong and true,
eternal and yet ever new;
uncomprehended and unbought,
beyond all knowledge and all thought.

2 O wide-embracing, wondrous Love,
we read thee in the sky above;
we read thee in the earth below,
in seas that swell and streams that flow.

3 We read thee best in him who came
to bear for us the cross of shame,
sent by the Father from on high,
our life to live, our death to die.

4 We read thy power to bless and save
e’en in the darkness of the grave;
still more in resurrection light
we read the fullness of thy might.

The Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

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

Gospel The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon—The Rev. Art Hancock, Rector

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

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

Intercessor Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great
compassion, hear our prayers. We pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers, and all the
holy people of God. Wash us through and through,
And cleanse us from our sin.

We pray for our nation, for all the nations of the earth, and for all who govern and judge. Purge us
from our sin,
And we shall be pure.

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who cry out for justice, those who live
under the threat of terror, and those without a place to lay their head. Make them hear of joy and
gladness,
that those who are broken may rejoice.

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely. We pray especially with those on the St John's prayer list and those we name in our hearts. Give them the joy of your saving help,
and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

We pray for those who have died, and who have entered into the land of eternal Light and your abiding peace. Cast them not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from them.

Lord Jesus, you taught your disciples that you must undergo great suffering and be killed before rising again; grant us the strength and wisdom to be your followers and to take up our cross to follow you, this day and always **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory Hymn 675– Take up your cross, the Savior said (Bourbon)



1 Take up your cross, the Sa - vior said, if
 2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill
 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and
 4 Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and
 5 Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, nor



1 you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
 2 your weak spi - rit with a - larm; his strength shall bear your
 3 let your fool - ish heart be still; the Lord for you ac -
 4 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -
 5 think till death to lay it down; for on - ly those who



1 will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 2 spi - rit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
 3 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 4 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.
 5 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

Church of England Alternative Liturgy (adapted)

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, Creator of us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

God of goodness, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and made the sick whole.

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.

Jesus blessed you for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore, gracious God, with this bread and this cup:

**We celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.**

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honor and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

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.

BCP p.364

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

For those participating at home during our streaming services and are unable to drive by for consecrated bread, you are invited to pray.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where bread and wine are offered, and remembering particularly my own faith community, I offer praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life. I also give thanks for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory, and for the blessings given me.

I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament. While I cannot receive communion at this time, I know that you are always with me. Help me embrace you with all my heart, soul, and mind. Give me the strength and courage to participate in your work to heal and redeem your world until I come to your glorious Kingdom and unending peace.

Hymn 337 – And now, O Father, mindful of the love (Unde et memores)

1 And now, O Fa - ther, mind - ful of the love that
 2 Look Fa - ther, look on his a - noint - ed face, and
 *3 And then for those, our dear - est and our best, by
 *4 And so we come; O draw us to thy feet, most

bought us, once for all, on Cal - vary's tree, and hav - ing with us
 on - ly look on us as found in him; look not on our mis -
 this pre - veil - ing pres - ence we ap - peal; O fold them clos - er
 pa - tient Sa - vior, who canst love us still! And by this food, so

him that pleads a - bove, we here pre - sent, we here spread
 us - ings of thy grace, our prayer so lan - guid, and our
 to thy mer - cy's breast! O do thine ut - most for their
 awe - some and so sweet, de - liv - er us from ev - ery

forth to thee, that on - ly of - fering per - fect in thine
 faith so dim: for lo! be - tween our sins and their re -
 soul's true weal! From taint - ing mis - chief keep them pure and
 touch of ill: in thine own ser - vice make us glad and

eyes, the one true, pure, im - mor - tal sac - ri - fice.
 ward, we set the pas - sion of thy Son our Lord.
 clear, and crown thy gifts with strength to per - se - vere.
 free, and grant us nev - er - more to part from thee.

Celebrant and People

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 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

Hymn 707 – Take my life, and let it be (Hollingside)

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.

take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
 Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

Service participants

Celebrant	The Rev. Art Hancock, Rector
Presider	Melissa Sturges
Deacon	The Rev. Margaret Thor
Organist	Mike Ferguson
Technicians	Carrie Thomas Jeff White

Prayers of the People are by the Rev. Rick Morley at rickmorley.com