



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY 5 MARCH 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

11:15 A.M.

Prelude

Processional Hymn 401

“The God of Abraham praise”

Leoni

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Collect for Purity

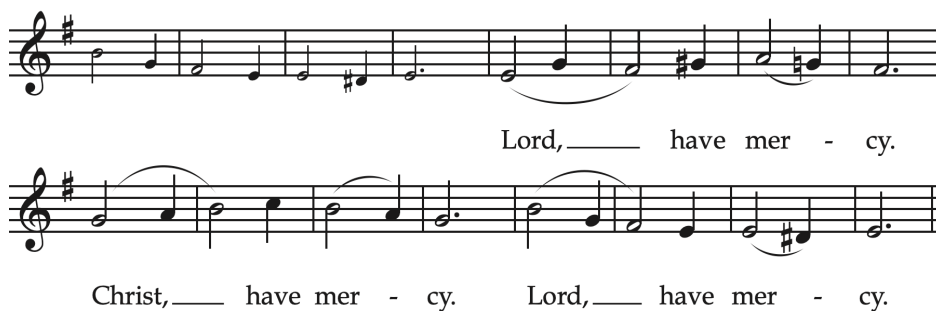
p. 355

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.**

Kyrie

“Lord, have mercy”

Holy Ghost



The Collect of the Day

p. 218

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant 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 with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Commentary: God called Abram to leave his ancestral land. God's call was pure grace, nothing in the text suggests that God chose Abram because he merited favor. Abram, later renamed Abraham, had only a promise from God, yet Abraham's faith was shown by his obedience to the Lord. At this point God's promise was short on details, but Abraham realized that God's blessing meant that he would be a blessing to others. Many obstacles stood between God's promises and their future fulfillment, but each obstacle presented an opportunity for Abraham's faith to grow stronger, even as his faith was tested. Through the ages, Christians have been called to follow Abraham's example of steadfast faith in God.

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

People


Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

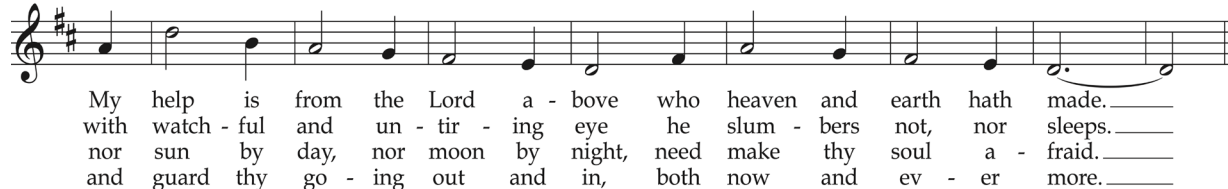
"I lift up my eyes to the hills"

Levavi oculos

St. Columba



1 I to the hills will lift mine eyes; from whence shall come my aid? _____
 2 He will not let thy foot be moved, his own he safe - ly keeps; _____
 3 Thy faith - ful guard - ian is the Lord, thy shel - ter and thy shade; _____
 4 From e - vil he shall keep thee safe and shall thy strength re - store _____



My help is from the Lord a - bove who heaven and earth hath made. _____
 with watch - ful and un - tir - ing eye he slum - bers not, nor sleeps. _____
 nor sun by day, nor moon by night, need make thy soul a - fraid. _____
 and guard thy go - ing out and in, both now and ev - er more. _____

~ Psalm 121; paraphrased

The Epistle: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

NRSV, p. 1036

Commentary: The church in Rome was probably founded by Jewish Christians who had left Palestine to escape growing persecution. By the time Paul wrote this letter, the Roman church was widely renowned for its faith. One purpose of the letter was to promote unity between Jewish and Gentile believers. Many Jewish Christians still considered obedience to Mosaic Law foundational to their right standing with God, but Paul pointed out that God had always justified people, including Abraham, father of the Jewish nation, by faith alone. God promised blessings to and through Abraham long before the law was given. The law brings wrath, not blessing, because no one can keep the law perfectly. God gave His unconditional promise, to make Abraham the father of many nations, Jewish and Gentile, when Abraham stood justified by faith alone.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: John 3:1–17

NRSV, p. 970

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

*People***Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People***Praise to you, Lord Christ.****The Sermon**

The Reverend Cheryl Brainard

The Nicene Creed

p. 358

Celebrant and People

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*The response to each petition:*

...Lord, bless us

So that we may bless others.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

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 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.**

The Peace

p. 360

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

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

“God So Loved the World”

Bob Chilcott

Oboe soloist: Sarah Parker

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

~ John 3:16

Presentation Hymn 143

“The glory of these forty days” *fifth verse only*

Erhalt uns, Herr

O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to
thee be ev - ery prayer ad-dressed, who art in three - fold
Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

The Great Thanksgiving — Eucharistic Prayer B

p. 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here, a proper preface is said, then the Celebrant continues...

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

Sanctus S-124

"Holy, holy, holy Lord"

David Hurd

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues, saying in the midst of the prayer:

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues, concluding with:

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.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

p. 364

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

p. 364

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem: S-161

"Lamb of God"

Hurd

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers are available at the main altar upon request.

Communion Hymns

Hymn 337	“And now, O Father, mindful of the love”	<i>Unde et memores</i>
Hymn 489	“The great Creator of the worlds”	<i>Tallis’ Ordinal</i>
Hymn 691	“My faith looks up to thee”	<i>Olivet</i>

The Postcommunion Prayer

p. 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

The Blessing

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 448

“O love, how deep, how broad, how high”

Deus tuorum militum

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



Celebrant: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon
Assisting Priest: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

Preacher: The Reverend Cheryl Brainard
Guest Organist & Choir Director: Lisa Nichol

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Harmon Chadbourn Rorison, & Margaret Lippitt "Peg" Rorison.*

ST. JAMES PARISH

LENT AT ST. JAMES

The seasons of the church year are the seasons of the Christian life, that is, moments of God's life made manifest through Jesus Christ. The season of Lent is a time when we contemplate the separation from God we faced prior to the love and sacrifice of Jesus. In the seven weeks of Easter, we rejoice in the triumph of life, God's life over death. Often during Lent, there are good reasons to feel deeply glad. Easter joy is a mystical reality made possible by faith, yet the equally real grief and suffering that now afflicts some of us, will not magically evaporate come Easter morning. We invite you to journey with us through this time of grief and triumph. Below are some ways you can engage with your parish family during this season.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS DURING LENT

MONDAY - FRIDAY

- **8:00 AM - Morning Prayer on Zoom** - Each weekday morning, a group gathers on Zoom to read scripture, share music, and most importantly pray. We take the time to offer prayers for those on the prayer list, those on our hearts, and give thanks for all good that God is doing in our lives.

MONDAYS

- **5:00 PM - Living Well in the Midst of Grief** - The St. James Grief Group meets on 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Attendees gather in the Graham Parlor or join in via Zoom. This community shares support for the grief and losses we carry.

WEDNESDAYS

- **7:00 AM - Youth Starbucks Bible Study** - Young people are invited to join Cookie, Jane, Phillip and others of our St. James Youth group for a morning pick-me-up! The Starbucks Bible Study is one you won't want to miss. Even if you did give up caffeine for Lent.
- **11:00 AM - Weekday Bible Study - Lenten Series** - Join in the Graham Parlor or on Zoom! Our Weekday Bible Study will meet at 11:00 AM for a special Lenten series on Philippians led by Susan Ingle!
- **12:10 PM - Eucharist in the Sanctuary** - Join us in the St. James Chapel for a Noonday Eucharist. Come partake in Holy Communion each Wednesday.
- **5:45 PM - Children's Choir Practice** - The St. James Children's Choir is back in action. Join Mr. John in the Children's Chapel for Choir practice each Wednesday during March as we prepare for a special presentation on Palm Sunday!
- **6:00 PM - Wednesday Night Parish Dinners** - Don't cook. Come have dinner with us instead! We'll be serving our Parish Dinner in the Perry Hall from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Visit our website to RSVP and to learn about our love offering!
- **7:00 PM - Lenten Series: The Passion Narratives of Jesus Christ** - Following the Parish Dinner, join the Rev. Gray Hodsdon in the Bishop Wright Room or on Zoom for a special Lenten Series discussing the accounts of the Passion narratives of Jesus Christ.
- **7:00 PM - St. James Choir Practice** - Love to sing? Come join the fun in the choir room—we always have an extra chair. Remember when you sing for church you pray twice. And the Lord says make a joyful noise!

THURSDAYS

- **6:00 PM - Praying Shapes Believing** - This 7-week class is underway! Together, we are reading through *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*. If you are interested in learning more about the Episcopal tradition, we invite you to join us. Come as you are - comfortable! We'll have some light refreshments. If you have any questions or need a copy of the book, as you will want to read prior to attending, please contact or the Rev. Cheryl Brainard at cheryl@stjamesp.org.

FAITH FORMATION

- **DISCIPLE'S CLASS** - Living Well Through Lent 2023:
Practicing Compassion With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind- *The Lippitt Room or via Zoom*
- **FAITH DISCUSSIONS** - Discussion: What is Love? What is Christian Love?- *The Stephen Ministry Room*
- **JUBI-LATTE ROUND TABLE** (6th-12th grades) - *Cookie's Office*
- **FAITH ADVENTURERS** (4th & 5th grades): *2nd Fl. Milton Hall*
- **FAITH BUILDERS** (2nd and 3rd graders): *2nd Fl. Milton Hall*
- **FAITH FOUNDATIONS** (K-5 & 1st grade): *2nd Fl. Milton Hall*
- **FAITH BUILT THROUGH WONDER** (3's & 4's): *2nd Fl. Milton Hall*

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

MON.- FRI., MARCH 6-10

- MORNING PRAYER
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom

MONDAY, MARCH 6

- LIVING WELL IN MIDST OF GRIEF
5:00 PM | Graham Parlor or via Zoom
- FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | Great Hall

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

- MEN'S AL ANON MEETING
5:15 PM | Lippitt Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

- SJP YOUTH STARBUCKS BIBLE STUDY
7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks
- WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY
11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or via Zoom
- HOLY EUCHARIST
12:10 PM | St. James Parish

WEDNESDAY... CONT.D:

- CHILDREN'S CHOIR
5:45 PM | St. James Parish
- WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
6:00-7:00 PM | Perry Hall
- LENTEN SERIES: PASSION NARRATIVES OF JESUS CHRIST
7:00 PM | Bishop Wright Room or Zoom
- ST. JAMES CHOIR REHEARSAL
7:00 PM | Choir Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

- PRAYING SHAPES BELIEVING
6:00 PM | Lippitt Room
- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
6:30 PM | Graham Parlor or Zoom
- EPISCOPOSSE GATHERING
7:00 PM | Georgiou Home

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

- SUNRISE SERENITY AL-ANON
7:45 AM | Bishop Wright Room
- SECOND SATURDAY CLEAN UP WITH CAPE FEAR RIVER WATCH
9:00 AM | To be Announced

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
8:00 AM | St. James Parish
- FAMILY BREAKFAST
8:30 - 9:30 AM | Great Hall
- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
9:00 AM | St. James Parish & Online
- FAITH FORMATION HOUR
10:10 AM | St. James Parish
- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
11:15 AM | St. James Parish & Online
- SHOP'N'BUNNY HOP
5:00 PM | Wal-Mart & I-Hop

EDITORIAL DEADLINES: The deadline for the March 13th Digital Grapevine is February March 10th.

The deadline for the March Grapevine Magazine is March 24th.

Email communications@stjamesp.org

*To all who are weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Saviour;
to all who are idle and look for service; to all who are strangers
and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to whosoever will come—this church opens wide her doors.*

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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