

The First Sunday in Lent

Welcome

Opening Hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is our God”

Martin Luther, Frederic Hedge

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate - On earth is not His equal

And though this world, with devils filled should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God hath willed - His truth to triumph through us
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure - One little word shall fell him

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, through Him who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still - His kingdom is forever

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives our sins,
People ***God's mercy endures forever.***

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. In this manner, 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 that all Christians continually have to renew our 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 alms-giving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

And to make a right beginning, let us now pray for grace, that we may faithfully keep this Lent

The Officiant and people kneel. A period of silent prayer follows.

Officiant Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you 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.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Officiant Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

Almighty God, you have created us from the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be for us a symbol of our mortality and a sign of our penitence, that we may remember that it is by your grace alone that we receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Then ashes are imposed with the following words

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

The First Reading is from the Book of Genesis

God makes a promise to all of humanity and every living creature to come. His mercy is symbolized by a rainbow. Beginning to read at Chapter 9, verse 8

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting

covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.” (ESV)

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People ***Praise be to God.***

Psalm 25: 3-9

Let us read this psalm responsively by half verse.

3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *

and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me forth in your truth and teach me, *

for you are the God of my salvation; in you has been my hope all the day long.

5 Call to remembrance, O LORD, your tender mercies, *

and your loving-kindnesses, which have been from of old.

6 O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth, *

but according to your mercy think on me, O LORD, in your goodness.

7 Gracious and righteous is the LORD; *

therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

8 Those who are meek shall he guide in judgment, *

and those who are gentle shall he teach his way.

9 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth *

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People ***Praise be to God.***

The Second Reading is from the First Letter of Peter

God saved Noah and his family through the dangers of the flood waters. Even now, he saves through the risky waters of baptism, drawing a new people to himself. Beginning to read at Chapter 3, verse 18

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (ESV)

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.
People ***Praise be to God.***

Sequence Song, “Ancient Words”

Lynn De Shazo

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. (2x)

The Gospel

Celebrant: We stand to hear the good news of our salvation, as it is written in the Gospel according to St. Mark chapter 1 beginning to read at verse 9.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. (ESV)

Celebrant This is the Gospel of Christ.
People ***Praise be to Christ our Savior.***

Sequence Song, “Ancient Words”

Lynn DeShazo

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. O let the ancient words impart.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Thebeau

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant We stand together with Christians throughout the centuries, and throughout the world today, to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All ***I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.***

I 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 of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer Intercessions

Celebrant Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank God for His goodness.

Psalmist Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You promised through Your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith. Strengthen Foley our Archbishop, Clark our Bishop and all Your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess Your name may be united in Your truth, live together in Your love, and reveal Your glory in the world.

Psalmist Lord in your mercy.

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Psalmist Strengthen your Church for her witness and work in the world. Today we lift up Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, Baton Rouge, LA. We ask your anointing upon Archbishop Lamido, Kaduna, Nigeria; and the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans around the world. We especially pray that you would empower our sister parish, Christ Church Jerusalem, as an instrument for your peace in Jerusalem.

Psalmist Lord in your mercy.

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Psalmist Bless and guide our rulers; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; that people may honor one another, and seek the common good.

Psalmist Lord in your mercy.

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Psalmist Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbors; that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as He loves us.

Psalmist Lord in your mercy.

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Psalmist Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of Your salvation.

Psalmist Lord in your mercy.

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Psalmist We pray for the little children and babies: born and unborn, that their tender lives may be protected and their rights guarded.

Psalmist Lord in your mercy.

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Psalmist Hear us as we remember, those who have died in the faith of Christ, according to Your promises, grant us with them a share in Your eternal kingdom.

Psalmist Lord in your mercy.

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Psalmist Rejoicing in the fellowship of all Your saints, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to Your unfailing love. Merciful Father.

People ***Accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.***

Celebrant God so loved the world that He gave His only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our Advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins, in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all people.

A Brief pause

All ***Almighty God, our heavenly Father, We have sinned against You and against our neighbors, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have not sufficiently walked according to the mind of Christ. We have named the name of Christ, but have not departed from iniquity. We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve You in newness of life, to the glory of Your name. Amen.***

Celebrant Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Ministry of the Sacrament

The Celebrant says either the following or other suitable words:

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 His peace.

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Song “Graves Into Gardens”

Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, Tiffany Hammer

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough
Then You came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

(chorus)

Oh there's nothing better than You - There's nothing better You
Lord there's nothing - Nothing is better than You

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness - My failures and flaws
Lord You've seen them all - And You still call me friend
'Cause the God of the mountain - Is the God of the valley
And there's not a place - Your mercy and grace won't find me again
(to chorus)

(bridge1)

You turn mourning to dancing - You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory - You're the only one who can

(bridge2)

You turn graves into gardens - You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways - You're the only one who can (to chorus)

Doxology

All sing ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

The Preparation of the Gifts

Celebrant Accept, we pray You, O Lord these gifts which we here bring to You as the token of our love and gratitude; and grant that they may be so wisely used, that by them the work of Your Church may be prospered and Your kingdom enlarged; for the glory of Jesus Christ our Savior. ***Amen.***

Eucharistic Prayer

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 Him thanks and praise.***

Celebrant It is indeed right; it is our duty and joy at all times and in all places to give You thanks and praise Holy Father, heavenly King, Almighty and eternal God through Jesus Christ Your only Son our Lord, For He is Your living Word; through Him You have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in Your own image. Through Him You have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving Him to be born as man and to die upon the cross; You raised Him from the dead and exalted Him to Your right hand on high, through Him You have sent upon us Your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for Your own possession.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord who was in every way tempted as we are yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto Him.

Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim Your great and glorious name, for ever praising You and singing,

“Sanctus”

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. (2x)

Men sing: Holy, Holy, Holy...

Ladies sing: Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. (2x)

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. People remain standing

Celebrant Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and as we follow His example and obey His command, grant that by the power of Your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us His Body and Blood; Who in the same night that He was betrayed, took bread and gave You thanks; He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me,” In the same way, after supper, He took the cup and gave You thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “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. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me”.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People ***Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.***

Celebrant Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember His offering of Himself made once for all upon the cross; and proclaim His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, as we look for His coming in glory, We celebrate with this bread and this cup His one perfect sacrifice.

Accept through Him, our great High Priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of Your divine Majesty, renew us by Your Spirit, inspire us with Your love, and unite us in the body of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Him, and with Him, and in Him, by the power of the Holy Spirit with all who stand before You in earth and heaven. We worship You, Father Almighty, in songs of everlasting praise.

People ***Blessing and honor and glory and power be Yours for ever and ever. Amen.***

Celebrant The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the Body of Christ?

Celebrant The cup which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?

People ***Though we are many, we are one body, because we share in one Bread.***

Prayer of Humble Access

Together we pray ***We do not presume to come to Your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness but in Your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Your table, But You are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood; that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.***

The Distribution of the Eucharistic Elements

Before the distribution, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant Holy things to Holy people. If any is holy, let him come; if any is not, let him repent. The Lord is here.

All ***There is One Holy, One Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God the Father, blessed for ever. Amen.***

“O Come To the Altar”

Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye, Mack Brock

Are you hurting and broken within overwhelmed by the weight of your sin, Jesus is calling. Have you come to the end of yourself? Do you thirst for a drink from the well, Jesus is calling.

Chorus O come to the altar, The Father’s arms are open wide. Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes. Come today there’s no reason to wait, Jesus is calling. Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy. From the ashes a new life is born, Jesus is calling. (*Chorus x2*)

Communion Songs “Rescue”

Jared Anderson

You are the source of life - And I can't be left behind
No one else will do - And I will take hold of You

(Chorus)

I need You, Jesus, to come to my rescue - Where else can I go
There's no other name by which I am saved - Capture me with grace, I will follow You

(Bridge)

This world has nothing for me, I will follow You

“One Thing Remains”

Brian Johnson, Christa Black Gifford, Jeremy Riddle

Higher than the mountains that I face - Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change - This one thing remains, this one thing remains

(chorus)

Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me
Your love

And on and on and on and on it goes - It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid - One thing remains (to chorus)

(bridge)

In death, in life, I'm confident and covered by the power of Your great love
My debt is paid there's nothing that can separate my heart - From Your great love

“King of Kings”

Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood

In the darkness we were waiting - Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running - There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets - To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory - To a cradle in the dirt

(chorus)

Praise the Father praise the Son - Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory, Majesty - Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming - And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation - You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering - You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation - Jesus for our sake You died

And the morning that You rose - All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good - For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs - And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come - To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born - Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old - Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name - In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ - Who has resurrected me (to chorus)

After Communion

Celebrant My heart says of You, "Seek His face"! Your face O Lord, I will seek. *Psalm 27:8*

Celebrant As our Savior taught us, so we 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.***

Together we pray ***Father of all, we give You thanks and praise, that when we were still far off You met us in Your Son and brought us home. Dying and living He declared Your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's Body, live His risen life. We who drink His cup, bring life to others. We whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us. So we and Your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise Your name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

William Williams, John Hughes

Guide me O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but Thou art mighty, hold me with Thy powerful hand
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven, feed me now and evermore
Feed me now and evermore

Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow
Let the fiery cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer
Be Thou still my strength and shield - Be Thou still my strength and shield

When I tread the verge of Jordan bid my anxious fears subside
Death of death and hell's destruction land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee - I will ever give to Thee

Celebrant Words of dismissal.
All ***Praise be to God.***

CCLI #3037407