

# ***Liturgy of the Word: Rite One***

*(A Service of Ante-Communion)*



***Fourth Sunday in Lent***

*March 14, 2021*



# Rite I

## Prelude

## THE WORD OF GOD

## Welcome & Announcements

## Opening Words

**Celebrant:** Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

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

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

## Lord Have Mercy Kyrie

WLAP 837

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

**Vs2.** Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

## Prayer of the Day

*Celebrant:* God be with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*(In unison)* **Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen..**

## First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

*(to be read responsively by whole verse)*

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| <p>1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,<br/>and his mercy endures for ever.</p> <p>2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed<br/>proclaim that he redeemed them from the<br/>hand of the foe.</p> | <p>3 He gathered them out of the lands;<br/>from the east and from the west,<br/>from the north and from the south.</p> <p>17 Some were fools and took to rebellious<br/>ways; they were afflicted because of their<br/>sins.</p> |
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18 They abhorred all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.

**19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.**

20 He sent forth his word and healed them  
and saved them from the grave.

**21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his  
mercy and the wonders he does for his  
children.**

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Song**

*Surely it is God who saves me*

Hymn 679

## **Gospel: John 3:14-21**

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

*People:* **Glory to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the

only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:*       **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

The Very Rev. Susan Hartzell

## **The Nicene Creed**

**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**

*Leader:*       God of the covenant, hear now the heartfelt prayers of all thy faithful who look to thee for strength, hope, and healing. (*Silent is kept*).

*Leader:* You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the Gospel or that serves our own interests. *Hear us, O God.*

**Thy Mercy and Love endure forever.**

*Leader:* You sustained thy people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. *Hear us, O God.*

**Thy Mercy and Love endure forever.**

*Leader:* You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot imagine. **Inspire our President Joe, our Governor Ralph** and the leaders of the nations to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom. *Hear us O God.*

**Thy Mercy and Love endure forever.**

*Leader:* In Jesus you joined humanity in all spheres of our lives. Reveal to all the depth of thy love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick, sustain the caregivers, strengthen the weak and weary. Especially... **Barbara, George, Mary Beth, Warren, Margaret, Keith, Brason, Joyce, Bob, Liz, Paris, Randy, Bill, Desiree, Karen, David, Stephanie, Jack, Bruce, Bob.** *Hear us O God,*

**Thy Mercy and Love endure forever.**

*Leader:* All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to micro-organisms, preserve thy creation. Teach humanity to wonder at thy works and join thee in tending to creation's well-being. *Hear us, O God.*

**Thy Mercy and Love endure forever.**

*Leader:* Bless all those whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially those celebrating birthdays...**Jean Marcelin, Jennifer O'Rourke, Vivian Rumrill** and anniversaries (especially...). Grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Hear us, O God.*

**Thy Mercy and Love endure forever.**

*Leader:* You promise to write thy law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect thy mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. *Hear us, O God.*

**Thy Mercy and Love endure forever.**

*Leader:* We remember all who have died and now rest in thy glory, (especially...) and for those who have given their lives in service to our country, (especially ...). We remember the 500,000 American lives lost to the COVID pandemic, and those who have suffered and died from COVID around the world. We remember with gratitude those who have died in the faith of Christ and those whose faith is known to thee alone. *Hear us O God.*

**Thy Mercy and Love endure forever.**

### **Concluding Collect:**

*Celebrant:* Blessed are thee, O Lord our God, for thy presence with us in and through the wilderness. Hear our prayers for all peoples. Receive thy sons and daughters into thy family, wash us in the waters of new life, and feed us with thy love. Glory to thee for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant:* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Celebrant & People:*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

### **Declaration of Absolution**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.***

## Solemn Prayer over the People

*Celebrant:* Bow down before the Lord. 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.***

## Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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## ***February 28, 2021 Announcements & Events***

Please go to weekly E-news for links and more information.

**Cocoa & Compline returns tonight for outdoor worship at 5 PM!** If it's possible, please bring some canned or boxed food for donation to the pantry (e.g., canned vegetables and beans, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, mac and cheese).

**Sunday Coffee Hour today at 11 AM**

**Sundays at Noon Adult Forum** – “A River Through the Desert” following Jesus from Galilee to Golgotha.

**Thursday 8 AM Adult Forum** – Video and discussion “Going deeper with the Lord’s Prayer”

**Friday Lenten Spiritual practices** – Try a different Spiritual practice each Friday in Lent. Starting at noon for 20 minutes. Contact Rev. G for more information.

**Weekly Prayer in Community** - Tuesdays at 9 AM for 12 minutes.

**Pick up Weekly pledge envelopes in the Narthex** M, W, & F: 8 – 4 or call the office for assistance.