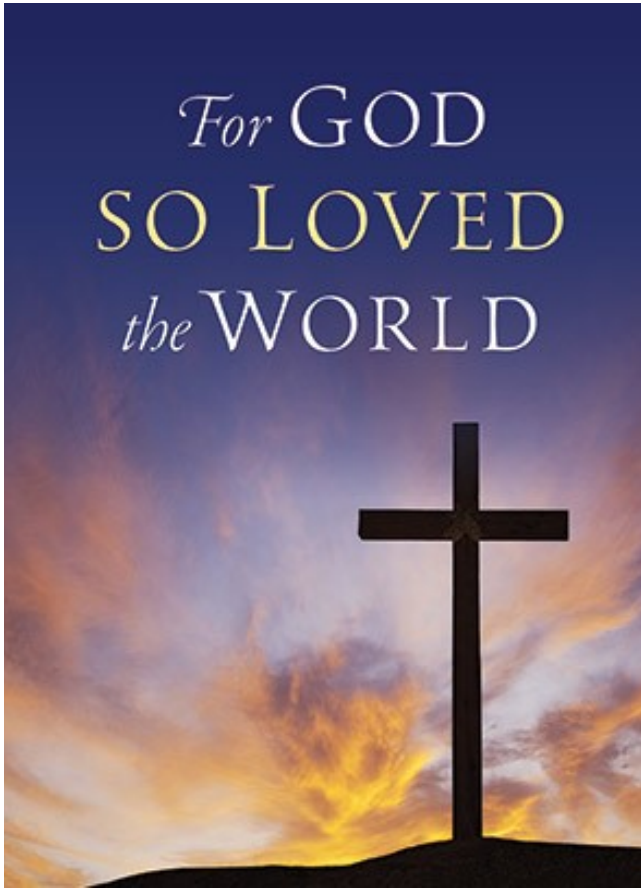


The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist Rite II ~ 10:00 a.m.

March 14, 2021



Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

Bella Vista, Arkansas

The Right Reverend Larry R. Benfield,

Bishop of Arkansas

Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church

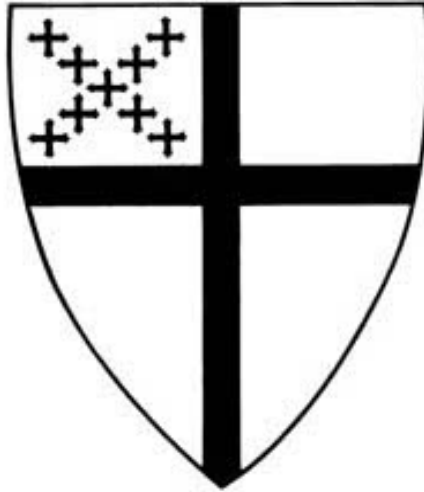
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2021 Vestry

Sharon Moravits, Sr. Warden

Al Addington & Colleen Whitney, Co-Jr. Wardens

Jerry Schaefer, Treasurer • Bill Schernikau • Carolan Weaver

Christina Erdman, John Scott, Wayne Stewart

Diane Landmesser, Clerk

This little symbol will allow you to scan the code with your smart phone camera and be directed to the giving page on our website. From there you can follow the instructions to make your donation. Please check the "cover processing fees" box so that we will receive the full amount of your contribution. Thank you!



**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 Celebrant 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.

(Stand)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant **GRACIOUS FATHER**, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

Celebrant **GOD OF ALL POWER AND LOVE**, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to

live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they 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.

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Sung by the cantor

Antiphon

Give thanks to the LORD for his mercy,
and the wonders he does for his children.

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 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 towards 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ interlude before the Gospel

The Holy Gospel (*Stand as able*) John 3:14-21

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ
according to John.

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

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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon (*Sit*)

Fr. Grisham

The Nicene Creed (*Stand as able*)

(BCP 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.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

***Celebrant:** Gracious God, you loved the world so much that you sent your only Son not to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him; let your light renew all things as we pray: We give you thanks, O God, for you are good; your mercy endures for ever.*

Litanist: Loving One, you have shown your church the immeasurable riches of your grace and kindness toward us in Christ Jesus and raised us with him to be seated in the heavenly places: Let your light shine through our deeds, that Christ's love may be known throughout the world.

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good;

People: your mercy endures for ever.

Litanist: Holy One, you resist fools who take to rebellious ways and you deliver those who cry to you in their trouble: Turn the hearts of all who govern or hold authority in the world, that they may love the light rather than darkness and do all such good works as you have prepared for them.

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good;

People: your mercy endures for ever.

Litanist: Compassionate and healing One, you are light for those who live in darkness and your saving love extends through all the earth: Be with all who suffer throughout the world, that they may be delivered from their distress.

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good;

People: your mercy endures for ever.

Litanist: Saving One, you give us the true bread which gives life to the world, and you raise up signs of hope in our suffering: Send your word into our community that we may be healed and tell of your acts with shouts of joy.

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good;

People: your mercy endures for ever.

Litanist: Let your gift of eternal life be manifest in all who turn to you for help, especially those for whom we pray, Don, Rose, Gene, Julia, Angie, Amanda, Marianne, Becky, Karen Kay, Valerie, Sue, Mary, Ginny Ellison and family, the Rector Search Committee, and all those who have contracted Covid-19 and all who care for them. *(Pause)*

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good;

People: your mercy endures for ever.

Litanist: Let all give thanks to you for your mercy and the wonders you do for your children. Hear us as we offer our sacrifice of thanksgiving, especially for Michael, our presiding bishop; Larry, our bishop; Lowell, our interim supply priest; and Chris, our Candidate for Holy Orders. In the diocesan cycle of prayer for St. Mary's, Monticello; St. Andrew's, Mountain Home; the Commission on constitution and Canons; and the Deputies to General Convention. And we give thanks for all those in our parish family celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this week.

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good;

People: your mercy endures for ever.

Litanist: You have lifted up the Son so that all may have eternal life. Let your light shine upon those who have died to save them from the grave, especially all those who have succumbed to the Corona virus. *(Pause)*

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good;

People: your mercy endures for ever.

Celebrant: Good and generous God, you are rich in mercy; out of your great love you loved us even when we were dead in our trespasses, and you have made us alive together with Christ: Let your gift of grace shine through our faith, that we may bear your light of

eternal life throughout the world, in the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Organ music is played and the people may sit as the Celebrant prepares the Table.

After the Table has been prepared, the People stand and the Celebrant says:

All things come of thee, O Lord

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

The Holy Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving - Prayer C (BCP 369)

The Celebrant faces the People and the following is said.

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 God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People ***By your will they were created and have their being.***

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People ***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People ***By his blood, he reconciled us.***
By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Stand or Kneel)

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*People We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await
the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Ancestors; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only,

and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

People **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer (*Kneel as able*)

**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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, and the following is said.

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

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion is received by the Celebrant

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Beloved Jesus,
I believe that you are present
in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you
in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood,
come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you.
Let me never be separated from you
in this life or in the life to come. Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Celebrant says

Let us pray

Celebrant and People (BCP 365)

**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

May you dwell so fully in God's love that it may be clearly seen that your deeds have been done in God.

May you love the light and come to the light of Jesus, who has come into the world that all may have eternal life.

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God through the Holy Spirit. Live in that Spirit.

And the blessing of our loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and guide you, now and for ever.

Amen.

Dismissal

The Celebrant says the words of dismissal

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

Organ Postlude *Herzlich tut mich verlangen*

Brahms

Participants in the Service

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Reverend Lowell Grisham
<i>Organist</i>	Annette Zehring
<i>Cantor</i>	Lana McDonald
<i>Acolyte</i>	Josh Goodrich
<i>Readers</i>	Anne Streeter, Diane Landmesser

