

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

In the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina



*Moses raises the Bronze Serpent
(Numbers 21:4-9)*

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021**

*To Know Christ and to make Christ known...
St. Paul's invites all people to the Christian Way of unity with God and neighbor
through a welcoming environment of worship and ministry
Please enter the church in silence so that all may have quiet time
to prepare hearts and minds for worship.*

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

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”
Mark 12:29-31

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

Silence may be kept.

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.

Celebrant
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 Kyrie

Lord, have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord, have mercy

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

The people may be seated.

A Reading from 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks Be to God.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 *Confitemini Domino*

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and 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.

A Reading from 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks Be to God

Hymn to Announce the Gospel

Guide me

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

(continued next page)

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John (3:14-21)

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.

The Sermon

The Rev'd Raymond J. Hanna, Interim Rector

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 (Form 1)

BCP p. 383ff

Leader and People pray responsively

Celebrant

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the
unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, Rob, for Ray, our interim Rector, Adam, our Assistant Rector,
and Richard, our Priest Associate and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to
the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Joe, our President, and Roy, our Governor, and for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city of Wilmington, NC, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Prayer for the Election of St. Paul's next Rector

Heavenly Father, source of all knowledge, you know the needs of your church in every place. Look graciously upon the people of St. Paul's and grant our search committee and Vestry the wisdom and discernment to call, with open hearts and

minds, a faithful pastor who will feed us, your flock, and equip us for our ministries.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Anthem

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)

BCP p. 361ff.

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.

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

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:

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.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of

your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 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 *A period of silence is kept.*

Fraction Anthem

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

Communion of the People

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Prayer For Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come into your glorious kingdom and unending peace. *Amen.*

Communion Hymn

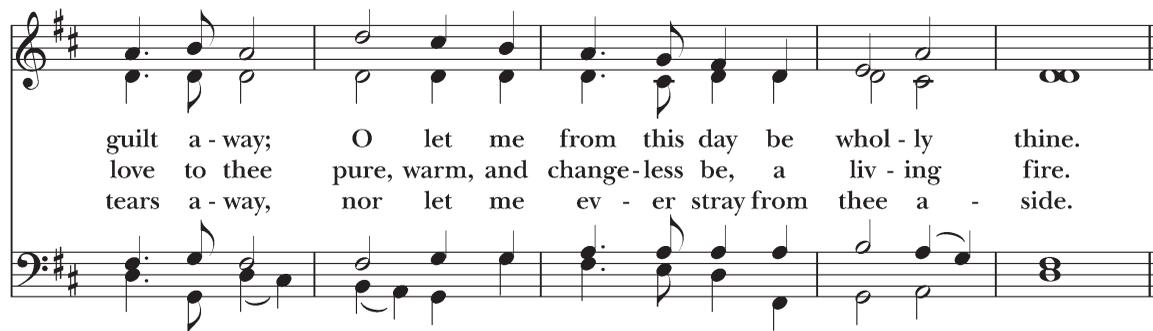
My faith looks up to thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,



Sa - vior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day; wipe sor-row's



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine.
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire.
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.

Sending Forth of the Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant and People

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, for we all share one bread, one cup.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel.

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 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 Celebrant pronounces a blessing to which the congregation responds, "AMEN."

Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the people

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

My Jesus calls to me

Johannes Brahms

Prayer List

In our parish

MARY BRIDGES	LYNDA MILLER
EARL CRAIG	WILLIAM MURPHY
FR. JOHN CAWTHORNE	BARBARA O'ROURKE
RUSS GRAUMLICH	TAMMY POLLOCK
DAVID HEATH	JIM SUMMEY
JEN & ORION	JOANN SUMMEY
ANNE LAUDATI	RALPH TILDEN
RICHARD LAUDATI	MACK UMPHLETT
JERE LEWIS	

People Requesting Prayer

ANN AND RODNEY
MICHELLE MILLER
RICHARD O'ROURKE
SHARON BERRY O'ROURKE
JEFF RICHARDSON
TRACY CALHOUN SORRENTI
JAMES SPAITH
LIAM TURBIVILLE

Permissions: Acclamation, collects, psalm, creed, and prayers taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979. Public domain. Texts of the Old Testament, New Testament, Epistle, and Gospel taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, Copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

16 North Sixteenth Street

Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

www.spechurch.com (910) 762-4578

Bulletin and E-news submissions:

Please see the forms on our website

at the bottom of this page: <https://spechurch.com/e-news/>

(Deadline Mondays 5:00 p.m.)

The Rt. Rev'd Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Rev'd Raymond Hanna, Interim Rector

The Rev'd Adam Pierce, Assistant Rector

The Rev'd Richard Banks, Priest Associate

Ronnie D. Wise, Director of Music and Organist

Richard Rhoads, Assistant Director of Music and Organist

Diane Matz-Kane, Finance Assistant

St. Paul's Vestry 2021

Layne Dupree

Ruth Gates

Angela Green

Matt Langley

Steve Martin

Joan Rosko Miller

Sally Pope

Teresa Singer (Sr. Warden)

Tom Sramek (Jr. Warden)

Rhonda Stroud

Meaghan Thomas

Merry Ann Wright, Clerk

Treasurer: Judy Wilson