

The Fourth Sunday in

# LENT

March 14th, 2021



**St. Stephen's**

Episcopal Church † Lakeland, Florida

To Love and Serve **God and Neighbor**

*“Lift High the Cross” verses 1&2*

*Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred Name.*

*Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.*

*Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred Name.*

*Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.*

*Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred Name.*

Opening Acclamation

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

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.**

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

## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 First Reading

A Reading from Numbers.

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”

So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

*(Numbers 21:4-9)*

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### The Psalm

107:17-22

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; they were afflicted because of their sins.

They abhorred all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

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

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

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

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

+ Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### The Second Reading

## A Reading from Ephesians.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

*(Ephesians 2:1-10)*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel

+ + + The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

*(John 3:14-21)*

The Gospel of The Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

### 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

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.  
**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, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, 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 those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, 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 health and safety of all people and the end of this pandemic, 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.**

+ For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, 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.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.  
**To thee, O Lord our God.**

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Peace

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

### The Announcements

Sunday services at 9am, 10am, and 11am and  
Wednesday morning service at 9am. The 9am Sunday  
service is livestreamed with Sunday School at 10am.  
And Coffee Hour is back after each service!

### VERSE OF THE WEEK

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do  
good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an  
offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

### *"Just As I Am"*

*Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

### The Presentation

All things come of thee, O Lord,  
**And of thine own have we given thee.**

*(1 Chronicles 29:14)*

## Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

**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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

**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.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through

the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

+On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,  
**We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

+We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

+Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:  
**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

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

### The Family Song

*Here we are, gathered together as a family  
Bound as one, lifting up our voices to the King of kings*

*We sing Abba, Father, holy is Your name  
Abba, Father, holy is Your name.*

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please stay at your seat. The clergy will come to you with the consecrated Bread.

*“Just As I Am”*

*Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt;  
Fightings within, and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ

our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgiving

### Anniversaries This Week

Phil and Gail Wortman

### Birthdays This Week:

Dennis Flynn, Luna Denstedt,  
Cameron Abbey, Bill Heath, Deb Brock

## Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Blessing

+ May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his son Jesus Christ 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

*“Lift High the Cross” verses 3&4*

*Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred Name.*

*O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.*

*Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred Name.*

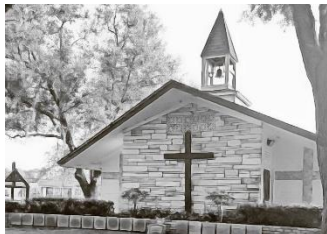
*So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory.*

*Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred Name.*

### The Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

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