

**Morning Prayer**  
**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

**Opening Sentence:** To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, because we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws which he set before us. *Daniel 9:9, 10*

**Confession:**

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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

**The Jubilate**

Antiphon: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: **Come let us adore him.**

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: the Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Antiphon: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: **Come let us adore him.**

**Psalm 72**

**1 Give the King your justice, O God, \* and your righteousness to the King's son;**

**2 That he may rule your people righteously \* and the poor with justice.**

**3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \* and the little hills bring righteousness.**

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \* he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

**5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \* from one generation to another.**

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \* like showers that water the earth.**

**7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \***

**there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

**8 He shall rule from sea to sea, \* and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

**9 His foes shall bow down before him, \* and his enemies lick the dust.**

**10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \* and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

**11 All kings shall bow down before him, \* and all the nations do him service.**

**12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \* and the oppressed who has no helper.**

**13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \* he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

**14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \* and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

**15 Long may he live! and may there be given to him gold from Arabia; \***

**may prayer be made for him always, and may they bless him all the day long.**

**16 May there be abundance of grain on the earth, growing thick even on the hilltops; \* may its fruit flourish like Lebanon, and its grain like grass upon the earth.**

**17 May his Name remain forever and be established as long as the sun endures; \*  
may all the nations bless themselves in him and call him blessed.**

**18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \* who alone does wondrous deeds!**

**19 And blessed be his glorious Name forever! \* and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will forever. Amen.**

### **The Lessons**

#### **The First Reading: Corinthians 5:9-6:8**

9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral persons 10 not at all meaning the immoral of this world, or the greedy and robbers, or idolaters, since you would then need to go out of the world. 11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother or sister who is sexually immoral or greedy, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or robber. Do not even eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging those outside? Is it not those who are inside that you are to judge? 13 God will judge those outside. "Drive out the wicked person from among you." 1 When any of you has a grievance against another, do you dare to take it to court before the unrighteous, instead of taking it before the saints? 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels to say nothing of ordinary matters? 4 If you have ordinary cases, then, do you appoint as judges those who have no standing in the church? 5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to decide between one believer and another, 6 but a believer goes to court against a believer and before unbelievers at that? 7 In fact, to have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 But you yourselves wrong and defraud and believers at that.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Canticle: The Song of Zechariah**

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \***

**he has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \***

**born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers \***

**and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \***

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear, \***

**holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

**You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \***

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation \***

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God \***

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \***

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## The Gospel Reading: Mark 4:1-20

1 Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. 2 He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 3 “Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. 8 Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” 9 And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” 10 When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11 And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; 12 in order that ‘they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’ 13 And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. 17 But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. 20 And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Apostles' Creed *(read in unison)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**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 that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Suffrages

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

**Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Day by day we bless you;

**We praise your Name for ever.**

Lord, keep us from all sin today;

**Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, show us your love and mercy;

**For we put our trust in you.**

In you, Lord, is our hope;

**And we shall never hope in vain.**

### **The Collect: The Second Sunday in Lent**

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **For our Country**

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion us into one united people. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For the President of the United States and all in Civil Authority**

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your Providence, we may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State (or, Commonwealth), and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in your fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Peace**

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Concluding Sentence:**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*