

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
LITURGY OF THE WORD
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

PRELUDE – BETHANY HAMILL

WELCOME AND INSTRUCTIONS – ZOOM HOST

OPENING HYMN

539 Lead Me, Lord, in Thy Righteousness

From Psalm 5: 8; 4: 8

Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness; make Thy way
plain be - fore my face. For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord,
on - ly that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty. A-MEN.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

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CLERGY WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

OPENING SENTENCES

Officiant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

Officiant: 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)

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Silence may be kept)

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.*

THE ABSOLUTION

Priest: 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.*

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison

1, 3. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
2. Lord _____ have mer - cy. Christ _____ have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
Lord _____ have mer - cy. Christ _____ have mer - cy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant: Let us pray.

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.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON—GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16

Reader: A Reading from the book of Genesis.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

THE RESPONSE—PSALM 22:22-30 (*Led by Celebrant*)

Deus, Deus meus

- ²² Praise the LORD, you that fear him;
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- ²³ **For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them;
but when they cry to him he hears them.**
- ²⁴ My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- ²⁵ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:
"May your heart live for ever!"**
- ²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- ²⁷ **For kingship belongs to the LORD;
he rules over the nations.**
- ²⁸ To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- ²⁹ **My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.**
- ³⁰ They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

THE SECOND LESSON—ROMANS 4:13-25

Reader: A Reading from the epistle to the Romans.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do

what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

**When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."**

(Chorus)

**It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

**Tho' Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come,
let this blest assurance control;
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed His own blood for my soul. *(chorus)***

**My sin, O, the bliss of this glorious tho't,
my sin not in part, but the whole;
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *(chorus)***

**And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
"Even so" it is well with my soul. *(chorus)***

THE GOSPEL—MARK 8:31-38

Officiant: *A Reading from the gospel of Mark.*

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their

life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Officiant: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON – MICHÈLE SIGG

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.***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE /INTERCESSORY PRAYER (III)

Leader: *Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;*

***People:* That we all may be one.**

Leader: *Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;*

***People:* That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader: *We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;*

***People:* That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader: *We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;*

***People:* That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader: *Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;*

***People:* That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader: *Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;*

***People:* That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader: *For all who suffer from the coronavirus and all who minister to them, let us pray to the Lord.*

***People:* Lord have mercy.**

Leader: *Where there is racial injustice, discrimination, or violence, make us instruments of your love.*

***People:* Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: *Give to the departed eternal rest.*

***People:* Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader: *We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;*

***People:* May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader: *Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.*

(Prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings may be added.)

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, Cycle of Prayer, we pray for:

*St. David's, Gales Ferry; St. James', Glastonbury; St. Luke's, Glastonbury;
Christ Church, Greenwich.*

*Prison ministry and prison chaplains; the ECCT Faith Behind Bars & Beyond
Ministry Network.*

*In the Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central
de America.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Said in unison)

**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.**

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All: Lord Jesus, I cannot now worship you at the altar of the church in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, yet in spirit I would join myself with all those who in your Holy Church offer you the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Visit me, I pray, with your mercy, pardon, and blessing, and fill me with faith and love and repentance, and so strengthen and sustain me by your grace that I may with pure heart and mind follow you, the only God, now and ever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Officiant: O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
(Collect for the Mission of the Church, BCP, p. 257)

BLESSING

Priest: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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

I HAVE DECIDED

**I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus.
No turning back, no turning back.**

(Chorus)

I will follow You, I will follow You, I will follow You, my God.

**Though none go with me, still I will follow,
Though none go with me, still I will follow,
Though none go with me, still I will follow.
No turning back, no turning back. *(chorus)***

**The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me.
No turning back, no turning back. *(chorus)***

DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – PAUL SMITH

Tithes & Offerings

Even though we are currently unable to open our church building for services and events, our ministries and building projects at St. John's are still going strong! We invite you to continue supporting the ministry of St. John's through your tithes and offerings. To donate online through PayPal, please visit <https://paypal.me/stjohnsnewhaven>

OUR PREACHER TODAY

Michèle Sigg lived in Alabama and Georgia before moving to France with her missionary parents at the age of eleven. When she returned to the United States, she attended a conservative Presbyterian college (Covenant College) for two years. Then she studied at the University of Pennsylvania (B.A., M.A. French Literature) in Philadelphia where she met her husband, Sam, also a missionary kid. After teaching French at the university and high school levels, she began working as project assistant on the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography* (www.DACB.org). She is now executive director of the DACB, an open access online resource that documents the stories of African Christians responsible for the spread of the gospel in Africa from the time of Christ to the present (all traditions, all countries). Discovering African and world Christianity played an important role in her spiritual and theological journey, in particular, understanding the role of women in leadership. In 2012, she received an MTh from Africa International University in Nairobi, Kenya and in 2018, a doctorate in World Christianity from Boston University. She and Sam have lived in New Haven since 2000 with their three children, Johan, Annie, and Catherine. Michèle currently serves as a warden at St. John's, editor of the St. John's blog, and one of the co-leaders of the Racial Justice Fellowship Initiative with Jennifer Brown. She also works on Faculty Roundtable initiatives at the Rivendell Institute.

RESOURCES FOR THIS LITURGY:

Book of Common Prayer, Holy Eucharist Rite II

The Lectionary Page: <http://lectionarypage.net>

Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer

The Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer

(The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

The Collects, Psalms and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.)

Prayer of Spiritual Communion found in the Liturgy of Spiritual Communion, The Rev. Christopher L. Webber

This liturgy is created by the clergy and people of St. John's Episcopal Church, New Haven, CT