

The Second Sunday in Lent March 5, 2023 9:30 am

**Welcome to St. Francis.** Your presence among us deepens and enriches our worship, and for that we are grateful. In this service leaflet, the people's responses are in **bold**. The time prior to the service is set aside for prayerful waiting and reflection. Please be respectful in observing silence at this time. Please silence all electronic devices. If you are a guest this morning and would like to know more about St. Francis, please fill out a visitor card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate. The Rev. Toni Belhu would like to sit down with you for a visit. You may reach her at the church office at 828-287-3888 ext. 2 or her cell at 704-215-1882.

#### PRELUDE

#### All stand, as able. THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The God of Abraham praise

Hymnal p. 401



Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: Leoni, Hebrew melody; harm. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1875, alt.

#### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant:Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;People:His mercy endureth for ever.

# THE DECALOGUE

God spake these words, and said: I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

# Lord, have mercy upon us,

# and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them. **Lord, have mercy upon us,** 

# and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain. Lord have mercy upon us,

and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor thy father and thy mother. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt do no murder. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not commit adultery. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not steal. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not covet. Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*The Celebrant then says* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept. Minister and People Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit. Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

All sit for the lessons

#### FIRST LESSON

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. The Word of the Lord.

# People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121
1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*
from where is my help to come?
2 My help comes from the Lord, \*
the maker of heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot be moved \*
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Genesis 12: 1-4a

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*

shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The Lord himself watches over you; \*

the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \* nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; \*
  - it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*

from this time forth for evermore.

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.

#### SECOND LESSON

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

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What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. 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.

The Word of the Lord

# People: Thanks be to God.

*All stand, as able* THE SEQUENCE HYMN



Words: Att. Gregory the Great (540-604); tr. *Praise the Lord*, 1972, alt. James Quinn, SJ. Printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. Thomas Foster (b. 1938).

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Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

#### THE GOSPEL

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

#### People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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." The Gospel of the Lord.

#### People: Praise to thee, O Christ.

THE HOMILY Silence may be kept after the homily. All stand, as able 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.

John 3: 1-17

The Rev. Gary Coffey

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

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Jose our Bishop and Toni our Rector, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. Today we pray especially for **Josephine**, **Larry**, **Catherine**, **James**, **John**, **Ruth**, **Beverly**, **Jesse**, **Bobby**, **Helen**, **Lucinda**, **Bobby**, **Debbie**, **Wesley**, **Chris**, **June**, **Rob**, **Nancy**, **Malisha**, **Becky**, **Bob**, **Laura**, **Larry**, **Sid**, **Emmie Jane**, **Mytheina**, **Zareeha**, **ZaNae**, **Christy**, **Lyn**, **Timothy**, **Brad**, **Melanie**, **David**, **Melanye**, **Lois**, **Keith**, **and all those on our long-term prayer list**. Are there others? (Please add the names of others either silently or aloud)

In thanksgiving we pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming week, especially **John Keith (5)**.

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad especially those on our military prayer list, saying together, **Ben, Jeremiah, Daniel, David, Jason, Christopher, Daniel, Adam, Scotty, Jeremy, Nicholas, Nathan, Peter, Joseph, Luke, Tony, Christian, Brendan, Will, Tom, Christopher.** We pray also for their families, friends, and neighbors who await their safe return.

We pray for our sister church St. Gabriel's. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. David's in Cullowhee. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of the Province of South East Asia. We pray for our missionaries and their work in the world, for **Russ and Heidi Smith in Chile, John and** Zsófi Wilson in Hungary, and Daniel & Rachel Aytes in Thailand.

We pray for St. Francis Day School, and for its students and teachers and their families, that they may grow in stature and wisdom, and in the knowledge and love of your grace and truth.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Francis of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

THE PEACE

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

# People: And with thy spirit.

The ministers and people greet each other in the name of the Lord.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

All stand, as able

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord

Hymnal p. 637



Words: K. in John Rippon's Selection, 1787, alt. Music: Lyons, att. Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806); desc. Lois Fyfe (b. 1927). Descant Copyright & 1974, The Cumberland Press. Used by permission.

All stand, as able, as the offering is presented, singing together the Doxology. THE DOXOLOGY

# Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Eucharist Prayer I

The people remain standing.

Celebrant:The Lord be with you.People:And with thy spirit.Celebrant:Lift up your hearts.People:We lift them up unto the Lord.Celebrant:Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.People:It is meet and right so to do.

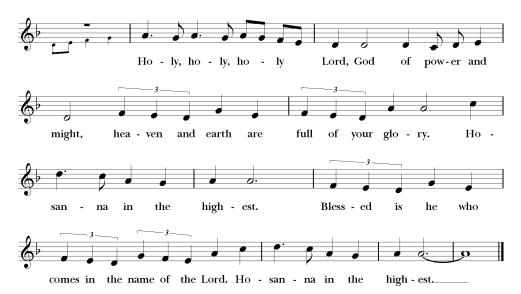
# Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS (S-129) Celebrant and People



# The people stand or kneel.

# Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.** 

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray,

People and Celebrant 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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

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

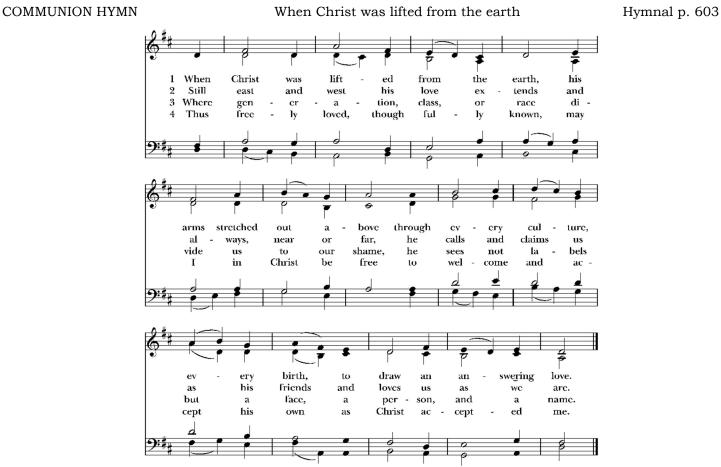
AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

#### The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

# INVITATION TO HOLY EUCHARIST



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Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925). Music: Jesus, meine Zuversicht, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662); harm. after The Chorale Book for England, 1863.



#### Let us pray.

#### Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 



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THE DISMISSAL Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. **People: Thanks be to God.**  LONG TERM PRAYER LIST:, Addison, Zoey, Courtney, Tom, Harper, Emmanuel, Kimberly, Diana, Michael, Tony, Becca, Brian, Jane, Christine, Sally, Paige, Alan, Pam, Ricky, Beverly, Lee, Mike, the Snelgrove family, Danielle, the Taft family, Dickinson, Jane, Anna, Linda, Roy, Janice, Jenny, Sarah, Amanda, Michael, Bud, Danny, Rob, Gordon, Daniel, Cullin, June, Billy, Donovan, Maddox, Sutton, Megan, Hunter, Phyllis, Jane, Annie, Bob, David, Doug, Rob, Stewart, Marsha, Avis, Max, Donald, Amy, Dewey, the Wilkerson family, Ryan, Kristy, the Dale family, Anthony, the Simpson family, Jim, the Allen family, Lisa, Bill, Grace, Paula, Bobbie, Glena, Elizabeth, David, Sandy, Sean, Jane, Judy, Tabitha, Elaine, Gennine, Dickinson, Skip, Ernest, Ginger, Mel, Jimmy, Rick, David, Ella Mae, Gregory, Rett, Kristy, Peggy, Dee, Nelson, Julia, Hartford, Nell, Billy, Rita, Janet, Seth, Peggy, Ron, Norris, Mary, Brandy, Lizzie, Sally, Sharon, Ellen, Chuck, Taby, Shirley, Kylie, TJ, Jenny, June, Kevin, Karsen, Sequoia, Millie, Charles, Sherrill, Dori, Elizabeth, Presley Joe, Elizabeth, the Bridges family, Randy, Jeanine, Nancy, Shannon, Robyn, Nicholas, Ellen, Charles, Barbara, Bob, Peggy, Bob, Mike, Chris, Logan, Gavin, Gage, Persphone, Nicky, Corwin, Beth, Junie, Hobby, Molly, Trevor, Wendy, Joshua, Nelson, Dee, Janet, Hartford, Thomas, Shelby, Burtches, Beverly, Shirley, the Peters family, Barbara, Edward, Shirley, Colin, Jane, Bobby, Lois, Paula.

#### Worship Leaders 9:30 am

Usher – Richard Williams Greeter – Stephanie Williams 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson – Stacy Guarriello 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson – Harold Morgan Chalicist – Gordon Pendarvis Acolyte – Don Corry Vestry Lock Up – Bob Blanton Camera – Steve Ross Children's Church – Linda Tribou & Judi Gustafson Potluck – Kathy Demas, Missy Hughes, Rebecca Melton

### Worship leaders for next Sunday 9:30

Usher – Harold Morgan Greeter – Paula Hammond 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson – Walt Joyce 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson – Richard Williams Chalicist – Rebecca Melton Acolyte – Tim Turner Vestry Lock Up – Rebecca Melton Camera – Rob McDaniel Children's Church – Linda Tribou & Linc McDaniel Saint Francis Episcopal Church 408 North Main Street Rutherfordton, NC 28139 828-287-3888

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Organist: Steven Noll Sexton: Debbie Hamrick

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