



The Third Sunday in Lent

MORNING PRAYER

MARCH 12 2023, 10:00 AM

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MOBILE, ALABAMA

Saint John's Church, Mobile

Welcome to Saint John's. Since its founding in 1853 Saint John's has been an Episcopal parish church in the heart of Mobile. From our beginning worship has been central to our common life. Originally located ten streets West of Christ Church, Saint John's moved to its current location in 1956, to what was then nearly at the city limits. If you are interested in learning more about Saint John's or becoming a member of our parish community, please speak with one of the clergy or call the parish office at (251) 479-5474. Saint John's can be found on the Internet at www.stjohnsmobile.org.

About the Mass

Lent is the season when the Church prepares to celebrate Holy Baptism at the Easter Triduum, the Great Three Days. During Lent the Church invites her members to participate in the works of the Spirit that will help bring to faith those who are preparing to die and to rise in Christ. For those who are already baptized, prayer, penance and active works of mercy are the ordinary means by which the Christian community helps its members prepare for the Triduum.

Except on the Fourth Sunday in Lent (when rose vestments are worn), the altar flowers are simplified and the organ is played only to support singing. The ordinary weekdays of Lent are observed by special acts of discipline and self-denial in commemoration of the crucifixion of the Lord. In addition, the ordinary Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from flesh meats. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of strict fasting and abstinence.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR
are given by
Irene Yeager
to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Butch Yeager

Prelude

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Song

All stand as the organ begins the introduction to the entrance hymn. The Congregation sings the hymn as the ministers of the assembly move to the chancel.

Hymn 688

Ein feste Burg

A mighty fortress is our God

Opening Sentence

BCP p. 38

The Officiant says

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [*I John 1:8,9*]

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 41

The Officiant continues

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation, And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite good ness and mercy.

Silence may be kept. The Officiant and People together, all kneeling.

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

- 6 Come, let us bow down, and / bend the knee, *
and kneel before the / Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep / of his
hand. *
- Oh, that today you would hearken / to his voice!
- 8 Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the / wilderness, *
at Me'ribah, and on that day at Mas'sah,
when / they tempted me.
- 9 They put me / to the test, *
though they had / seen my works.
- 10 Forty years long I detested that generation / and said, *
“This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not / know my ways.”
- 11 So I swore / in my wrath, *
“They shall not enter in- / to my rest.”

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lessons

The People are seated. The first Lesson, Exodus 17:1-7, is now read

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The second song of Isaiah

The second lesson Roman 5:1-11, is now read

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 14 is now read in unison

BCP p. 90

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
 God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
 and of all their righteous offspring:
 You made the heavens and the earth, *
 with all their vast array.

All things quake with fear at your presence; *
 they tremble because of your power.

But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
 it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.

O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
 long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

The appointed Gospel, John 4:5-42, is now read.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water

gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Homily

The Reverend Deacon Terry Goff

The Apostles' Creed

BCP p. 53

All stand as the Officiant rises. The Officiant introduces the Creed, saying

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

Officiant and People

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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.

Welcome & Announcements

The People may be seated for the Welcome & Announcements.

The Offering

During the singing of the Offertory, the ushers will collect the people's offerings.

Offertory

Agnus Dei

Text: Traditional

Music: Samuel Webb (1740-1816)

THE PRAYERS

BCP p. 97

All stand as the Officiant rises. The Officiant begins

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

All join in saying The Lord's Prayer,

BCP p.54

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 they glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages

BCP p. 55

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

People And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

People And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People For only in thee can we live in safety.

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

People And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant Let thy way be known upon earth;

People Thy saving health among all nations.

Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

The Collect for the Day

BCP p. 218

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever..

Amen.

A Collect for Sundays

BCP p. 167

O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Collect for the Stewardship of Creation

BCP p.208

O merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us, we beseech thee, ever thankful for thy loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

A Collect for Mission

BCP p. 101

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Intercessions

The People remain standing. The Officiant bids the Intercessions and Thanksgivings

At the conclusion of the Intercessions, the Officiant says

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray

Officiant and People

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

The People remain standing and sing the Processional Hymn.

Processional Hymn 149

Old 124th

Eternal Lord of Love, behold your church

The Dismissal

A Minister dismisses the assembly, first saying,

Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. [*2 Corinthians 13:14*]

Postlude

THIS WEEK AT SAINT JOHN'S:

Today	8:45AM	Christian Formation Hour
	10:00AM	Morning Prayer: Lent 3
	11:15AM	Fellowship in the Great Hall
Wednesday	7:00PM	Choir
Sunday	8:45AM	Christian Formation Hour
	10:00AM	Service of Holy Communion: Lent 4
	11:15AM	Fellowship in the Great Hall

The church office is open weekly on Tuesdays from 9AM to 3PM. Outside of office hours or in an emergency, please call Fr John at 205-354-3699.

SERVING IN TODAY'S LITURGY:

Officiant..... Rev. Deacon Terry Goff
First Lesson Lector.....Janet Buckley
Second Lesson Lector..... Geri Moulton
Third Lesson Lector.....Paula Ross
Altar Guild.....Cindy Gass
Vestry Tellers.....Eugene Johnston & Jan Joseph

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our sisters and brothers in Christ: Mary Jones, Marie Brown, Bob Anderson, Kathe Gieseler, Mike Barbour, Fran Barbour, David Rich, Irene Yeager, Carolyn Pearce, Ashley Garris, Jerry Fulford, James Christiansen, Audrey Garner, Joyce Lee, Jayson Chestang, Budd McLean.

Our sister that cannot be with us: Mary Catherine Warren.

Our family and friends: Angie Leon, David Hamilton. Errol Sweetser, Lenora Cadden, Donna Latham, Sheila Cassity Granger, Elizabeth Cruz, Barbara Bonner, Betty Boudreaux, Evina Valera, David Brunner, Mary Horner, Susan Hansen, Karl Gieseler, Keith Matthews, Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Peggy Sheffield, Helen Guthrie, Eddie Hun, Katelynn Tillman, Karen Twilley, Nancy Payne, Donna Pigg, Tiffany Matthews, Betty Williams, Latecia Cushion Knight, Bonnie Jernigan, Britney Butler, Neal Tourné, Sandy Michel, Paul Nelson, John Switzer (priest).

Our sisters and brothers serving in the Armed Forces:
Nicholas Boykin, Joshua Maddox, Ryan Hurt,
Jacob Hester-Heard, Marcus Rich, Ross Hussmann, Ellis Garner,
Eric Mattoon.

RECENT ATTENDANCE:

29 Sunday, March 5, Second Sunday of Lent

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE PARISH CLERGY

The Reverend John Talbert, *priest-in-charge*
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THE PARISH MUSICIANS

Mr. Louis Daniel, *organist and choirmaster*
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THE PARISH STAFF

Ms. Wendy Wheeler, *financial secretary*
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Dr. Nikki Shaw, *office volunteer*
office@stjohnsmobile.org



THE VESTRY AND WARDENS

Ms. Connie Anderson, Ms. Janet Buckley, *clerk*,
Ms. Cindy Gass, *treasurer*, Mr. Eugene Johnston, *junior warden*
Ms. Jan Joseph, Ms. Connie McLean, Ms. Nikki Shaw, *senior warden*;
Ms. Mary Sheffield, Ms. Charlynn Will.

