

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**  
**The First Sunday in Lent**  
**February 21, 2021**

**Congregational participation in bold.**

**A Liturgy for Spiritual Communion**

*Opening Acclamation*

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People: His mercy endures forever.**

*Collect for Purity*

*Celebrant:* 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.

**People: Amen**

*Celebrant:* Lord, have mercy.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* Lord, have mercy.

## *The Collect of the Day*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People: Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis (9:8-17)

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it

and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
**let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
**and teach me your paths.**
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
**for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted  
all the day long.**
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
**for they are from everlasting.**
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
**remember me according to your love and for the sake of  
your goodness, O LORD.**
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
**therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
**to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

## A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (3:18-22)

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

## The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:9-15)

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,

and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Sermon*

**Fr. Eric**

The Nicene Creed

**People: 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 Form II*

*Deacon:* I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Rob ; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.  
Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

*Deacon:* I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.  
Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

*Deacon:* I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.  
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

*Deacon:* I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.  
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

*Deacon:* I ask your prayers for the departed.  
Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

*Members of the congregation may ask the prayers  
or the thanksgivings of those present.*

*Silence*

*Deacon:* Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

*Deacon:* Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**People: Who put their trust in you.**

*Celebrant:* Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever.

**People: Amen**

*The Exhortation*

*Deacon:* Beloved in the Lord: Our Savior Christ, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood as a sign and pledge of his love, for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of his death, and for a spiritual sharing in his risen life. For in these holy Mysteries we are made one with Christ, and Christ with us; we are made one body in him, and members one of another.

Having in mind, therefore, his great love for us, and in obedience to his command, his Church renders to Almighty God our heavenly Father never-ending thanks for the creation of the world, for his continual providence over us, for his love for all mankind, and for the redemption of the world by our Savior Christ, who took upon himself

our flesh, and humbled himself even to death on the cross, that he might make us the children of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, and exalt us to everlasting life.

But if we are to share rightly in the celebration of those holy Mysteries, and be nourished by that spiritual Food, we must remember the dignity of that holy Sacrament. I therefore call upon you to consider how Saint Paul exhorts all persons to prepare themselves carefully before eating of that Bread and drinking of that Cup.

For, as the benefit is great, if with penitent hearts and living faith we receive the holy Sacrament, so is the danger great, if we receive it improperly, not recognizing the Lord's Body. Judge yourselves, therefore, lest you be judged by the Lord.

Examine your lives and conduct by the rule of God's commandments, that you may perceive wherein you have offended in what you have done or left undone, whether in thought, word, or deed. And acknowledge your sins before Almighty God, with full purpose of amendment of life, being ready to make restitution for all injuries and wrongs done by you to others; and also being ready to forgive those who have offended you, in order that you yourselves may be forgiven. And then, being reconciled with one another, come to the banquet of that most heavenly Food.

And if, in your preparation, you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith.

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be



glory in the Church evermore. Through him let us offer continually the sacrifice of praise, which is our bounden duty and service, and, with faith in him, come boldly before the throne of grace and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**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.**

**People: Amen.**

### *The Absolution*

*Celebrant:* 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.

**People: Amen**

### *The Peace*

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

**People: And also with you.**

### *Announcements*

## The Liturgy of Spiritual Communion

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to your, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered in their homes around this town and community, especially our brothers and sisters of St Philip's family, we long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

We believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we cannot at this time receive communion, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all our heart, our soul, and our mind. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.

**People: Amen.**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*Celebrant:* 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 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.**

**Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.**

**Amen**

*Silent Pause for personal prayer.*

## **The General Thanksgiving**

### *Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

### *Celebrant: Solemn Prayer*

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice forever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen**

### *Deacon: The Dismissal*

**People: Thanks be to God.**