



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, RIDGECREST

Where All Souls Are Welcome

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EVENING PRAYER RITE TWO WITH COMMUNION

Fourth Wednesday in Lent

March 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

OFFICIANT
Cassidi Reese

ALTAR GUILD
Martha Waller

READER
Aimee Bryan

Please stand as able.

OPENING ANTHEM

Officiant Jesus said: "If any of you would come after me, deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34.)

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Officiant says to the people:

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

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.

The Priest alone stands and says:

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

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Please stand as able.

Officiant God, be not far from us.

People **Come quickly to help us, O God.**

**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.**

PSALM 134

ECCE NUNC

Officiant and People together, all standing:

Antiphon **Yours is the day, O God,
yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun.**

**Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, *
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.**

**Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; *
the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.**

Antiphon **Yours is the day, O God,
yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun.**

THE PSALM

PSALM 82

OFFICIANT

THE PSALM APPOINTED IS THE PSALM 82.

- ¹ God takes his stand in the council of heaven; *
he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:
² **“How long will you judge unjustly, *
and show favor to the wicked?”**
³ Save the weak and the orphan; *
defend the humble and needy;
⁴ **Rescue the weak and the poor; *
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**
⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they go about in darkness; *
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
⁶ **Now I say to you, ‘You are gods, *
and all of you children of the Most High;**
⁷ Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, *
and fall like any prince.”
⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth, *
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

THE READINGS

THE FIRST READING

GENESIS 50:15-26

READER

A READING FROM GENESIS.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, ‘What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?’ So, they approached Joseph, saying, ‘Your father gave this instruction before he died, “Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.” Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.’ Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, ‘We are here as your slaves.’ But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.’ In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. So, Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father’s household; and Joseph lived for one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim’s children of the third generation; the children of Machir son of Manasseh were also born on Joseph’s knees. Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am about to die; but God will surely come to you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.’ So Joseph made the Israelites swear, saying, ‘When God comes to you, you shall carry up my bones from here.’ And Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE D A SONG OF THE WILDERNESS

Isaiah 35:1-7,10

Officiant and People together, all standing:

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
It shall blossom abundantly, *
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, *
the majesty of our God.**

Strengthen the weary hands, *
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! *
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, *
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, *
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness *
and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool *
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, *
with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, *
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Please be seated.

THE SECOND READING

MARK 8:11-26

READER

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK.

The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, 'Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.' And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side. Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And he cautioned them, saying, 'Watch out—beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.' They said to one another, 'It is because we have no bread.' And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, 'Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?' They said to him, 'Twelve.' 'And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?' And they said to him, 'Seven.' Then he said to them, 'Do you not yet understand?' They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, 'Can you see anything?' And the man looked up and said, 'I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.' Then Jesus^e laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Then he sent him away to his home, saying, 'Do not even go into the village.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE F

A SONG OF LAMENTATION

Lamentations 1:12,16; 3:19,22-24,26

Officiant and People together, all standing:

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? *
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
Which was brought upon me, *
inflicted by God's fierce anger.
For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears, *
for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.

Remember my affliction and my bitterness, *
wormwood and gall!
The steadfast love of God never ceases, *
God's mercies never end.
They are new every morning; *
great is your faithfulness.
"God is my portion," says my soul, *
"therefore will I hope in God."
It is good that we should wait quietly *
for the coming of God's salvation.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing:

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.

THE PRAYERS

SUFFRAGE B

Officiant That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

People **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

People **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

People **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

People **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

People **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

People **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant For the special needs and concerns of this congregation: For the Diocesan Council, for Michael our Presiding Bishop and David our Bishop. We also pray for Joseph our President, Gavin our Governor, and Eric our Mayor. For our sick, Stan, Rita, Sandy, Bob, Dick, Suzie and the students at Mesquite High School, and for all the members of Saint Michael's, and their ministries.

Officiant We all can make prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving silently or out loud now.

Officiant Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

(BCP p. 219)

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.

People **And listen to our prayer.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *(Hebrews 13:15, 16.)*

People may remain seated or standing. during the preparation. Please stand as able for the Eucharistic Prayer.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

(BCP p. 367-369)

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 to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say.

People and Clergy pray together:

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

Anthem at the Breaking of Bread

(Psalm 108:5 & 6) (1994 TBOS p.21)

Celebrant Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, *

People **and your glory over all the earth.**

Celebrant So that those who are dear to you may be delivered, *

People **save with your right hand and answer me.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

In the Episcopal Church all baptized people are welcome to our Lord's Table to eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

(2018 BOS p. 15)

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Officiant or Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

OUR MISSION

The people of Saint Michael's welcome all those who seek a deeper understanding of God's love for ALL God's children. Our congregation is "intentionally inclusive," welcoming all persons without regard to age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or developmental disability.

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop and David our Bishop. We also pray for Joseph our President, Gavin our Governor, and Eric our Mayor. *Please remember in your prayers Stan, Rita, Sandy, Bob, Dick, and the students at Mesquite High School.*

PLEASE GIVE

Mail your pledges and offerings to:

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 200 W. Drummond Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Contribute to the church online at:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z9KQ/home>

NEWS AND EVENTS

Weekly Services: Services in English: Sundays at 10 am and Wednesday Evenings at 6 pm
Services in Spanish: Sundays at 12 Noon.

Bishop David Rice Visitation: Sunday, March 17 in both English and Spanish Worship Services. On Saturday, March 16 at 6:00 pm, we will celebrate, with the Bishop, Rita's 95th Birthday with a Dinner at Casey's BBQ. Please, confirm your attendance with Deacon Cathy.

Cathedral Livestream: As an alternative for those unable to attend our Sunday services in person, St. James Episcopal Cathedral offers a livestream of their service. Link:
www.youtube.com/@StJamesEpiscopalCathedral/streams

Food Ministry Dates

- The Thrift Store Co-Op is normally open every Wednesday, 10 am-1 pm.
- Monday, March 18 - CAPK Senior Box Day, 10:30-11:30 am
- Tuesday, March 26 - Food Pantry is open 9-11 am

Episcopal Church Foundation will provide a Webinar at 1:00 pm by Zoom to the Diocese on Planning Giving. It will cover Planned Giving (leaving the church in your will,) Charitable Gift Annuity, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Pooled Income Funds. You will learn about the importance of a parish vision, building trust among parishioners, and how to invite others to remember your parish through estate gifts and financial planning, considering the many recent tax law changes. Attendees will also learn of the many resources for planned giving from ECF. To register for this event, call ECF at 800-697-2858 or visit
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdeugrzooGdba-EkO-NW6wIDNjpDk39-o#/registration>.

Chrism Mass & Renewal of Vows: March 26, 2024, at 11:00 am., in Saint James Cathedral. Fresno, CA.

Next Bishop's Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, at 7:00 pm.

Tutu Desk Program: Students in South Africa, especially children, do not have desks in their classrooms. Therefore, Canon Anna Carmichael invites us to support the program to provide them Portable Desks. The cost of each portable desk is \$20.00. Please, donate. We will raise funds through the Day of Pentecost (May 19, 2024). Then our Church will send a check to the Diocesan Office at due time with our contributions. Let's make the difference in the life of children in Africa.

LENTEN SEASON SERVICES AND EVENTS

Lenten Soup on Wednesdays: Please, see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to share soup and time on Lenten Wednesdays after the 6:00 pm, Evening Prayer service. Dates: March 20.

Stations of The Cross on Next Flex Friday at Noon: March 15.