

St. Paul's Episcopal Church,  
Bakersfield



Morning Prayer  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 21, 2021

*Officiant*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Philippians 1:2*

*The Officiant says*

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

*Silence is kept*

*The Officiant and People together*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and 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 and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Officiant says*

Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

*All*    **Amen.**

## Invitatory and Psalter

*The Officiant says*

Lord, open our lips.

*People*    **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Officiant*

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

*People* **Come, let us adore him.**

*Officiant*

Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; \*  
serve the LORD with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The LORD himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the LORD is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

*Psalm 100*

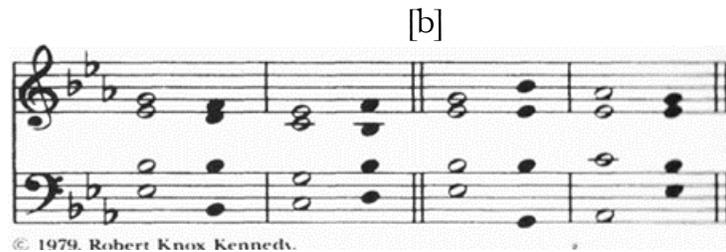
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

*People* **Come, let us adore him.**

### The Psalm

*Mark Tomlinson*



How shall a young man cleanse his / way? \*  
By keeping to your / words.

With my whole heart I / seek you; \*  
let me not stray from your com / mandments.

I treasure your promise in my / heart, \*  
that I may not sin a / gainst you.

Blessed are you, O / LORD; \*  
instruct me in your / statutes.

With my lips will I re / cite \*  
all the judgments of your / mouth.

I have taken greater delight in the way of your de / crees \*  
than in all manner of / riches.

I will meditate on your com / mandments \*  
and give attention to your / ways.

My delight is in your / statutes; \*  
I will not forget your / word.

*Psalm 119:9-16*

Glory be to the Father, and to the / Son,\*  
and to the Holy / Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is / now,\*  
and will be for ever. A / men.

## The Lessons

### **First Reading**

*Brian Whitfield*

A reading from Jeremiah

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

*Jeremiah 31:31-54*

Here ends the reading.

### **First Canticle: A Song of Penitence**

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

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

*Lector* 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.

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

*Lector* 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.

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

*Lector* 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.

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

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.

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

*Lector* 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.

*Prayer of Manasseh, 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15*

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

### **Second Reading**

*Daniel Beer*

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

*Hebrews 5:5-10*

Here ends the reading.

### **Second Canticle: The Song of Zechariah**

*Lector* God has given his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

*People* **God has given his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

*Lector* Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

*People* **God has given his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

*Lector* He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

*People* **God has given his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

*Lector* You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

*People* **God has given his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

*Lector* In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1:68-79*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*People* **God has given his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

### **Third Reading**

*Raven Oyedeji*

A reading from the Gospel of John

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel

has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

*John 12:20-33*

Here ends the reading.

### **Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People, together*

**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**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray

*Officiant and People*

**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.**

### **Suffrages**

*Officiant* Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
*People* **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

*Officiant* Day by day we bless you;  
*People* **We praise your Name for ever.**

*Officiant* Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
*People* **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

*Officiant* Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
*People* **For we have out our trust in you.**

*Officiant* In you, O Lord, is our hope;  
*People* **And we shall never hope in vain.**

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Collect of the Day of the Week**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Collect for Mission**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

## Sermon

*The Rt Rev'd David Rice,  
Bishop of San Joaquin*

## Musical Reflection:

*Julia and Faith Haney*

## Prayers of Intercession

*Intercessor*

In this holy season of Lent, as we prepare for the feast of the resurrection, let us offer prayers to God who opens the graves of the dead.

*Intercessor*

For the unity, peace, and welfare of the Church of Christ from on high, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, and David our Bishop, for the priests, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For the Church of England and for the people and ministry of St Michael's in Ridgecrest, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For the catechumens who await the illumination of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For the preachers of the Gospel who speak the truth in love, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For the prophets fired by God's word and for theologians who seek God alone, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For the peace of the whole world, for those in positions of authority, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For all those who live and work in our city, and for all whose livelihoods are threatened, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For the gifts of nature and of grace we need to live and serve the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For all who seek a safe haven among God's people, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For all who serve the needs and defend the rights of men and women, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For the elimination of slavery, racism, exploitation, and war, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For Kammie, Scott, Gwen, Michelle, Ethan, Penny, Jan, Tanya, the Toia/Gonzalez family, Nancy, Roy, Maria, Wanda, for all living with the effects of COVID-19, and for all who have commended themselves to our prayers, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

For Jacob Frantz and all the faithful departed, let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Intercessor*

Remembering the Blessed Virgin Mary, Paul our patron, Joachim, Anne, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

*People* **To you, O Lord.**

*Officiant*

God of justice and mercy, hear the petitions of the your faithful people and grant us a place at your table in heaven. For you give us resurrection and life in Christ the Son of God, and we give you glory, O Father, with your Son through the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

*All*    **Amen.**

## Announcements

## Conclusion

*Officiant*

Glory to God whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

*All*    **Amen.**

*Officiant*

Let us bless the Lord.

*All*    **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.*