

St. Paul's Episcopal Church,  
Bakersfield



Morning Prayer  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 14, 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*

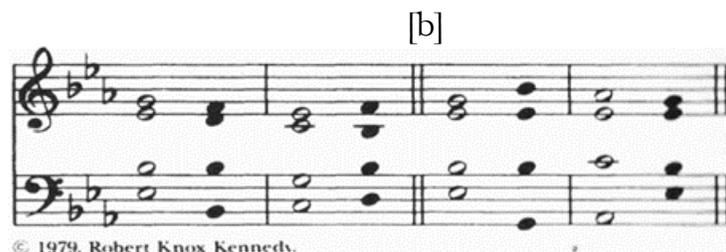
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

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

### The Psalm

*Raven Oyedeji*



Give thanks to the LORD, for he is / good, \*  
and his mercy endures for / ever.

Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed pro / claim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the / foe.

He gathered them out of the / lands; \*  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the / south.

Some were fools and took to rebellious / ways; \*  
they were afflicted because of their / sins.

They abhorred all manner of / food \*  
and drew near to death's / door.

Then they cried to the LORD in their / trouble, \*  
and he delivered them from their di / stress.

He sent forth his word and / healed them \*  
and saved them from the / grave.

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his / mercy \*  
and the wonders he does for his / children.

[b]Let them offer a sacrifice of thanks / giving \*  
and tell of his acts with shouts of / joy.

*107:1-3, 17-22*

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

*Devon Chambers*

A reading from Numbers

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

*Numbers 21:4-9*

Here ends the reading.

## **First Canticle: A Song of Christ the Servant**

*Officiant* We have all strayed like sheep;

but Christ has left as an example to follow in his steps.

*People* **We have all strayed like sheep;**

**but Christ has left as an example to follow in his steps.**

*Officiant* Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, \*  
that you should follow in his steps.

He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips, \*  
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.

*People* **We have all strayed like sheep;**

**but Christ has left as an example to follow in his steps.**

When he suffered, he did not threaten, \*

but trusted himself to God who judges justly.

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, \*  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

*People* **We have all strayed like sheep;**

**but Christ has left as an example to follow in his steps.**

*Officiant* By his wounds, we have been healed,  
for you were straying like sheep, \*

but have returned

to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*1 Peter 2:21b-25*

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* **Let us turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion;**

**and to our God, for he will richly pardon.**

## **Second Reading**

*Jack Oglesby*

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ

Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

Here ends the reading.

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

*Officiant* 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.**

*Officiant* 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.**

*Officiant* 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.**

*Officiant* 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.**

*Officiant* 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**

*Sandra Gamboa*

A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus said, "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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

*John 3:14-21*

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 put our trust in you.**

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

### **Collect of the Day**

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.*

### **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 Rev'd Cathy Kline,  
Parish Deacon*

### **Musical Reflection:** Mad Rush (P. Glass)

*Mark Tomlinson*

### **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 Anglican Church of Chile and for the people and ministry of St. Raphael's, Oakhurst, 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 hearts and hands to embrace the many immigrants who live within our borders, 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 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, 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.*