



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, RIDGECREST

Where All Souls Are Welcome

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ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 2022, 6 p.m.

The Rev. Jorge Pallares, Priest in Charge of St. Michael's, *Presider and Preacher*

READER	CRUCIFER	ALTAR GUILD	PIANIST
Aimee Bryan	Cassidi Reese	Nani Banks	Stephanie McManis

The ministers enter the Sanctuary in silence. Please stand as able.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

ASH WEDNESDAY (BCP p. 264)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17 (CEB)

AIMEE BRYAN

A READING FROM THE PROPHET JOEL

Blow the horn in Zion; give a shout on my holy mountain! Let all the people of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is near—a day of darkness and no light, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread out upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes, unlike any that has ever come before them, or will come after them in centuries ahead.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow; tear your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive. Who knows whether he will have a change of heart and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?

Blow the horn in Zion; demand a fast; request a special assembly. Gather the people; prepare a holy meeting; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the groom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the Lord's ministers, weep. Let them say, "Have mercy, Lord, on your people, and don't make your inheritance a disgrace, an example of failure among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

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

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

PSALM 103:8-14

AIMEE BRYAN

Remaining seated, the Reader and the People say the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

THE PSALM APPOINTED IS A PORTION OF PSALM 103.

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

**He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

**As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**

For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

THE SECOND READING 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10 (CEB)

AIMEE BRYAN

A READING FROM PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS.

We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God. Since we work together with him, we are also begging you not to receive the grace of God in vain. He says, I listened to you at the right time, and I helped you on the day of salvation. Look, now is the right time! Look, now is the day of salvation!

We don't give anyone any reason to be offended about anything so that our ministry won't be criticized. Instead, we commend ourselves as ministers of God in every way. We did this with our great endurance through problems, disasters, and stressful situations. We went through beatings, imprisonments, and riots. We experienced hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger. We displayed purity, knowledge, patience, and generosity. We served with the Holy Spirit, genuine love, telling the truth, and God's power. We carried the weapons of righteousness in our right hand and our left hand. We were treated with honor and dishonor and with verbal abuse and good evaluation. We were seen as both fake and real, as unknown and well known, as dying—and look, we are alive! We were seen as punished but not killed, as going through pain but always happy, as poor but making many rich, and as having nothing but owning everything.

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

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able for the Sequence Hymn and Gospel Proclamation.

Sequence Hymn

Blue Hymnal 707

Take my life, and let it be

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

2 Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 6:1-6,16-21

THE REV. JORGE PALLARES

Gospeller

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE REV. JORGE PALLARES

Priest in Charge

Please stand as able.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

(BCP pp. 264-265)

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(BCP p. 265)

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

If you wish to have ashes imposed on your forehead, please come forward to the altar.

The ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

PSALM 51

CASSIDI REESE

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.**

And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.

**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

**Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.**

Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Be favorable and gracious to Zion, *
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,
with burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

(BCP p. 267-269)

The Litany of Penitence is on page 267 in the Red Book of Common Prayer

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please stay in your pew. Waving, bowing and peace signs are appropriate. Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION

Please stand as able for the Offertory Hymn

Offertory Hymn

Blue Hymnal 439

What wondrous love is this

- 1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this,
O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to lay aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown
for my soul.
- 2 To God and to the Lamb,
I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb,
I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme
I will sing.

- 3 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free
I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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.

The Presider continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption,
and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and the Virgin Mary; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(BCP p. 364)

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

(BCP p. 364)

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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.

All are welcome at God's table.

Please come up to the altar rail. Gluten free wafers are available.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand as able

(BCP p. 366)

After communion, the Presider says,

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

(BOS p. 11)

Bow down before the Lord.

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

Blue Hymnal 525

The Church's one foundation

- 1 The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
- 2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed;
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

This concludes our service.

Please join us in the Parish Hall for Soup Supper.

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 pray for Stan, Rita, Sandy, Diane, Eric, Lisa, Jack, Tim, Becca, Robert, and the students at Mesquite High School.*

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..