



SAINT LUKE'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3736 Montrose Road

Birmingham, Alabama

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 21, 2021

Enter quietly in prayer as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Welcome! The congregation's responses are in bold. Children of every age are welcome. Please see an usher for assistance.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST *and* BLESSING OF ASHES

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.*

The people are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON: Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON:

The Reverend Richmond R. Webster

THE BIDDING *All stand.*

BCP 264

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 stand before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept...

The Celebrant says the following prayer

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.*

PSALM 51

Please Read in Unison

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.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

BCP 267

The Celebrant and People together

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you
and to one another, and to the whole communion
of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by
our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we
have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Celebrant continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind,
and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as our-
selves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been
forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served
us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have
grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the
pride, hypocrisy, and impatience
of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploita-
tion of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those
more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure
to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have
done: for our blindness to human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Celebrant facing the people, says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel. Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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.

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.

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 102

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLERGY AND STAFF: Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry, *Bishop of Alabama*; The Rev. Richmond R. Webster, *Rector*; The Rev. Rebecca DeBow, *Associate Rector*; The Rev. David Hall, *Associate Rector*; The Rev. Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith, *Priest Affiliate*; The Rev. Dr. Mark LaGory, *Deacon*; The Rev. Katy Smith, *Deacon*; Mr. Shaun Pezant, *Artist in Residence*; Dr. Philip Copeland, *Choral Director*; Mr. Jamie McLemore, *Organist*.

VESTRY: Class of 2021- Rebecca Eubanks- SLDS; Trippe Gray- Facility Management, Norman Jetmundsen- Sr. Warden, Norman Tynes- Adult Education, and Stewardship; Scarlett Simmons- Jr. Warden and Youth Ministry. Class of 2022 – Reed Avant- Children and Family Ministry; Ann Johnson- Founders Place, MACE, and Outreach; Bill Pitts-Finance; Krislin Smith- Pastoral Care and Communications; Wayne Trucks- Jr. Warden, Worship and Facility Management; Allyson Mouron. Class of 2023 - David Kimberlin, Allyson Mouron, Susan Silverstein, Beth Wilder, Turner Williams. Rich Webster- Rector. Appointed Members** - William Nicrosi- Treasurer, Kevin Collins, Clerk, Molly Sheffield Davis- Junior Vestryperson. Vestry Meetings will be held the last Monday of each month from 6:00-7:00pm. Vestry meetings are open to the members of Saint Luke's unless in Executive Session.



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