



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ESSEX, NY

St. John's Episcopal Church
Essex, NY

Sunday Service
The Fourth Sunday of Lent
The Rev. Susan McGarry

In-Person & Zoom Worship
March 10, 2024 □ 10:00 A.M.

Loose Plate Offering
ReNew

Zoom Link for Sunday Worship:
<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/worshipmeet>

Prelude – *Please use this time in silence and to pray*

Processional (*Please stand*) “Come thou font of every blessing”

Hymn 686

The Decalogue:

Hear the commandments of God to his people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

A Penitential Order: Rite Two

The people standing or kneeling, the Celebrant says:

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

The Deacon or Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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

the Priest, stands and says:

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

Kyrie Eleison

S 89

The 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.*

The First Reading from Numbers Chapter 21, verses 4-9

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.

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 – *we will read it alternatively by 1/2 verse*

Confitemini Domino

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

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

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

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

19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

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

21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

The Epistle Ephesians 2: 1-10

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.

Gradual Hymn (*Please stand*) "Sing my soul his wondrous love" **Last verse after the Gospel Reading* **Hymn 467**

Gospel John 3:14-21

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."

The Homily (*Please be seated*)

The Rev. Susan McGarry

The Nicene Creed (*Please stand*)

BCP 358-359

Prayers of the People

Celebrant Let us pray for ourselves and the world.

The Leader and People pray responsively

Loving God, enliven us for your work of love in our world. We pray for all Bishops, especially Michael our Presiding Bishop, Jeramiah our Bishop and Susan & Diane our Priests, that they may be faithful servants of your Word and sacraments. In the Anglican cycle of Prayer we pray also for the Episcopal Church of the United States of America.

That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people. We pray for the elected leaders in our towns, states and nation that they may be faithful to the laws of our land and judicious in their resolve to address the problems in our country.

Give us power to reveal Christ in our daily lives.

God of justice and mercy, we pray for all those affected by the wars in the Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, the Gaza Strip and Russia. Pour your wisdom into the leaders of those nations that they may put the good of all their people over all other considerations. Creator of all, lead us and all people into the ways of justice and peace.

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it. We pray that we may respond ever more creatively to the Climate Crisis we are facing.

Teach us to care creatively for our fragile world.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others. We pray especially for Joe our President, and the leaders of NATO, the Arab nations that surround the Holy Land and all the nations of the world.

That all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all those whose lives are linked with ours. We pray especially for: **Carolyn, Geoffrey, Lois, Abra, Mike, Beverly, Noa, Lillian, Rae, Olivia, Cheryl, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Chris, Lynne, Eve, Ella, Louis, John, Arnold, Lee, Alicia, Charles, Dick and Nancy.**

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as Christ loves us.

[Here other intercessions may be offered]

Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark upon our search process. Help us to humbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John's. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us, but we pray that it will strengthen our faith, and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

All: Preserve us all, O Christ and take us home to your heart, so that all our lives may be woven together in prayer and praise, in your ever merciful name we pray. Amen.

The Peace

Prayer for Birthdays and Anniversaries

 Birthday this week: David Tisdale, Thurston Clarke, Brianna Dawson & Gil Burke.

Watch over our sisters and brothers, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements (*Please be seated*)

Offertory (*Please stand*) "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound"
Hymn 671

Doxology *verse 3 only*

Hymn 380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A**

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says:

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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

Celebrant and People

Hymn S124

**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 people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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:

Celebrant and People

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

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 for ever. AMEN.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name**

**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.***

Celebrant: Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem: "Lamb of God"

S161

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

Congregation comes forward at this time to receive communion.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

**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.***

Prayer over the People:

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.**

Recessional "Lift high the cross of love of Christ proclaim" **Hymn 473**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please join us for coffee in Persell Hall

Ministers of the service

Usher/Greeters: Kevin O'Neill & Julie Wever

Altar Guild: Bobbi Perez

Lector: Dick Perez

Intercessor: Kristine Tribou

Crucifer: Linda Rockefeller

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Bill Tribou

Acolytes: Darcey Hale & Carole Harsh

Zoom host: Carole Harsh

Coffee Hour Host: Dick & Bobbi Perez

Cantor: Michael Bergman

Organist & Music Director: Jennifer Moore

