

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

Gathering Music *Prelude from Hommage à Frescobaldi by Jean Langlais (1907-1991)*

Opening Acclamation

The People's responses are in bold.

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

The Celebrant invites the People to confession.

Confession and Absolution

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Celebrant pronounces absolution on the People.

Trisagion *sung three times*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The first system contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,'. The second system contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.' The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

setting: ver. *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)
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Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, as the forty days of deluge swept away the world's corruption and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life, so in the saving flood of baptism your people are washed clean and born again. Throughout these forty days, we beg you, unseal for us the wellspring of your grace, cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again. Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson *Genesis 9:8-17*

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9 *sung by a cantor or schola*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Gospel *Mark 1:9-15*

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

Glory to you, O Christ.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *The Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, She* is worshipped and glorified. She has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The Holy Spirit is the spirit of Wisdom, the feminine Sophia, and the Hebrew Scripture calls the Spirit "ruah," a feminine word, to describe the feminine aspect of the Godhead, the breath of God.*

***Here "catholic" means universal. It refers to the belief that the message of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus is a "universal" one that the Church proclaims to everyone, everywhere and always.*

Prayers of the People

The Prayers of the People during Lent have been written and are being prayed by parishioner members of the Race and Social Justice Coalition at St. Paul's. These prayers invite us more deeply into reflection on our continual call to repentance and reconciliation, as together we build God's beloved community.

The intercessor says

With all our heart, mind, and body, we pray to be led more deeply into Your justice, as it rolls down like mighty waters. *(Amos 6:8)*

We pray to unite our Church and all people in a mission to transform our divided country and world into your kin(g)dom. Let us work to encourage "a revival of love as a way to a liberating and life-giving relationship with God, with others, and with all God's creation on the planet we call Earth." *(Presiding Bishop Michael J. Curry)*

God of Love,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray for those who suffer in places of civil unrest, injustice, and intolerance, and for the world still battling the global pandemic of Covid-19. We pray for healing for the sick, comfort for the dying, and protection for the poor, the homeless, and the neglected. Help us build a world of justice and mercy.

God of Love,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray that all of us may continue to awaken to the ways in which we perpetuate and can heal racism, anti-Black bias, and white supremacy. We pray for new and just solutions to de facto segregation in schools, discriminatory housing policies, and voter disenfranchisement.

God of Love,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray for our local communities, that all may have sound and stable housing and good food to eat; we ask your guidance for those in positions of public trust, especially in this city of Norwalk, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every resident.

God of Love,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray for all those who are living with mental illnesses, addiction, loneliness, or despair, that they may find hope and healing, no matter where they live, whom they love, or the color of their skin. We remember those in prison, particularly all those unjustly incarcerated.

God of Love,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray for the departed.

We remember also today all those whose violent deaths have spurred us to confront our deeper structures of racism, remembering especially Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, and Trayvon Martin.

God of Love,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray for all the concerns of this community.

God of Love,

Guide us with your grace.

The People add their own prayers aloud, silently, or via a Facebook comment.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers, saying

We offer these prayers in all the holy names of God, knowing that You, O Holy One, are hearing us better than we are speaking. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.

Announcements available at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning

GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate.

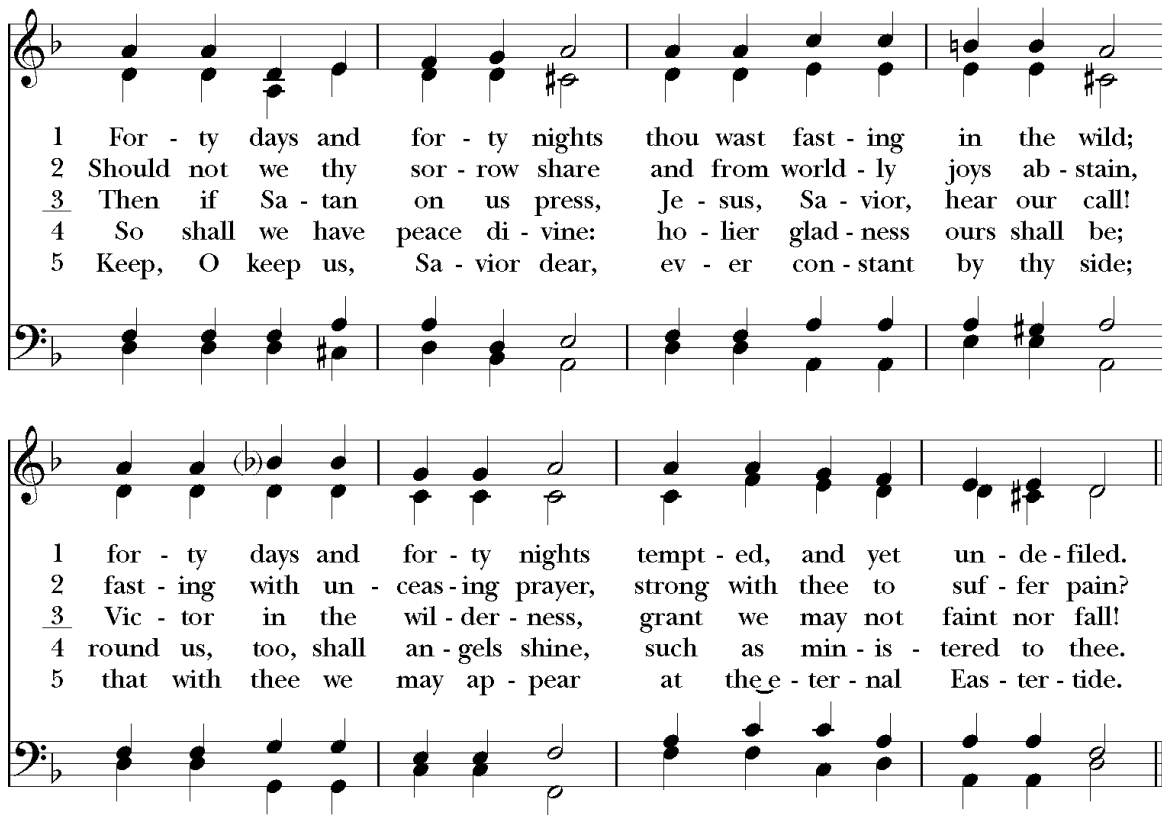
Thank you for your generous support!



The Offertory

The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give in the "Giving to St. Paul's" box above.

Hymn at the Offertory



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;
2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?
3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!
4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.
5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

words: George Hunt Smyttan (1822–1870), alt.

music: *Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*, melody att. Martin Herbst (1654–1681), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823–1889)

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance, that through our pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and renew our commitment to walk in newness of life.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy, and we join with saints and angels for ever praising you as together we sing:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

setting: David Hurd (b. 1950)
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The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)
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The Communion

This is the Bread of Heaven,
Broken for the life of the world.

While the Celebrant communicates those in the church, the whole assembly shares in a time of reflection and prayer, contemplating the Presence of Christ in the gifts of bread and wine, along with the larger reality that we ourselves, along with all creation, are the Body of Christ. (Colossians 3:11)

Anthem at the Communion

Ave verum corpus, natum
de Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine
cuius latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum
in mortis examine.

O dulcis, O pie,
O Jesu, fili Mariae.
Miserere mei. Amen.

*Hail, true Body, born
of the Virgin Mary,
having truly suffered, sacrificed
on the cross for mankind,
from whose pierced side
water and blood flowed:
Be for us a foretaste of the Heavenly banquet
in the trial of death!*

*O sweet, O holy,
O Jesus, son of Mary,
have mercy on me. Amen*

words: Processional Hymn for Corpus Christi
music: William Byrd (1543-1623)

After a period of silent reflection, all pray the following prayer together

**O God, you made us from the dust of the earth,
and our lives are as brief as the grass of the field,
yet you sustain us in the wilderness,
and you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Now raise us up, and help us turn toward you
with open hearts, beholding your glory,
that by your grace we may receive everlasting life. Amen.**

THE SENDING RITE

The Blessing and Dismissal

May God grant you pardon and peace, that you who have been nourished by God's Word and Sacraments may bring forth the fruit of repentance.

And the blessing of God Almighty: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Let us go forth into the world to share the love of Christ with humble and grateful hearts.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort* by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

[Click here](#) to join in small group conversation and catching up on Zoom!