

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 28, 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** *Chant de Paix* 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 is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has two staves: a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The second system also has two staves: a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed below the vocal lines.

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.

Ever-faithful God, you were well pleased with Abraham's obedience and you accepted the sacrifice of your Son, who gave himself up for the sake of us all. Train us by Christ's teaching and school us in his obedience, that as we walk his way of sacrifice we may come to share in your glory. We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope, 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 17:1-7, 15-16*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

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

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; \*  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them; \*  
but when they cry to him he hears them.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

## **The Gospel** *Mark 8:31-38*

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

**Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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 Justice,

**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 Justice,

**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 Justice,

**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 Justice,

**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 Justice,

**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 Ahmaud Arbery, Eric Garner, and Breonna Taylor.

God of Justice,

**Guide us with your grace.**

We pray for all the concerns of this community.

God of Justice,

**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](http://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](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard), or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit [stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate](http://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 Take up your cross, the Sa - vior said, if  
2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill  
5 Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, nor



1 you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with  
2 your weak spi - rit with a - larm; his strength shall bear your  
5 think till death to lay it down; for on - ly those who



1 will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.  
2 spi - rit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.  
5 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt.  
music: *Bourbon*, att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859)

# 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** *sung by the St. Paul's choir*

O Lord, increase our faith,  
strengthen us and confirm us in thy true faith;  
endue us with wisdom, charity, chastity and patience,  
in all our adversity.  
Sweet Jesu, say Amen.

words: Processional Hymn for Corpus Christi  
music: Henry Loosemore (1600?-1670)

*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 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** *Wer nur den lieben Gott laesst walten* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

# THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

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

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