ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude  Hexachord Fantasia  Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation
Presider  Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People  His mercy endures for ever.

Collect for Purity
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie  Sung by a cantor
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day
Presider  The Lord be with you
People  And also with you.
Presider  Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson:  Genesis 17:1-7, 15-19
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.” Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, “Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” And Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live in your sight!” God said, “No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.”

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

Psalm 22:22-30 Sung by a cantor

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

23 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
    the saving deeds that he has done.
The Second Lesson: Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

The Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

Presider The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People Glory to you, Lord 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.”

Following the Gospel
Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.
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 he is worshiped and glorified.
   He 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 Prayers of the People

Presider   Gracious and life-giving God, through the suffering and death of your Son Jesus Christ you have raised us to the new life of grace: Hear our prayers on behalf of all people, that your promise of fruitfulness may extend throughout the world, as we say: We praise you in the great assembly. May your heart live for ever!
Litanist  You have called us to be Christ’s followers, O God, to take up our cross and to give our lives willingly for his sake: Set our minds not upon human things but on divine things, that we may proclaim the glory of Christ’s resurrection to all the world.  
We praise you in the great assembly.

People  May your heart live for ever!

Litanist  You rule over the nations, Almighty One, and you hear the voice of the poor when they cry out to you: Bless the multitude of nations with your compassion that they may follow in your ways of justice and mercy.  
We praise you in the great assembly.

People  May your heart live for ever!

Litanist  Your Beloved suffered rejection from religious and political leaders, O Compassionate One: Uphold with your resurrection power all who suffer, that their faith may be strong until the day of their deliverance.  
We praise you in the great assembly.

People  May your heart live for ever!

Litanist  You have made an everlasting covenant with your people, O Holy One: Bless the children of Abraham who worship you in the faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, in this community, and around the world, that we may be exceedingly fruitful to fulfill the promise that rests on grace, which is guaranteed to all of Abraham’s descendants, as we make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that you have done.  
We praise you in the great assembly.

People  May your heart live for ever!

Litanist  You are the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist: Hear our prayers for all for whom we intercede, especially those searching for hope, and those we now name, either silently or aloud.  
Bless all who wish to bear children with the promise of Sarah, that their descendants may be known as yours for ever.  
We praise you for your promises and the fulfillment of your blessing in our lives, especially for those blessings we name either silently or aloud.  
To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; raise to your joyful presence those who have died, especially the five hundred thousand Americans and the millions around the world who have died of COVID this year, and for those we now name either silently or aloud.  
We praise you in the great assembly.

People  May your heart live for ever!

Presider  Gracious and merciful God, you have taught us through Jesus that there is no profit in gaining the whole world if we lose our own lives, and you have invited us
to follow Jesus, for the way of the cross is the way of life: Give us the faith of Abraham that we may trust in your promises and share in the glory of Christ’s inheritance, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Celebrant says*
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.

*Presider* 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.

*The Peace*

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*All are invited to exchange greetings of peace.*

**Welcome and Announcements of our Ministries**

*The Rector*

**Hymn 635**

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through all thy ways, he’ll give thee strength whate’er betide thee, and bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God’s unchanging love builds on a rock that nought can move.

2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving; so do thine own part faithfully, and trust his word, though undeserving; thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God never yet forsook in need the soul that trusted him indeed.
THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider    The Lord be with you.
People    And also with you.
Presider    Lift up your hearts.
People    We lift them to the Lord.
Presider    Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People    It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Presider continues, concluding with:

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:

The Sanctus    sung by a cantor

The Presider continues to give thanks, and invites all to join in

The Memorial Acclamation

Presider    Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
All    Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues praying, concluding with

Presider    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.
All    Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

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    The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

Agnus Dei    sung by a cantor
During the communion, those worshiping from home may wish to pray the following prayer of spiritual communion, or simply spend the time in quiet prayer.

Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

The Postcommunion Prayer  Please stand as able.

Presider  Let us pray.

People  Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Prayer over the People

The Dismissal

Presider  Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People  Thanks be to God.

Postlude  If thou but trust in God to guide thee

Theophil Forchhammer  (1847-1923)

Ministers Serving Today:
The Rev. Greg Johnston, Rector
Douglas Witte, Organist
Whitney Hayden and Maureen Lavely, Readers
Nan Armstrong, Psalm Cantor
Jane Struss, Intercessor
Adrienne Sweetser, Zoom Host
Luette Bourne, Altar Guild
ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Following today’s worship service**, our weekly Lenten series begins. Led by Rev. Greg and guided by the book *Life in Christ: Practicing Christian Spirituality* by Julia Gatta, we’ll explore what our community’s practices—of Baptism, Communion, Time, and Prayer—mean for our own lives as individuals. You are welcome to join for one session or come every week. If you don’t have time to read the book each week, you’re still welcome to join!

**Got news?** Please send “family news” — birthdays, anniversaries, achievements, milestones or any bits of fun to share in *News and Notes!* Don’t be shy! Email Greg or Priscilla with anything you have to report. Since some people are reluctant to brag, feel free to send good news you know about other parishioners! We would love to share!

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**CALENDAR**

**Every Week**

Thursdays, 7pm — Centering Prayer (on Zoom)

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**ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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The Rev. Gregory Johnston, Rector

Mr. Douglas Witte, Organist and Choirmaster

Ms. Priscilla Burns, Parish Administrator

Mr. Brian O’Neill, Sexton

Mr. Doug Heim and Ms. Alice Krapf, Wardens