

St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm



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7:00 PM

Prelude:

Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott
(Have mercy on me, O Lord God)

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow (1663-1712)
Johann Nicolaus Hanff (1663-1711)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation:
People Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant 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.*

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Sarah Everdell

A Reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
²a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

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

PSALM: Psalm 103

Kathy DeSilvey

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
²Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
³He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
⁴He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

⁵He satisfies you with good things, *
 and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶The LORD executes righteousness *
 and judgment for all who are oppressed.
⁷He made his ways known to Moses *
 and his works to the children of Israel.
⁸The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
 slow to anger and of great kindness.
⁹He will not always accuse us, *
 nor will he keep his anger for ever.
¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
 nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
 so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
¹²As far as the east is from the west, *
 so far has he removed our sins from us.
¹³As a father cares for his children, *
 so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
¹⁴For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
 he remembers that we are but dust.
¹⁵Our days are like the grass; *
 we flourish like a flower of the field;
¹⁶When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
 and its place shall know it no more.
¹⁷But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear him, *
 and his righteousness on children's children;
¹⁸On those who keep his covenant *
 and remember his commandments and do them.
¹⁹The LORD has set his throne in heaven, *
 and his kingship has dominion over all.
²⁰Bless the LORD, you angels of his,
 you mighty ones who do his bidding, *
 and hearken to the voice of his word.
²¹Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, *
 you ministers of his who do his will.
²²Bless the LORD, all you works of his,
 in all places of his dominion; *
 bless the LORD, O my soul.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said,] ¹“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.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

Fr. Brent

LENTEN INVITATION

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 kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

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.*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

PSALM 51

Miserere mei, Deus

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned *

and done what is evil in your sight.
⁵And so you are justified when you speak *
 and upright in your judgment.
⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
 a sinner from my mother's womb.
⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
 and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
 wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
 that the body you have broken may rejoice.
¹⁰Hide your face from my sins *
 and blot out all my iniquities.
¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
 and renew a right spirit within me.
¹²Cast me not away from your presence *
 and take not your holy Spirit from me.
¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again *
 and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
 and sinners shall return to you.
¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God, *
 and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
 O God of my salvation.
¹⁶Open my lips, O Lord, *
 and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
 but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
 a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

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 ourselves. 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 exploitation 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.

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.*

PEACE

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant 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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 again.

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sts. Francis and Clare and 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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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,
 forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION¹

The Gifts of God for the People of God. In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory.

Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. *AMEN.*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

H 149 *Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church*

Old 124th

Unison or harmony

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,
 walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

BLESSING

The Priest says

Bow down before the Lord.

The people bow and the Presider says the following prayers:

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.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

¹*Spiritual Communion.*

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that if one is unable to actually consume the consecrated bread and wine due to extreme circumstances, the desire is enough for God to grant all the benefits of communion (BCP p. 457). When being present at a celebration of the Eucharist is impossible, this act of prayer and meditation can provide the means by which you can associate yourself with the Eucharistic Action and open yourself to God's grace and blessing. This prayer is taken from The Prayer Book of the Armed Forces.

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