

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!
Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 27, 2022
Eucharist Service

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/TRANSITION TO WORSHIP

The Word of God

OPENING HYMN

#2 – *Come My People*

Words: James F.D. Martin

Music: James F.D. Martin, Elizabeth Martin Cliffe

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

MARK 12:29-31

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our 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 other commandment greater than these.'

CONFESSION

Celebrant We turn our hearts to prayer, vulnerable before you and each other, naming the ways we fall short of who you have created us to be.

We trust that you are a God of tenderness and mercy, who loves us deeply as we are today and yet calls us to more wholehearted, brave, useful living. *Silence may be kept.*

We confess hardness of heart, lack of vision and grasping at simple solutions to complex problems.

We confess taking for granted the blessing and abundance in our lives; choosing convenience and comfort over self-sacrifice for the common good.

We confess the difficulty we have loving our enemies and forgiving those who have done us harm.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant We confess not loving our neighbors as ourselves.

We confess the ugly rhetoric and polarizing caricatures we use to describe those who disagree with us.

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

We confess underestimating our power to change the world.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Aid us, forgive us, help us forgive each other, help us forgive ourselves. Inspire and send us, we pray, in the name of the Holy Trinity. Fill us with hope and help us start anew.

ABSOLUTION

Church of England

Celebrant May the God of love and power forgive you/us and free you/us from your/our sins, heal and strengthen you/us by the Holy Spirit and raise you/us to new life in Christ. **Amen.**

OPENING COLLECT

Steven Shakespeare

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Undignified God, spirit of dangerous feasts, inviting the unclean to your table; find us in the far country of hopelessness and greed; free us from the prison of resentment and envy and bring us back to life; through Jesus Christ, the friend of sinners. **Amen.**

FIRST MESSAGE

Joshua 5:9-12

Lay Leader Let us prepare ourselves to hear the Word of God as it comes to us from Joshua.

People **Our hearts and minds are open.**

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

#14 – *O Love of God*

Words: Horatius Bonar

Music: *Dunedin*, Vernon Griffiths

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Deacon The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours

came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

The Venerable Ren Turnham
Archdeacon, Episcopal Church in Minnesota

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

© *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

Lay Leader Please join together in affirming our faith.

People We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire. We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place: into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets. We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.

Lay Leader And now we join together with members of the worldwide Anglican/Episcopal Communion in translating the beliefs in our hearts into action in our lives, in these baptismal questions. Please respond to each promise by saying, "I will with God's help."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Lay Leader God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith and thanksgiving:

We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and be loved, Thank you for all who care for us. Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbors and our community, loving others as God loves us.

Sung Refrain: We open our hearts to you. (2x)

We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone in Jesus Christ. Comfort and heal those in sorrow, need, sickness or another trouble. Give them courage and hope in their distress, and bless those who minister to them. *Sung Refrain*

We remember with gratitude your many gifts to us in creation and the rich heritage of our rivers, lakes and woodlands. Help us and people everywhere to share with justice and peace the resources of the earth. Give wisdom to those in authority among us and to all leaders of the nations. *Sung Refrain*

We pray for your church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and his realm. By your Spirit strengthen your people for their works and witness in your world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name may also reflect your glory. *Sung Refrain*

We remember with thanksgiving all who have died in Christ, and we rejoice at the faithful witness of your saints in every age, praying that we may enter with them into the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom. *Sung Refrain*

SAINT MARY'S COMMUNITY PRAYERS: CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Everyone is invited to offer concerns and thanksgivings.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Lay Leader Lord, you have called us to serve you.

People **Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Celebrant Do not neglect to do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. **Amen.**

You are welcome to make an online offering by using the "contribute" button on our website, saintmarysepiscope.org.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Eucharistic Prayer 1, *Enriching Our Worship 1*

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant & People **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

LORD'S PRAYER

#17 – *On Earth As In Heaven*

Ray Makeever

BREAKING OF BREAD

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body; for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant For those worshipping with us virtually today, let us now say together the prayer for spiritual communion.

Celebrant and People worshipping virtually

Gracious God, You stand at the door of our hearts and knock. You wait for us and we only can let you in. We believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill us with your presence. Nourish us with your body and unite us in your blood, that we may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

#1 – *All I Ask of You*

Gregory Norbet

#15 – *One Bread, One Body*

John Foley

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Steven Shakespeare

Celebrant Lord of this feast beyond measure and price, we thank you for meeting us in our

& People **brokenness so that none might be lost. Liberate us now to share bread with our neighbor, each receiving from the other what we need to be ourselves. Amen.**

CELEBRANT BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

#19 – *Tree of Life (verses 1, 3, 8)*

Marty Haugen

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

SOCIAL TIME/BREAKOUT