

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!



John Stuart, www.stushieart.com

The First Sunday in Lent February 21, 2021

For 134 years, Saint Mary's has been
a Christ-centered community
with a mission to express God's love for all people.

Welcome/Announcements

Opening Song

Opening Prayer for Lent 1

Leader Spirit of integrity, you drive us into the desert to search out our truth. Give us clarity to know what is right, and courage to reject what is not; that we may abandon the false innocence of failing to choose at all, but may follow the purposes of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

Reader Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us from Genesis.

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

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."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9

- 1 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.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 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.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

- 6 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.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

Reader Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us from 1 Peter.

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

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

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

People **Glory to you, Lord 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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily/Meditation/Dwelling in the Word

Singing bowl will sound to start and end the Moment of Silence.

Moment of Silence and Question of the Day

Affirmation of 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.

Prayers of the People *Healer of Our Every Ill - Litany* Marty Haugen

REFRAIN: Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

Leader Trusting in the one who has said, "I will never forsake you." We lift the prayers of our hearts to our loving and faithful God.

People God of Mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader We pray from our pain and our despairing to you, O God of healing and hope: Bind up the wounds of all who suffer; rekindle a flame of hope in those who despair.

People God of Mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader We pray from our confusion and distress to You, faithful, constant God: Lead us back to Your pathway and strengthen us in our journey with You.

People God of Mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader We pray in our grief and loss to You, O God of suffering and compassion: Bring comfort to our broken hearts and peace to our shattered spirits.

People God of Mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader We pray in our need and hunger to You, O God of grace and abundance: Fill us with gratitude for your countless blessings: lead us into lives of service and sacrifice.

People God of Mercy, hear our prayer.

REFRAIN

Blessings, Prayers, and Thanksgivings

Speak up or use Chat window in Zoom if you've got a transition, concern, thanksgiving, birthday or anniversary to share.

Confession

Leader Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

People **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 we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore and strengthen us through Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

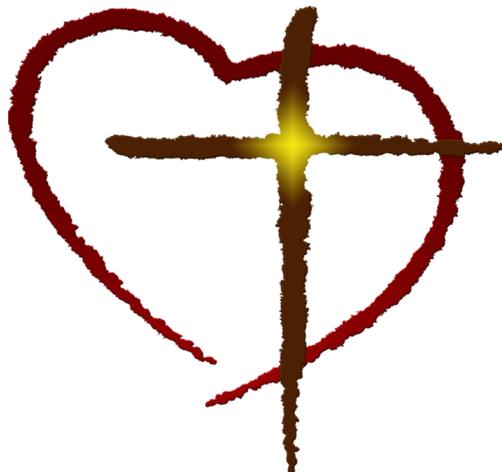
Absolution

Leader Gracious God, have mercy on you/us, forgive you/us all your/our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you/us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you/us in eternal life.

Peace

Leader The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**



Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther who art in hea - ven
Hall - owed be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done, on
Earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our dai - ly bread and for -
give us our tres - pass - es, as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us.
And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the
Pow - er and the glo - ry, for e - ver and e - ver. A -
men.

Closing Prayer for Guidance

Leader Creator God, in you we live and move and have our being: ...guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of this life, we may not forget you, but remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Final Blessing

Leader Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Jesus Christ, for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3.20,21*

Dismissal

Deacon *The Deacon says the words of dismissal.*

People **Thanks be to God!**

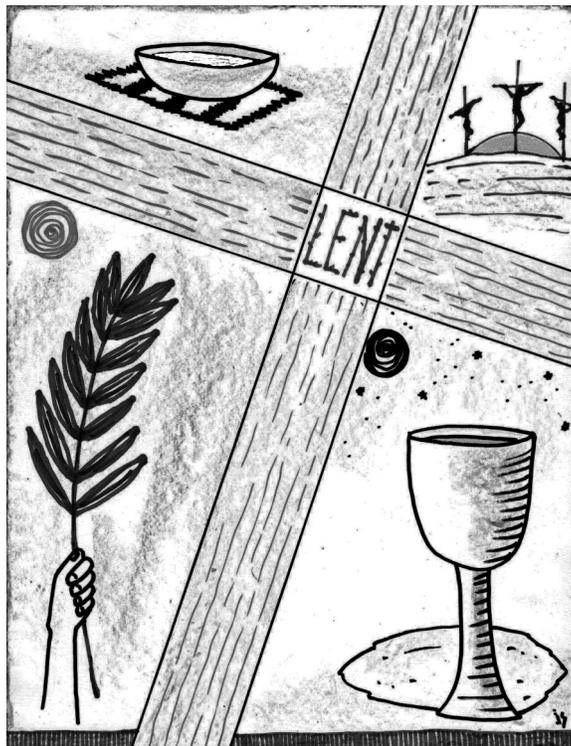
Singing bowl will sound to start and end the Moment of Silence.

Moment of Silence and Question of the Day

Virtual Coffee Hour #1: Discuss Question

Virtual Coffee Hour #2: Socialize

Stay on the Zoom call for virtual coffee hours and be with Saint Mary's members, friends, and visitors.



SOURCES

The Opening Collect is from *All Desires Known* by Janet Morley & Morehouse Barlow.

All readings are taken from the *Revised Common Lectionary*.

The Affirmation of Faith is from the Iona Community.

The Confession is from *Enriching Our Worship*, Church Publishing Inc.

The Lord's Prayer music is by Jim May.

The Closing Prayer for Guidance is from *The Book of Common Prayer*.

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