



# Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Sunday, March 19, 2023**

8:00 AM & 10:15 AM (with music)

*Also Live Streaming at*

<https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>

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## **PRELUDE**

“Jesus is the Sweetest Name I Know”

*arr. Pretzer*

*During Lent, there is no Processional Hymn. Following the Prelude, chimes will be sounded to signal the beginning of the service. At the chime, please stand for the opening procession.*

*The liturgical ministers then enter in silence.*

## **THE PENITENTIAL ORDER**

*Presider*      Bless the Lord ☧ who forgives all our sins.

*People*      **His mercy endures for ever.**

## **CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*The Presider reads the following:*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your 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 commandment greater than these."

*Mark 12:29-31*

*The Presider then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**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.**

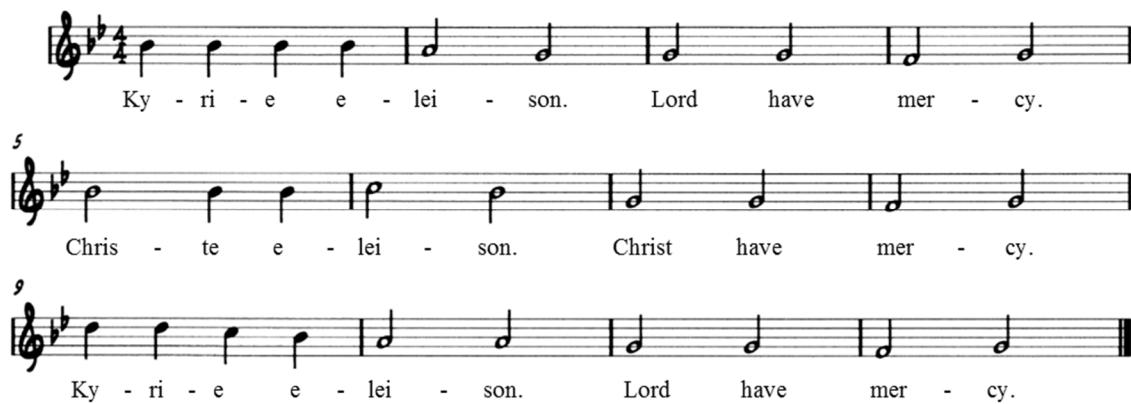
## THE WORD OF GOD

**KYRIE** (*at the 8:00 Service*)

Lord have mercy.  
**Christ have mercy.**  
Lord have mercy.

**KYRIE** (*at the 10:15 Service*)

*Pretzer*



## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*        **And also with you.**  
*Presider*      Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16.1-13

*Lector*        A Reading from First Samuel

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 5.8-14

*Lector*      A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*(People stand)*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

“Thine Arm, O Lord”

Bulletin Page 16

*(Congregation sings v. 1, the Gospel is read, then v. 2 is sung)*

*Presider*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John.  
*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do

nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

*Presider*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**SERMON**

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

*(Silence)*

**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.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Brothers and sisters, live as children of the light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Light of the world, open our eyes.”

Lord our Shepherd, you have given your Church all that we need. Rain down on us mightily with your Spirit, that we may testify to the astonishing things you have done in our lives.  
Light of the world,  
**Open our eyes.**

God, you are present in the valley of the shadow of death. Comfort all those around the world who know danger or violence or war. By your love, cast out all evil and fear.  
Light of the world,  
**Open our eyes.**

Lord, you make us to lie down in green pastures; you lead us by still waters. You have blessed us with a beautiful planet. May we work to preserve the holy gift of nature.  
Light of the world,  
**Open our eyes.**

Lord, spread a table for those who are hungry; where there is scarcity and need in our neighborhoods, fill empty hearts, lives, and cups with your abundance. By your light expose all the unfruitful works of darkness.  
Light of the world,  
**Open our eyes.**

God of life, pursue the sick and sorrowful with your goodness and mercy. Reveal your works in those who are suffering. Make yourself known as Healer. We pray especially for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Pause)*

Light of the world,  
**Open our eyes.**

Reviver of Souls, give to the dying and the dead your promise of new and unending life. May we one day live with them forever in the light of Christ. We pray for those who have died, especially for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Pause)*

Great God and King,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Presider* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

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

*(Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

***Birthday and Anniversary Prayer:*** Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

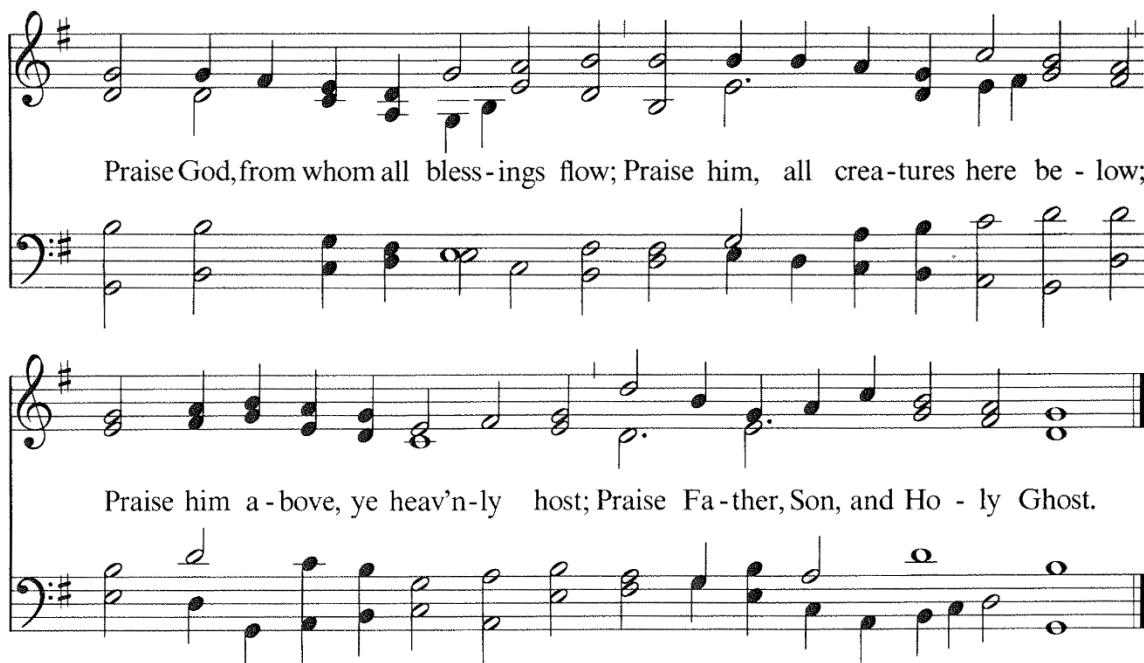
## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"What Grace is Mine"

arr. Tom Fettke

### PRESENTATION HYMN/DOXOLOGY



The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle staff is in bass clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are as follows:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here be - low;  
Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711  
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561*

OLD HUNDREDTH  
L M

### 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 offer thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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 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:

*At the 8:00 Service:*

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*At the 10:15 Service:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many 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.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
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 - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*(A period of silence is kept after the Celebrant breaks the host)*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Grant us your peace.**

## FRACTION ANTHEM – AGNUS DEI

*Pretzer*

A - gnus De - i qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di: mis - se - re - re  
no - bis. A - gnus De - i qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di:  
17 mi - se - re - re no - bis. A - gnus De - i qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta  
25 mun - di: do - na no - bis pa - cem.

*The Presider says the following or a similar invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion. **Gluten free wafers are available upon request.***

## PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Those participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits as actually consuming the consecrated elements.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

## COMMUNION HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

Bulletin Page 17

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider*      Let us pray.

**Compassionate God,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:  
may our fasting be hunger for justice,  
our alms, a making of peace,  
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*Presider*   Bow down before the Lord.

*The people kneel or bow their heads and the Presider says the following prayer*

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Bulletin Page 18

## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider*      Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic is Your Name”

*arr. Pretzer*

*If you choose to leave during the Postlude, please do so quietly,  
out of respect for the Organist and out of courtesy for those staying to listen.*

**Please join us in Francis Hall for refreshments and fellowship  
following the worship service**

(Francis Hall is out the main church doors and to the left)

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Texts of Sunday sermons are available on our parish website, at  
<http://stgregoryschurch.com/sermons-archive/>

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SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 567

"Thine Arm, O Lord"

St. Matthew

(Congregation sings v. 1, the Gospel is read, then v. 2 is sung)

1 Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old was strong to  
2 And lo! thy touch brought life and health, gave hearing,  
3 Be thou our great deliverer still, thou Lord of

heal and save; it triumphed o'er disease and death,  
strength, and sight; and youth renewed and frenzied,  
life and death; restore and quicken, soothe and bless,

o'er darkness and the grave. To thee they went, the  
owned thee, the Lord of light: and now, O Lord, be  
with thine almighty breath: to hands that work and

blind, the deaf, the palsied, and the lame, the leper  
near to bless, almighty as of yore, in crowd-eyes that  
see, give wisdom's heavenly lore, that whole and

set a - part and shunned, the sick with fe - vered frame.  
 street, by rest - less couch, as by Gen - nes - aret's shore.  
 sick, and weak and strong, may praise thee ev - er - more.

### COMMUNION HYMN

*Hymnal 1982, Hymn 671*

“Amazing Grace”

*New Britain*

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 \*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me  
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Hymnal 1982, Hymn 493*

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*Azmon*

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim  
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;  
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,  
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;

1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.  
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.  
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.  
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heaven.

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S**

**Tuesday, March 21**

**Centering Prayer at 6:30 PM** via Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

**Thursday, March 23**

**Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at 10:00 AM** in the Chapel.

**Bible Study at 11:00 AM** in the Fireside Room. You may also access via Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

**Lenten Soup Supper and Stations of the Cross at 6:00 PM** in the St. Gregory's Parish Hall.

## **Daily Offices (Monday through Friday)**

**Daily Morning Prayer:** Monday through Friday at **9:00 AM** on the St. Thomas Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/Saint-Thomas-of-Canterbury-Episcopal-Church-of-Long-Beach-CA-124554214274325/>).

**Daily Evening Prayer:** Monday through Friday at **5:00 PM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

*For the Daily Offices, you will need either a Book of Common Prayer or you can download the Morning and Evening Prayer liturgies and the Psalms for the week from the St. Gregory's website ([www.stgregoryschurch.com](http://www.stgregoryschurch.com)).*

## **YOU ARE INVITED TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT**

**WEDNESDAYS IN LENT – Lenten Book Study:** Mother Sharon Sheffield will be leading a Lenten book study entitled “*When Did We See You?*” – *Theology in Modern Science Fiction and Fantasy*. The program looks at passages from selected novels from the past 70 years and discuss how these works borrow from and relate to Christian theology, the Bible, and current events. Authors will include C. S. Lewis, Madeleine L’Engle, and Mercedes Lackey, among others. The class will run Wednesday nights from **6:30 to 8:00 PM**, beginning March 1 and ending April 19 (we will not meet the Wednesday of Holy Week). The class will meet in person in Larkin Hall at **St. Thomas of Canterbury**. Please RSVP to the St. Thomas church office ([stlb47@verizon.net](mailto:stlb47@verizon.net)) if you plan to attend the class so we can have sufficient materials for all attendees.

**THURSDAYS IN LENT – Lenten Soup Supper and Stations of the Cross:** On each of the Thursdays in March (2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>), **St. Gregory’s** will host a soup supper beginning at **6:00 PM**. Following supper, we will have the opportunity to explore different versions of the Stations of the Cross. Note that a different version will be presented each week for your reflective experience. Also note that we will NOT be having a Soup Supper or Stations of the Cross on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> due to work being performed on our parking lot.

**FRIDAYS IN LENT – Stations of the Cross:** On each of the Fridays in Lent (February 24<sup>th</sup>; March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>), **St. Thomas of Canterbury** will host Stations of the Cross at **12:00 Noon**.

**DAILY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL – *Living Well Through Lent 2023: Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*** has daily reflections on the subject of compassion. Copies are available on the Parish Hall Information Table. If you prefer a PDF version, you can download it from the parish website at <https://stgregoryschurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Living-Well-Through-Lent-2023.pdf>.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Roamin' Gregorians March Gathering:** Our next event will take place at St. Gregory's on Sunday, March 19 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Museum of Latin American Art, located at 628 Alamitos Avenue, in Long Beach. Carpooling will be available from church, as needed. We will visit the museum and discuss what we observe. Museum admission is \$20 for adults, \$16 for Seniors (65+ with ID), and free for Teens/Youth. The whole museum is wheelchair accessible. We will then visit a yet undisclosed eatery for some light afternoon fare, destination to be announced prior to the event. This outing is a chance to get to know other people from the congregation and community. This activity is open to all ages, and please feel free to bring friends. There is a sign-up sheet at the Greeters Table, so we can get an idea of how many people might like to attend. If you have other questions, please call Susan Mora (562) 531-1883 or (310) 894-0731.

**Music @ Four Special Events:** Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Organist David York will present a concert for your enjoyment. David is a friend of St. Gregory's and has accompanied our choir for special services in the past and he currently conducts the choir at St. George's Episcopal Church in Laguna Hills. On Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, our guest will be harpist Ellie Choate. Many of you will remember her from her previous Music @ Four presentations, and we are thrilled to have her back again. As always, a grand reception will be held in the fellowship hall following each concert. See you there!

**"Could you not watch one hour with me?"** We plan to have our usual vigil at the Altar of Repose from 9:00 PM Maundy Thursday until 10:00 AM on Good Friday in the St. Thomas sanctuary. You are invited to spend an hour (or however much time you have) in prayer and meditation, suspended in time between the arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and the crucifixion. There is a signup sheet in the St. Thomas narthex, and you can also sign up by emailing the St. Thomas office at [stlb47@verizon.net](mailto:stlb47@verizon.net). Please sign up by April 2, so that we can adjust and publish the schedule according to how many people sign up. We need at least two people in the church at all times, for safety's sake. If you have any questions, please email the St. Thomas office.

**Calling All Party Animals:** Do you enjoy planning events? Bringing people together for fun and fellowship? Then the **Parish Life Committee** needs you! We are in search of volunteers to assist with events and activities such as the children's Easter egg hunt, our annual parish picnic and our annual Christmas dinner, as well as other fun activities we are planning. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact Jane Alt at 562-429-1425 or email [jalt1950@gmail.com](mailto:jalt1950@gmail.com).

**Long Beach MSC Homeless Project:** For people experiencing homelessness or having trouble making ends meet, a token of kindness and support can create hope. St. Gregory's first Outreach Opportunity of the year will provide items needed by the Long Beach Multi-Service Center to support our homeless community with their daily personal needs. MSC also collects items to support their pets too. This collection project begins Sunday March 5 and completes on April 2. You can donate using an Amazon gift list or see the flyer for specifics. Amazon does

NOT deliver to the MSC so bring all your donations to the Church for collection and delivery. Please see the flyer on page 23 of this bulletin for specifics.

**Episcopal News Updates:** The Diocese provides weekly email updates to help you keep informed about what's happening all over our six-county diocese. If you want to receive the Episcopal News, visit <https://diocesela.org/episcopal-news/contact/> and enter your email address in the box provided.

**Earthquake Relief for Turkey and Syria:** Episcopal Relief & Development, an institution of The Episcopal Church, provides assistance and relief in disaster situations. They have established a fund to provide relief for the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. You can make donations through the Episcopal Relief & Development website at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/give/donate-now/individual-donation/>.

**Memorial Children's Hospital Birthday Party:** Children who find themselves in the hospital on their birthday are really brightened and grateful when the Auxiliary team gives them a birthday party with a gift. A few of our parishioners are members of the Auxiliary and are asking for donations of new unwrapped gifts for all ages. We will be collecting on the 2nd Sunday of each month. See Shirley DeMent if you have any questions.

**Feed My Lambs and Food Bank:** Here's the latest news on our parish feeding programs.

- **Feed My Lambs** has the following needs: 100 hardboiled eggs; homemade cookies
  - **Homemade cookies** can be brought to church on any Sunday, in ziplock freezer bags labeled "Feed My Lambs," to the kitchen.
  - **Wednesday, March 29 from Noon to 3:00 PM** you can deliver to the office:
    - Hardboiled Eggs
    - Homemade Cookies
  - **Thursday, March 30 until 11:00 AM** you can deliver to the kitchen:
    - Homemade Cookies
    - Hardboiled Eggs
  - **Friday, March 31 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM** you can deliver to the kitchen:
    - Hardboiled Eggs
  - **Our Guests always need white athletic socks and belts!** Which you can put in the Feed My Lambs bin outside the church on any Sunday.
  - **Volunteers** – We have plenty of volunteers! Thanks for all your support!!!

If you have questions about helping out with Feed My Lambs or dropping off items, contact Tamera Benedict at ([tlbenedict4@gmail.com](mailto:tlbenedict4@gmail.com), 562.301.6800).

- **Food Bank** has the following needs:
  - **Volunteers** – We need volunteers to assist with the Food Bank distribution on the THIRD Wednesday of the month between 9:00 and 11:00 AM.  
Please contact Kevin at the Parish Office ([info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com), 562.420.1311) for more information about the Food Bank.

Your continued support of our feeding ministries, through product and monetary contributions, is greatly appreciated!

**Gratitude for Your Support of the Parish:** We continue to be humbled and so incredibly grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish and its ministries! While you may not be able to drop your donation in a real offering plate, there are still ways you can make sure your donation gets to the parish:

- You can mail your check to the parish office.
- Make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at <http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/>.
- Scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

**Parish Directory:** Our online parish directory is at <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>.

This is a secure site and can be accessed using the email address you had published in the parish directory. You can also download the “Instant Church Directory” on your smart phone. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, iPad, and Kindle.

**One Body & One Spirit Annual Appeal:** The Diocese has established an ongoing campaign focused on raising funds to assist congregations, schools, affiliated institutions, and their communities who are faced with unprecedented challenges. We are invited to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in our Diocese who may have unmet needs. More information is available at <https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/>.

**Forward Day By Day:** For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions, contact Kevin at 562-420-1311 or [info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com).

**In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest!** With our combined ministry program with St. Thomas of Canterbury comes additional coverage for pastoral emergencies. In the event of a hospital stay, illness, death in the family, or other pastoral emergency, please call Father Michael on his cell phone (909-373-6478) any day except Monday, his Sabbath day. Mother Sharon (562-833-3393) covers emergencies in both communities on Monday, just as Father Michael covers emergencies in both parishes on Friday, Mother Sharon’s Sabbath. And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother me. That’s why we are here – for YOU!

## ***PRAYER LIST***

Lydia Gibbs, Suzan Laverty, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, Patrick McDonough, Mike Laverty, Michael S., Kim White, Ruth McClune, Bob Gergen, Grace Stinson, Barbara Smuck, Mother Beryl, Kathryn Courtney, Eric Graham, Walt Gupton, Linda Elliott, Scott Morgan, Barbara Graham, Helen Cleveland, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Sandy McCormack, Rosy Ixco, Harold Peacock, Bruce Graham, Heather Simundson, Jane Alt, Rudy Revell, Jared Baker, Gayle Reidy, Anne Gergen, Marguerite Fincher, Kimberly Bouzguenda, Richard Alt, Shannon Romano, Nathan Southwick, Ralph Tesla, Danny Kimball, Betty Lang, Anne Cantrell, Lincoln Dych, Ellie, Karen McDonough, Dodie Martin, Jason Olson, Diane Duacsek, Miyako Hostetter, Bridget Comer, Marilyn Finney, Kathy Stein, Julie Hopkins, and Richard Sanchez

*Note: Unless we are aware of on-going concerns, names only stay on the Parish Prayer List for a month. If names need to be re-added, please notify the Parish Office.*

## LONG BEACH MULTI-SERVICE CENTER – Homeless Program

### PHYSICAL DONATIONS

For people experiencing homelessness or having trouble making ends meet, a token of kindness and support can create hope. Items that are appropriate and needed for the Multi-Service Center are below.

- Create a hygiene kit from this the list at  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1LAXM990WEHEG?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1LAXM990WEHEG?ref_=wl_share)

Or

Go to [longbeach.gov/homelessness](http://longbeach.gov/homelessness)  
Select Volunteer, Donate, & Get Involved  
Select Physical Donations

Or

Collect your own items from this list:

Shampoo  
Feminine Pads Tampons  
Deodorant/Antiperspirant  
Tooth brush  
Toothpaste  
Disposable Razors

- Donate pet care kits with things like pet treats, collars, leashes, pet toys or collapsible pet bowls.

**Please bring all your donations to the Church for delivery to the Multi-Service Center.**

**Thank you for your generosity in helping our homeless sisters and brother!**



# ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815  
562-420-1311 [WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM](http://WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM)

## **WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!**

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions, many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

## **ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT**

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

To worship and glorify God  
To transform faith into action  
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend John Harvey Taylor  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector  
562-420-1311  
[rector@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:rector@stgregoryschurch.com)

David J. Feit-Pretzer, Director of Music  
714-899-1902

Kevin Wood, Parish Administrator  
562-420-1311  
[info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com)

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Tuesday – Thursday  
[www.stgregoryschurch.com](http://www.stgregoryschurch.com)