

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



President:

Rev'd Jonathan Chamberlain

Vicar

Deacon and Preacher:

Rev'd Chester Lord

Assistant Priest

Organist:

Andrew Kerr

5 March 2023
Sung Holy Eucharist

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

Now is the healing time decreed
for sins of heart and word and deed,
when we in humble fear record
the wrong that we have done the Lord.

(Latin, before 12th century)

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. *Gloria in excelsis* is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Sixth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday. There are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week outside the set liturgy. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the best known.

Please switch off all mobile phones.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

OPENING HYMN

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2 Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey
his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

3 Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then you shall better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow, calm your fears.
Be still, my soul: for Jesus can restore
the trust and hope that strengthened you before.

4 Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,

all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

The presiding priest greets all in the name of the Lord.

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The deacon says the sentence of the day.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (Jn 3.16)

The deacon introduces the prayer of preparation.

Let us pray:

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden:

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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The deacon introduces the Two Great Commandments:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

The deacon introduces the prayer of confession.

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Silence is kept.

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

**Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The presiding priest pronounces the absolution.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The kyrie is sung:

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The presiding priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

Let us pray together the Collect of the Day.

Silence is kept.

God of mercy,

**You are full of tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger, rich in mercy,
and always ready to forgive:
grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ,
that in every way we may prove to be your loving children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit.

FIRST READING

The Call of Abram

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Gen 12:1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him

For the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

PSALM 121

1. I lift up my eyes to the hills:
 where will my help come from?
2. My help comes from the LORD:
 who made heaven and earth.
3. He will not let your foot be moved:
 he who keeps you will not slumber.
4. He who keeps Israel:
 will neither slumber nor sleep.
5. The LORD is your keeper:

- the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
6. The sun shall not strike you by day:
nor the moon by night.
 7. The LORD will keep you from all evil:
he will keep your life.
 8. The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in:
from this time on and for evermore.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

Rom 4:1-5, 13-17

The Example of Abraham

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

God’s Promise Realized through Faith

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.

For the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

1 A new heart, Lord, create in me,
a heart from sin and guilt set free;
O close the gate and guard the door,
that sin may enter in no more.

2 To you my soul I open wide;
come, Jesus, and in me abide,
and from the temple of my heart
make all unrighteousness depart.

3 O let your Holy Spirit's light,
with all your heavenly radiance bright,
flow through my spirit like a flood,
eternal source of every good.

4 Thus to my cleansed and contrite heart
your heavenly riches, Lord, impart,
so that your wisdom, truth, and grace
may make my heart a fruitful place.

5 Then I will tell in grateful song
the praises that to you belong;
my joy will be, my whole life through,
to consecrate myself to you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & READING

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

No one can see the kingdom of God
without being born from above.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John. *Jn 3.1-17*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?’

‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon Rev'd Chester Lord

THE CREED

The deacon introduces the Nicene Creed.

Let us together affirm the faith of the church.

Please stand.

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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

Please kneel or sit.

The deacon introduces the prayers of the people.

Let us pray for the church and for the world.

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church ...
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel
to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For those preparing for baptism and confirmation ...
and for their teachers and sponsors,
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For peace in the world ...
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow
among nations and peoples,
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer ...
for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;
that they may be relieved and protected,
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

In communion with all those
who have walked in the way of holiness ...
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For..

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

God our Father,
in your love and goodness
you have taught us to come close to you in penitence
with prayer, fasting and generosity;
accept our Lenten discipline,
and when we fall by our weakness,
raise us up by your unfailing mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Please stand.

The priest says

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

(Romans 5.1, 2)

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending,
Swell the sound of this refrain:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in awesome majesty;
Those who have betrayed and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply shamed before him, deeply shamed before him,
deeply shamed before him.
Shall the true Messiah see.

3. The dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears;
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshippers;
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, Amen! let all adore you,
High on your eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for your own;
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come.

The priest prays

God of wisdom,
may the light of your eternal Word,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

lead us in holiness and guide us to glory;
we ask this in his name.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

He was tempted in every way as we are,
yet he did not sin.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

By his grace we are able
to triumph over every evil,

and to walk in the way of his love.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.

... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

... in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The priest says

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

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

The priest breaks the bread.

We who are many are one body,
All: for we all share in the one bread.

The Agnus Dei is sung.

The holy gifts of God for the holy people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Holy communion will be served at the altar rail. Please kneel or stand.

All who are baptised, of all Christian denominations, are welcome to receive Holy Communion here at Saint Peter's. This includes children from the age of 6 at the discretion of their parents. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate this to the priest, by the crossing of the arms on the chest.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Silence is kept.

The post communion prayer.

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son to be for us
both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of godly life:
give us grace
that we may always most thankfully receive
these his inestimable gifts,
and also daily endeavour
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Announcements.

DISMISSAL HYMN

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

4. Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

5. Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

The presiding priest pronounces the Blessing.

May God the Father,
who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to you a contrite heart.

Amen.

May Christ,
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,

heal you by his wounds.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The deacon says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.