



SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

23 March 2025

MORNING PRAYER & LOW MASS AT 8AM

MORNING PRAYER

¶ The Officiant may begin with a sentence of Scripture.

THE INVITATORY

Officiant O Lord, ✠ open thou our lips.

People And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

VENITE

Psalm 95

Antiphon: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

O come, let us adore him.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; :
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, :

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth, :

and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it, :

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, :

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God, :

and we are the people of his pasture

and the sheep of his hand.

Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts :

as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;
When your fathers tempted me, :
proved me, and saw my works.
Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, :
It is a people that do err in their hearts,
for they have not known my ways.
Unto whom I swear in my wrath, :
that they should not enter into my rest.

Antiphon: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:
O come, let us adore him.

PSALM 103:1-11 *Benedic, anima mea* **J** *Read responsively by whole verse.*

Praise the LORD O my soul :
and all that is within me praise his holy Name.
Praise the LORD, O my soul :
and forget not all his benefits;
Who forgiveth all thy sin :
and healeth all thine infirmities;
Who saveth thy life from destruction :
and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;
Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things :
making thee young and lusty as an eagle.
The LORD executeth righteousness and judgement :
for all them that are oppressed with wrong.
He shewed his ways unto Moses :
his works unto the children of Israel.
The LORD is full of compassion and mercy :
long-suffering, and of great goodness.
He will not always be chiding :
neither keepeth he his anger for ever.
He hath not dealt with us after our sins :
nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.
For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth :
so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Mid'ian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey." Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': this is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTUS ES, DOMINE *¶ All stand.*

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; :
praised and exalted above all for ever.

**Blessed art thou for the name of thy Majesty; :
 praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; :
 praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,
 and dwellest between the Cherubim; :
 praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; :
 praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; :
 praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; :
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

THE SUFFRAGES

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy Spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

℣. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

℟. **And grant us thy salvation.**

℣. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

℟. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

℣. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

℟. **For only in thee can we live in safety.**

℣. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

℟. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

℣. Let thy way be known upon earth;

℟. **Thy saving health among all nations.**

℣. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

℟. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

℣. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

℟. **And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.**

A COLLECT FOR LENT

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those 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 thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Intercession Paper for the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament

Intercession Paper for the Guild of All Souls

May their souls, ✠ and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

CONCLUDING VERSICLES

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy Spirit.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The grace ☩ of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

LOW MASS

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Bless the ☩ Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People **His mercy endureth for ever.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.** Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison. Christe eleison. **Christe eleison.**
Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.** Kyrie eleison.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Iwant you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same supernatural food and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless with most of them God was not pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things are warnings for us, not to

desire evil as they did. We must not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents; nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

There were some who told Jesus of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Silo'am fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev'd Fr. Michael Pearson

NICENE CREED *¶ Said by all, standing*

I believe in one God,

**the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,**

begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father;
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation
 came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, | *(Genuflect or bow)*
and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered and was buried;
 and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
 and ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
 and he shall come again, with glory,
 to judge both the quick and the dead;
 whose kingdom shall have no end.
 And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
 who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
 who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic
 Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

g Celebrant

Let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

✠. Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.

✠. Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

✠. Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord.

✠. Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died ✠ in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, have mercy.

℟ Celebrant

O Lord Jesus Christ, engrave upon our hearts the awe of thy Passion and the image of thy Cross, to soften our bitternesses, to quell our complaints, to hearten us in our duties, and to brighten our hope; for thine honor who livest and reignest in the glory of the eternal Trinity, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

℟ Celebrant

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

℟ Said by all, kneeling

Almighty God, **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION **℟ The Celebrant stands and says**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon ✠ and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

OFFERTORY PRAYERS *¶ All sit.*

Celebrant Blessed art thou, Lord God of all creation; through thy goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth hath given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant Blessed art thou, Lord God of all creation; through thy goodness we have this wine to offer: fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

ORATE, FRATRES *¶ All stand.*

Celebrant Pray, brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People **May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.**

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed ✠ is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER ¶ *All kneel.*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat,

THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.
Do this in remembrance of me."



Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this;

FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD,
OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU,
AND FOR MANY, FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."



Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace ☩ and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his Blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: ECCE AGNUS DEI

Celebrant Behold ☩ the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

People Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof:
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please come forward to the altar rail. If you are unable to come forward, communion can be brought to you. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Eucharist at the Lord's Table. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms over your chest). If you have not been baptized and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let one of our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER ¶ *All kneel.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

Look mercifully on this thy family, Almighty God, that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL ¶ *Please stand.*

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.