

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021 – 9:30 AM
The Holy Eucharist – Contemporary Service



Christ Carrying the Cross by Titian – 1560

919 Tennis Ave
Maple Glen, PA 19002
215-646-4092
saintmattsec.org
Rev. Rodney Roehner

Prelude

With All Faith

by Don Harris

Celebrant ✠ Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures forever.**

The Celebrant continues with the Collect of Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lessons *Please be seated*

Old Testament

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an

everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:22-30 (read responsively by whole verse)

- 22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.**
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"**
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.**
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

New Testament

Romans 4:13-25

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. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

Great Love

by Robin Mark

Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

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

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

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon (*seated*)

Rev. Rodney Roehner

Song of Faith

We Believe

by Newsboys

The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Daniel our bishop, Rodney our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Joseph our President, Thomas our Governor, and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Terry, Carol, Edward, Dick, Karen, Lou, June, Margaret, Constance, Priscilla, Bob, Kathy, Cornelia, Joe, Jeryl, Eileen and all those with the coronavirus;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially remembering David Lightkep and Mark Ermigiotti who died this past week.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Matthew, our patron, and all your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray for our church family and preschool; for all first responders, health care workers, law enforcement, and those who serve our nation in the armed forces, especially Steven, and their families; for those celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries. We also pray for the protection of persecuted Christians throughout the world, and that all may come to the knowledge and love of Christ. I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

General Confession

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **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.**

Celebrant 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 Peace *(all stand)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory

Mind Set on Jesus

by Mavis Staples

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant continues

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 in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto 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:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

by Larry Hampton

The Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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 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 the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Anthem

Blessing and Honor

by Terry MacAlmon

The Celebrant then faces the People while elevating the Sacrament and says

✠ The Gifts of God for the people of God.

Spiritual Communion – *for those watching online*

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of the Church where your Blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my soul. I unite myself unto you, and embrace you with all the affections of my heart. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your Love. Amen.

Communion Hymn *Amazing Love, (You Are My King)* **by Billy James Foote**

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant says the following blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the

blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Service Hymn

Blessed Be Your Name

by Matt Redman

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Lent at St. Matthew's

Weekly Schedule (program details below the schedule)

Monday: 7:30 p.m.: Bible Study on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 910-1184-9622 (3/1 & 3/15)

Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.: Prayer & Share Gathering on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 913-5830-9441

Wednesday: 12:00 p.m.: Noonday Prayer & Lunch on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 943-8248-6248
6:00 p.m.: Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary, in-person only. *

Thursday: 9:00 a.m.: Morning Prayer on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 923-4782-3061
7:00 p.m.: Living the Lord's Prayer study group on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 989-3231-9987 (This week: Chapters 3 & 4, Who art in heaven & Hallowed be thy name)

Friday: 7:00 p.m.: Stations of the Cross on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 939-2242-4572

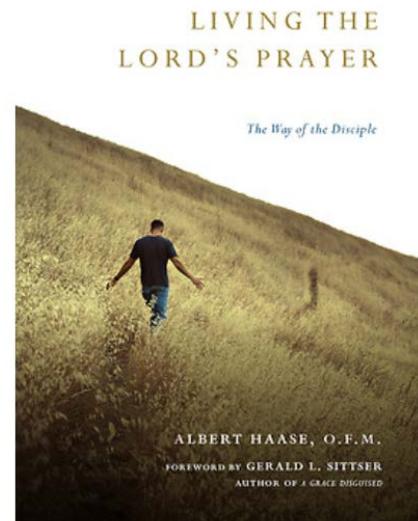
Sunday: 8:00 a.m.: The Holy Eucharist, Rite I Service (In-Person and [Livestream](#))*
9:30 a.m.: The Holy Eucharist, Contemporary Service (In-Person and [Livestream](#)) *
11:00 a.m.: Adult Lifelong Learning Forum, on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 983-7665-6289

* Registration required: register [here](#)

Thursdays, starting February 25 @ 7:00 p.m.

What does it mean to live what you pray? When you pray the Lord's prayer have you often thought about what the words really mean?

Join us in reading the book Living the Lord's Prayer: The Way of the Disciple by Albert Haase, OFM. Father Haase teaches us to think about the words we pray and the meaning our prayers have for our spiritual formation and daily lives. Starting February 25th, we will begin a five-week session from 7 pm to no later than 8:30 pm via [Zoom](#). The book is available at Amazon. If you cannot purchase the book, but would like to attend, please contact the church office at 215-646-4092. Please consider joining us for this Lenten opportunity.



Fridays, starting February 19 @ 7:00 p.m., Stations of the Cross via Zoom

Sundays, 11:00 a.m., Adult Lifelong Learning Forum

Sundays in Lent we will take a video pilgrimage together through the Holy Land. Offered by Saint George's College, Jerusalem, The Holy Land video series invites one to experience the beauty, wonder and inspiration of this most sacred region. You can view each week's video at your convenience at any point in the week, and then join us on Sundays via [Zoom](#) for conversation and fellowship. The first video in our series is titled: 'A River Through The Desert,' and will be released for viewing on February 15th. Our first Lenten forum will begin on Sunday, February 21 at 11:00 am. We look forward to our Journey with Christ together with you!

Jon Clark & Karen Randall, Adult LLL Leaders

Communion Under Special Circumstances

Fr. Rodney will now be offering "Communion under Special Circumstances," which is based on the version found on pgs. 396-399 of the BCP. It is a brief

service that enables those who are not ready to return to in-person worship to still come to church and receive Holy Communion. Things to know: this service is only between you and Fr. Rodney, all are masked, you will take the host as Fr. Rodney says the appropriate words, and it takes no longer than five minutes. Please contact Fr. Rodney at rector@saintmattsec.org to make an appointment or ask further questions. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please click the video link...

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Teenage Prayer Experiment

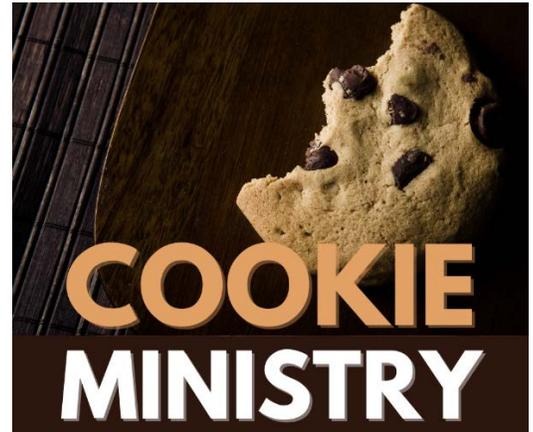
What do you already know about prayer? Has the practice ever been helpful for you? I wonder . . . might there be different ways for us to connect with God than we're used to? Join the members of our Youth Group as we work through a series of ongoing *experiments* titled, **The Teenage Prayer Experiment**. Each chapter of the book introduces a prayer practice (using labyrinths, Lego Bible modelling, prayer beads, prayer walking) and includes comments by youth who have tried out the experiments for themselves. Of course there is space for you to record your own thoughts. Email Anthony at anthony@saintmattsec.org to reserve your free copy for personal use, and for discussion in monthly Youth Group meetings.

Youth Group Schedule: First Mondays

Youth Group is our monthly programming offering for both middle school and high school students. Join us on the first Monday evening of each month for games, fun, fellowship, projects, and lively discussions about our faith. Our next meeting will occur on March 1st, 2021 at 6:00 PM, where we will check in, have fun, and continue our Lenten discussion about Prayer and Almsgiving. We are hoping to make Youth Group a bimonthly offering, and to make a transition toward outdoor meetings at Saint Matt's in late March or early April. See you on Zoom at 6:00 PM tomorrow! <https://zoom.us/j/91363746529>

REACHING OUT WITH A LITTLE SWEET LOVE

Thank you to our volunteer bakers and drivers who enthusiastically responded to our call! Inspired by Bishop Daniel, we will be delivering batches of fresh-baked cookies to our senior parishioners, and others throughout the month of March. All volunteer spots have been filled, but stayed tuned in the future for similar volunteer opportunities. If you have any questions about the Cookie Ministry, please contact Connie Dee (conniedee711@gmail.com) or Treva McLaughlin (trevajohn@comcast.net).



Church Office

Please note that the church office is **CLOSED** on **Mondays**. On the other weekdays, you can reach someone by phone (215.646.4092, press #1 for the Parish Manager) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you need to stop by the church for any reason, please call first to arrange a time, or to make sure that someone is on site to let you in. Thank you!