



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Christ-Centered Community of Practice Awaking to the Abiding Presence of God

March 23, 2025

The Third Sunday in Lent

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

"Largo"

Elizabeth Stirling

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the Announcements, a period of silence is kept.

SILENT PROCESSION

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

LENTEN CHANT

Attende Domine



At-ten-de, Do-mi-ne, et mi - se - re - re, qui - a pec - ca - vi - mus Ti - bi.

The Celebrant reads a short verse scripture.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Celebrant and People together, kneeling or standing, if able.

Most holy and merciful God:

We confess to you and to one another,

and to the whole communion of saints

in heaven and on earth,

that we have sinned by our own fault

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, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been

forgiven.

Celebrant: Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our dissatisfaction with our own lives, and our anger at those whose lives we envy,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste, over-consumption and exploitation of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

THE ABSOLUTION

May the God of all mercy forgive you, draw you forth into life and peace, and make real the hope that we, and all creation, be released from bondage and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

The Hymnal, 487



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes _____ his guest.
part; such a heart as joys _____ in love.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.. **Amen.**

WE PROCLAIM AND RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 3: 1-15

Following the Lesson...

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 63: 1-8



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

Following the Lesson...

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

THE GRADUAL HYMN

The Hymnal, 685

Hymn is printed on the following page.

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,
3 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,
all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;
when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou-ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), alt. Music: Toplady, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872).

Preceding the Gospel...

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 13: 1-9

Following the Gospel...

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend adwoa Wilson

After the sermon a period of silence is kept.

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:
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 worshiped 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

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S CREATION, FOR THE WORLD, AND FOR THE CHURCH

The Leader bids us to pray for the sick and suffering, for those who have asked for our prayer, for those who rejoice in life events and for those who have died.

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.
People: Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER

ANTHEM

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

arr. William Dawson

All stand to sing

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Hymnal, 152

Hymn is printed on next page.

1 Kind Ma - ker of the world, O hear the fer - vent
2 Each heart is man - i - fest to thee; thou know - est
3 Spare us, O Lord, who now con - fess our sins and
4 Give us the dis - ci - pline that springs from ab - sti -
5 Grant, O thou bless - ed Trin - i - ty; grant, O un -

1 prayer, with man - y a tear poured forth by all the
2 our in - fir - mi - ty; now we re - pent, and
3 all our wick - ed - ness, and, for the glo - ry
4 nence in out - ward things with in - ward fast - ing,
5 chang - ing Un - i - ty; that this our fast of

1 pen - i - tent who keep this ho - ly fast of Lent!
2 seek thy face; grant un - to us thy par - doning grace.
3 of thy Name, our weak - ened souls to health re - claim.
4 so that we in heart and soul may dwell with thee.
5 for - ty days may work our pro - fit and thy praise!

Words: St. Gregory the Great (540-604); ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *A la venue de Noël*, melody from *Fleurs des noëls*, 1535.

OFFERING

During the hymn, ushers pass the offering plates. Representatives from the parish bring the people's offerings of food for the hungry, bread and wine for the Eucharist, and money for mission and ministry to the Altar. You may also make a donation online at www.stmichaelsvermont.org under "Give" & "Give Online." Our ministry at St. Michael's depends on your generosity. Please consider making a donation or a pledge.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them to the Lord.

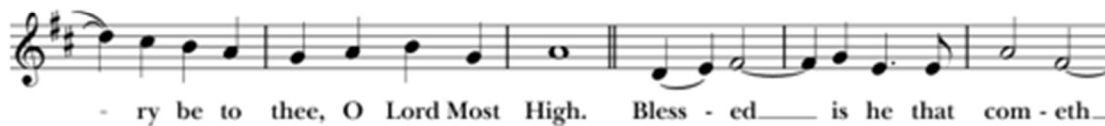
Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

People

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Presider praises God for God's creation and love. Then all sing the Sanctus together:



Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Presider asks the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and the wine to be God's holy food.

Now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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.

BREAD IS BROKEN

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

Celebrant: Come all you who hunger and thirst, come and eat, come and drink.

BREAD AND WINE ARE SHARED

Invitation to Receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion

At St. Michael's, we believe that God's love is unconditional. We welcome all people and we affirm the worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a beloved child of God. In our celebration of the Eucharist, there is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. This is the table of a loving God set for all creation through the power of Jesus Christ. You, who are part of that creation, are welcome.

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. If you would like either, please indicate that preference to the liturgical minister.

Receive the Bread in your open palm followed by the Common Cup, taking the cup by its base and guiding it to your lips. You may also receive the Bread only, with arms folded over your chest afterwards. Or if you wish to come to the Altar for a blessing only, please fold your arms over your chest.

Invitation to Receive Healing Prayer

A healing minister will be available in the Chapel following the 8 AM service, and during Communion during the 10:15 service. A healing minister will offer prayers, the laying on of hands, and anointing with consecrated oil. You can come for yourself, for another person, for a need, or for a thanksgiving; all prayers are confidential. Please ask ushers for assistance if you have questions.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us
in these holy mysteries,
with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood
of our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us that we are very members
incorporate in the mystical body of Christ,
and are heirs, through hope, of your everlasting kingdom.
Assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the
Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT AND GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

LENTEN PRAYER

HYMN

The Hymnal, 648

Hymn is printed on next page.

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo-ple go;
 2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;
 3 They jour-neyed on at his com - mand, let my peo-ple go;
 4 Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, let my peo-ple go;

op - pressed so hard they — could not stand, let my peo-ple go.
 to lead the chil - dren of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.
 and came at length to — Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.
 and let us all in — Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.

Refrain

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land;

tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: *Go Down, Moses*, Afro-American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935).
 Arrangement Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

DISMISSAL

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Cornet Voluntary"

George Berg

PARTICIPANTS TODAY

10: 15 *The Rev. adwao Wilson*, preacher; *The Rev. Mary Lindquist* celebrant; *The Rev. Lars Hunter*, Deacon; *Annie Landenberger*, lay assistant; *Brian Morgan* and *David Treadwell*, readers and element bearers; *Laura Frey*, intercessor; *Craig Irvine*, chalice; *Robin Manning & David Baxendale*, ushers; *Sher Wilson*, healing minister; ; *Rebecca Olmstead* and *Lindsey Boss*, Altar Guild *Imogene Drake*, *MJ Woodburn*, and *Vince Johnson*, coffee hour hosts.

At St. Michael's we believe that God's love is unconditional. We welcome all people and we affirm the worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a beloved child of God.

All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

- **WELCOME TO VISITORS!** All are welcome at this table. If you have any questions about the liturgy, location of the bathrooms, or anything else, please ask one of the ushers or greeters. Thank you for joining us today.
- **TO RECEIVE THE RITE OF HEALING:** Trained lay healing ministers are available in the chapel to pray with you individually before or after you receive communion. A healing minister will say prayers, lay her or his hands upon you, and anoint you with consecrated oil. You can come for yourself, for another person, for a need or for a thanksgiving. Please ask ushers for assistance if you have questions.
- **GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AND GRAPE JUICE** are available for Communion at both 8:00 am and 10:15 services. Please make yourselves known to the priest when you come up for Communion.
- **CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!** There are clipboards with paper and crayons, as well as activity bags with coloring books at the back of the Sanctuary for children who are interested in coloring or drawing during the service. Feel free to come in and out of the worship area as needed with your children! Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

ST. MICHAEL'S WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Morning Prayer, 8-8:30 am, Monday-Friday, on Zoom, Tuesday-Thursday in-person the Chapel
 Bible Study, 8:30-10 am, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays at The Works, Main St, Brattleboro
 Centering Prayer, 11:30-11:55 am, Wednesday in the Chapel
 Centering Prayer, 4-5 pm, Wednesday in the Chapel
 Eucharist with the Saints, 12 noon-12:30, Wednesday in the Chapel
 Contemplative Worship, 5:30-6:00 pm, Thursday in the Chapel, in-person and on Zoom
 Centering Prayer, 8 am, Saturday in the Chapel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to *James Wilmott, Joan Pinilla, Margery McCrum, Sherill Wilson*, Monday; *Kate LeBlanc*, Tuesday; *Tom Woodbury* and *Elizabeth Moore*, Friday.

ADULT FORUM TODAY: The Forum meets on Sunday morning from 9-10 in the Meeting Room. All are welcome to join in the learning opportunity. **THROUGHOUT LENT:** This Lent, we are focusing on the Lord's Prayer, the most universally prayed of all the Christian prayers. Each Sunday we will explore one line of the prayer. Five different discussion leaders will bring their own perspectives and offer time for reflection and discussion.

- **Today**, Lent 3: Give us this day our daily bread - Craig Irvine
- **March 30**, Lent 4: Forgive us our sins - Phillip Wilson
- **April 5**, Lent 5: Deliver us from evil - adwoa Wilson

'RESPONDING IN FAITH'

The Responding in Faith group will meet Sunday at noon in the Meeting Room to continue exploring our responses to the current political conditions with special concern to those threatened by policy changes and actions. We will continue to investigate both the origins of the thinking and the opportunities for action, corporate and personal. See Thursday's eNews for more details.

EASTER FLOWERS

Beginning today, there forms available with in-person bulletins for those who wish to donate to the flowers for our parish's celebration of Easter. If you will not be in church to get your hands on a form but do want to offer a donation, please let Susie know in the church office (parishadmin@stmichaelsvermont.org).

Acknowledgement of your gifts will go in the Easter Sunday bulletin in these categories:

- A gift to the glory of God
- In thanksgiving for one or more people
- In memory of one or more people
- No notation, and anonymity about the donor

If you email Susie, please include your name, the amount you intend to give, and the notation you'd like in the bulletin.

A LENTEN RESOURCE is available again this year through adwoa's emerging ministry: The Communities for Spiritual Vitality. This year's devotional is on the prophet Isaiah and includes reflections from people in every New England state, including from St. Michael's. You can view and download the devotional, as well as learn more about this ministry on its new website: www.communitiesforspiritualvitality.org

HOLY WEEK PICK-UP CHOIR

For Holy Week, we sing special chants and hymns for the triduum services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil). We hope many of you will help learn the chants & hymns so that we can have strong singing at the Holy Week services. Rehearsals will take place on **Sunday, March 30 and April 6 at 12pm** with Keane Southard in the Choir Room. All are welcome!

ST. MICHAEL'S LITURGY TRAINING for USHERS

Congregants who want to serve us as Ushers on Sunday mornings are invited to a special session of liturgy practice next Saturday at 9:30. This training will take less than an hour.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

8 am Holy Eucharist

(9–10 am Coffee Hour)

10 am Gather outside for our Palm Sunday Parade

10:15 am Holy Eucharist & Procession with Palms

MONDAY-THURSDAY

12-12:30 pm Contemplative Eucharist in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

12 pm Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm Tenebrae Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17

7 pm Maundy Thursday Service

8 pm Nightwatch

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

12 noon Proper liturgy for Good Friday (no music or veneration of the cross)

7:00 pm Proper liturgy for Good Friday with veneration of the cross

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19

9-9:30 am Holy Saturday liturgy

7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter (gather outdoors), followed by a celebratory reception

SUNDAY, EASTER DAY, APRIL 20

8 am Holy Eucharist

10:15 am Festival Holy Eucharist

For descriptions of services, please see the Holy Week page on our website:

<https://www.stmichaels-vt.org/holy-week-page/>

TAG SALE NEWS

The following donations for the Church's May 3 Terrific Tag Sale are welcome until the middle of April. Please bring any of the following donations as soon as possible: clothing and shoes, linens, housewares, books (NO TEXTBOOKS!), puzzles and jewelry. All items should be clean and in good condition. Please be sure to read our donation guidelines which were in the March "Guardian" and are also posted on the donation closet doors. Jewelry should go to Susie in the Church office for safe-keeping.

Furniture donations will begin on March 30. All furniture donations must be approved in advance. Please call Linda Rice at 802-275-2268 to discuss your donation items. You can bring your approved item/s to our storage in Brattleboro starting March 30, or we can arrange for a pickup if needed. [Note: we are not able to carry large or heavy furniture either up or down a flight of stairs.]

SKYBERRY HOUSE FOOD & THOUGHT SERIES

Fridays, 12-1:30 PM: Together we'll engage our hearts and over a simple lunch which will be provided. RSVP houseskyberry@gmail.com by the Thursday before the Friday you are interested in joining us for Food and Thought.

March 21: SEE: Social and Emotional Learning with Sandy Crawford Sandy Crawford is a veteran teacher and school administrator and is on the board of Jhamtse Gatsal, a school for orphans in the Indian Himalayas, which aspires to be a garden of love and compassion for our children and the world. Sandy is a longtime Buddhist practitioner.

March 28: Experiencing Life and Existence with All of our Senses, Earthly and Divine

EASTER EGG HUNT PREPARATION

It's time once again to prepare for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at St Michael's. You'll find the plastic Easter eggs in the Common Room; please take a bag home, fill the eggs, and return them by Easter Sunday. You can fill them with treats, candy, stickers, silly things, or coins—you decide what would make someone smile. (Note: We are very green. We reuse the plastic eggs year after year.) The hunt itself takes place after the 10:15 AM service on Easter Sunday, April 20.