

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 – 10:30am, March 10, 2024



St. Mark's Episcopal / Anglican Church

Fairland Parish

Rev. Dr. Christopher I. Wilkins, Rector

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

The Celebrant says:

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Please rise as our worship begins with (*the opening hymn*).

Opening Hymn: *Come, thou fount of every blessing*

Hymn #686

1. Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's unchanging love.

2. Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me

when a stranger wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee: prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Opening Rites and the Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. *Amen*

Celebrant: 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.*

Lord, have mercy: *Kyrie*

Hymnal #S-95

The Cantor will sing each line, and All will respond

Cantor: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Cantor: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Cantor: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

The Celebrant then says

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

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.*

The First Lesson

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: *Confitemini Domino*

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

The Choristers will chant the Psalm.

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

² Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

³ He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

¹⁷ Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.

¹⁸ They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

²⁰ He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

²² Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 2:1-10

² You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, ⁴but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were

dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *Amazing grace! how sweet the sound* Hymn #671 vss. 1-4

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

3. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Gospel

John 3:14-21

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “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.

¹⁷ “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. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: Look Up!

The Creed

Led by the LEM, the People say

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
The 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 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*.

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.*

The Prayers of the People

The LEM or Reader says

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

We pray for all God's people; for our bishops, our clergy, and this gathering, and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

We pray for peace; for goodwill among nations, for justice, and for the well-being of all.

Silence

We pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
We pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

We pray for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.
Pray that they may seek, and pray that they might find.

Silence

We pray for those who have lost their faith, or who have never known it. Pray that
God may open their minds, and grace move their hearts, to know and to follow
Christ's way of love.

Silence

We pray for the departed [*especially N.N.*]. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

We pray for those on our prayer list, and for those whose needs are known to
you alone.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Confession of Sin

The LEM or Minister appointed says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept. The People stand or kneel. The LEM or Minister leads the People as they say

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.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, alone stands and says

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.

Another Minister using the preceding form shall substitute “us” for “you” and “our” for “your.”

The Peace

The People stand.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you,

People: And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another at physical distance.

Choral Anthem: *Verleih uns Frieden* F. Mendelssohn/tr. K. Cameron

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich,
Herr Gott, zu unsern Zeiten!
Es ist doch ja kein andrer nicht,
der für uns könnte streiten
denn du, unser Gott alleinne.

Grant us peace, graciously,
lord God in our times.
There is indeed no other
that can fight for us,
than you, our God, alone.

A Deacon or Priest, the LEM, and acolytes prepares the altar and sanctuary for the Eucharist.

The Holy Eucharist: The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, 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 tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace may we triumph over every evil, and live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim your glory:

Sanctus

Bulletin insert from Wonder, Love and Praise

The Choristers lead the People as they sing:

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.

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." ‡

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it with them, saying: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory 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 whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN. ‡‡

Now, as Christ taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

The Celebrant leads the People as they 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, and then keeps a period of silence.

The Choristers lead the People in singing

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

Hymnal #S-163

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the people of God.

The People come forward to receive the gifts.

Communion Hymn: *My God, thy table now is spread* Hymn #321

1. My God, thy table now is spread,
thy cup with love doth overflow; be
all thy children thither led, and let
them thy sweet mercies know.

2. O let thy table honored be, and
furnished well with joyful guests: and
may each soul salvation see, that here
its sacred pledges tastes.

3. Drawn by thy quickening grace, O
Lord, in countless numbers let them
come and gather from their Father's
board the Bread that lives beyond
the tomb.

4. Nor let thy spreading Gospel rest
till through the world thy truth has
run, till with this Bread shall all be
blessed who see the light or feel the
sun.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *The Celebrant prays*

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.

Announcements

Announcements, if any, are made here.

Blessing and Dismissal

The Bishop, if present, or the Celebrant says

And now, may the Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God be with you as you go forth from this place to serve as Christ's hands and heart among all peoples. *Amen.*

Withdrawal Hymn: *How to teach the masses*

LEVAS 159

Refrain: Lift the precious savior up, Lift the precious savior up, Still He speaks from eternity: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, Will draw all men unto Me."

1. How to reach the masses, those of ev'ry birth, For an answer Jesus gave the key; "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, Will draw all men unto Me." *Refrain*

2. Oh! the world is hungry for the living bread, Lift the Savior up for them to see; Trust Him and do not doubt the words that He said, "I'll draw all men unto Me." *Refrain*

3. Don't exalt the preacher, don't exalt the pew, Preach the gospel simple, full and free; Prove Him and you will find that promise is true, "I'll draw all men unto Me." *Refrain*

4. Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought, Let the world in you the Savior see; Then all will gladly follow Him who once taught, "I'll draw all men unto Me." *Refrain*

The Altar Party and the People depart.

The LEM says

Let us go forth, in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Postlude

Please join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour and Fellowship.

Note on the Liturgy: During Advent and Lent, as part of those seasons' penitence and preparation, our liturgy changes slightly. The Lord's Prayer is not typically sung in these seasons, and the Fraction Anthem is most often a version of the *Agnus Dei*. "Alleluia" and the like are rarely said or sung during Advent, and not at all during Lent.

Musical Note: We thank Kelly Cameron, Baritone section leader, for the English translation of today's choral anthem. In addition to singing at St. Mark's Kelly is a Spanish teacher at Lakeland Park Middle School in Gaithersburg.

*Our services and events may be live-streamed and/or recorded. By entering the service/event premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for live streaming, promotional purposes, advertising, inclusion on web sites, and/or any other purpose by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. *

If you would prefer not to be shown on camera, please sit out of range of the video camera.

Readers and Cantors

1st Reader: Colleen Sampson

2nd Reader and LEM: Beth Walton

Intercessor: Olivia Lee

Cantor: Don Hague

St. Mark's Announcements

1. **Sunday Adult Study and Discussion:** in the Parish Hall and via Zoom, Sundays, 9:05-10:10 am. All are welcome. Please see Rev. Christopher for more information.

Our current topic of study: The 1st Book of Enoch and Other Pseudepigrapha.

Our next topic of study: Walter Rauschenbusch and the Social Gospel Movement.

2. **Monday Night Compline & Prayer Circle:** All are invited to meet on Monday evenings during Lent via Zoom from 8:00pm – 8:30pm, to pray together and develop renewing patterns of prayer. We are all called to pray. Yet it's not always easy to know how to do so. Anglican Prayer Beads and our *Book of Common Prayer* can help. See: <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/prayers-and-thanksgivings.php#bcp>. And the Daily Office prayers: <http://bcponline.org>. If you wish to receive the Zoom link, please sign up on the sign-up sheet located in the Narthex.
3. **Altar Flowers:** Beginning with Easter and through the season of Epiphany, you may sponsor the Altar Flowers for any Sunday or major feast day in memory of your loved ones, a birthday, an anniversary, or any other suitable occasion – or even just because. The sign-up book with details is in the church office or, on Sundays, in the narthex (at the back of the church). Please contact the office for more information or to support this part of our worship.
4. **Assisting with Worship and Other Ministries:** We welcome and encourage you to serve at either worship service as Lector (Reader), Intercessor, Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM), Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV), Acolyte, Usher, and Greeter. We also would welcome a new Head of Outreach, or a team of leaders, to lead this ministry, and new members to the Fellowship Committee, Counter Team, and Altar Guild. Please see Rev. Christopher if you would like to serve in any of these roles.
5. **Tending Our Soil:** Tending Our Soil is putting together a small team to take input from the congregation and public on the “Welcoming Children” project and then design it. This project should take fewer than 90 days. To express interest, please contact Beth Walton in person or by texting 240-461-1647.
6. **Bag Lunches for Elizabeth House:** On the 3rd Sunday of each month (March 17, 2024), following the 8:00am service, St. Mark's Outreach ministry makes bag lunches for those in need at Elizabeth House. St. Mark's is looking for volunteers to help make these bag lunches. Please contact Linda Toran or the office if you would like to volunteer.
7. **Coffee Hour Hosting:** Please consider helping to host the *Coffee Hour* following the 10:30 service. Help is needed with setup, cleanup, and purchasing. There is a sign-up notebook located on the wall beside the coffee pot in the Parish Hall. The notebook includes instructions on what a host needs to do. We give thanks for all those who help with this ministry of hospitality.

8. **Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) Meeting:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 7:00pm in the library. Please let the Parish Administrator know if you would like to attend this meeting via Zoom.
9. **Vestry Meeting:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Please let the Parish Administrator know if you would like to attend this meeting Zoom.

Please check your e-letters and the website for the most up-to-date information.

Save the Date

Parable of the Sower Book Study and Discussion:

Meetings will be held in the Library, on Sundays, from noon to 1:30pm, following coffee hour. The dates and discussion themes, will be as follows:

1. Sunday, March 10th – Chapters 14-16, “Kindness Eases Change”
2. Sunday, March 17th – Chapters 17-20, “Embrace Diversity, or Be Destroyed”
3. Sunday, March 24th – Chapters 21-25, “To Shape God, Shape Self”

Please see the signup sheet in the Narthex or the Parish Office if you would like to join.

Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter Services

Sunday, March 24, 2024: Palm Sunday / Liturgy of the Palms:

8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite 1, *Sanctuary*

10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite 2, *Sanctuary*

Thursday, March 28, 2024: Maundy Thursday: 7:00pm Maundy Service & Holy Eucharist, *Sanctuary*.

Friday, March 29, 2024: Good Friday: Central Montgomery Episcopalians Shared Service, 12:00noon-2:00pm, *Sanctuary*; Solemn Collects & Passion Gospel using *A Women’s Lectionary*, Year W, 7:00pm, *Sanctuary*.

Saturday, March 30, 2024: Easter Vigil: Central Montgomery Episcopalians Shared Service, St. Francis, Potomac, 7:30pm.

Sunday, March 31, 2024: Easter Sunday:

8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite 1, *Sanctuary*

10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite 2, Sanctuary

The Maundy Thursday service, the Good Friday services, and the 10:30 Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services will be live-streamed and recorded for later viewing.

St. Mark's Mission & Vision

Mission

- ❖ To love God, love our Neighbors, and serve Christ in all persons.

Vision: St. Mark's

- ❖ Invites, welcomes, and connects people to God and one another in a thriving church community.
- ❖ Fosters opportunities for people to serve those around them.
- ❖ Promotes equity, justice, accessibility, and care for creation.

Adopted March 27, 2024

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fairland, MD

12621 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

office@stmarks-silverspring.org * 301-622-5860 ext. 180

*Parish Office hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and by appointment. Rector
regular office hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 10-4. Please call, text, or email the rector if you
would like to schedule an appointment; prepare for baptism, confirmation, first communion,
reception, reaffirmation, or reconciliation; or have a pastoral need or concern.*

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Wilkins, Rector

rector@stmarks-silverspring.org * Cell: 301-768-3075 * 301-622-5860 ext. 105

Janis Smith, Parish Administrator

administrator@stmarks-silverspring.org * 301-622-5860 ext. 104

Don Hague, Director of Music

Keira Vargas, Parish Secretary

Pamela Gibson, Senior Warden

Jess Rowland, Junior Warden

For information about St. Mark's, please visit our website:

www.stmarksfairland.org * www.stmarks-silverspring.org

We hope that today's service has been a blessing to you.

We are here to serve you and hope to see you again.

Please feel free to call us, email us, or visit us online.

Cover Art Photo: Fantoni, Giovanni. Brazen Serpent, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55664> [retrieved March 5, 2024]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brazen_Serpent_Sculpture.jpg.