



Morning Prayer
The Second Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2021 9 am
Ministers of the Liturgy

The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee
Mary Frances Best, James Jones,
Elizabeth Klisiewicz, Touie Jackson, Millie Williams

Musicians:
Randolph Bloom, Beth Stochaj, Jeff Lukas

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. [Psalm 51:10]

Prelude *He that shall endure* Mendelssohn

Mother Judith **Opening Prayer**

God of covenant and promise, long ago you promised Abraham and Sarah that they would be the ancestors of multitudes, even though they despaired, thinking they were too old for the miracle of new birth. Today, we are the heirs to that promise, yearning to see the tender signs of your bright future, trembling beyond the storms and darkness that sometimes threaten to overwhelm us. Holy Maker of sunlight and of storms, help us to remember your promises, so that we may be a beacon of hope, the light of Christ to one another and to the world around us. **Amen.**

Mother Judith: The Confession

Lord Jesus, you come into our lives when we are least prepared for you. As you enfolded your betrayers, so embrace us who struggle to love. Reconcile us with our sisters and brothers, and for the sake of your love forgive us all our sins.

Absolution:

Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent, forgive your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Mother Judith **The Invitatory and Psalter**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

Mary Johnson Psalm 67:1-5

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, * show us the light of your countenance and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth, * your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; * let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; * let all the peoples praise you

James Jones Psalm 22:22-30 Deus, Deus meus

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 forever!"

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 forever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

Elizabeth Klisiewicz A Reading from the Book of 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."

Mary Frances Best A Song of Christ's Humility: Philippians 2:6-11

Though in the form of God, * Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, * and was born in human likeness.
Being found in human form, he humbled himself *

and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God has highly exalted him * and given him the name above every name,
That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, *

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, * to the glory of God the Father.

Touie Jackson A Reading from the Gospel of Mark [8:31-38]

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."

Homily

Millie Williams A Song of Faith 1 Peter [1:3-4,18-21]

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *

by divine mercy we have a new birth into a living hope;

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, *

we have an inheritance that is imperishable in heaven.
The ransom that was paid to free us * was not paid in silver or gold,
But in the precious blood of Christ, * the Lamb without spot or stain.
God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory *
so that we might have faith and hope in God.

Musical Meditation *My faith looks up to thee* Hymnal #691

- 1. My faith looks up to Thee, / Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray, / Take all my guilt away, Oh, let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!*
- 2. May Thy rich grace impart /Strength to my fainting heart, /My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee / Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!*
- 3. While life's dark maze I tread, /And griefs around me spread, /Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, /Wipe sorrow's tears away, /Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.*

Mother Judith The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Mother Judith & Elizabeth Klisiewicz The Prayers

Show us your mercy, O Lord; **and grant us your salvation.**

Clothe your ministers with righteousness; **let your people sing with joy.**

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world; **for only in you can we live in safety.**

Lord, keep this nation under your care; **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth; **your 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 your Holy Spirit.**

Mother Judith The Lord's Prayer

Mother Judith Collect of the Day

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. **Amen.**

Musical Meditation

Steal away

Traditional African American Spiritual

Beth Stochaj, soloist

Mary Frances Best & Millie Williams The Prayers of the People

Our Savior Jesus Christ promised to draw to himself all things in heaven or on earth. Let us pray, therefore, that the peace accomplished through the Cross of Christ may be brought forth in our own world and in our personal relationships. Let us pray for the Church and the world and for peace among all nations. *Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world, especially the people whose lives have been devastated by the storm in Texas, that their cries for daily bread may inspire works of compassion and mercy. *Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for schools and centers of learning throughout the world, for those who lack access to basic education, and for the light of knowledge to shine in the lives of all God's people.

Silence

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for an end to our divisions and inequalities, that we all might share in the blessings of your creation. *Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the health of men, women, children and families around the world. *Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for an end to the waste of God's creation, for access to the natural resources to be shared equally among all people, and for resolve to conserve our resources. *Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own community at Trinity, in thanksgiving for the blessings of our fellowship, in hopes that those who seek healing of body and spirit will find peace with us.

Silence

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the departed, particularly those who have died as a result of covid-19, poverty, violence, or hardness of the human heart, and those we now name, silently or aloud; *Silence*

God of love, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Most merciful God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we may find it the way of freedom and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Musical Meditation

Jeff Lukas

James Jones **A Prayer for Black History Month-** *from Kierra Stuvland & Unknown Author*
Spirit of Abundance, God of Grace and Hope, we pause now to remember those stories that are all around us, but so often passed over. We remember the legacy of those who came before us – who not only paved the way but carried the bricks on broken backs that then built that road. We remember the songs, stories, and fiery hope of old men and little girls, granny midwives and marvelous musicians, great orators and leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators – those who are earth-tone brown, black as night, fair like the sands of Egypt. Lord, when it's too hard living, we remember you are the great "I am" and our source of strength and purpose for each new day. Help us to value diversity beyond variety. Grant us a vision for a future that acknowledges our strength together as well as the power, creativity, and ideas that we share. May our hearts not be hardened to the pain around us. Widen our vision so that the history that is shared this month may come to be known as our history too. **Amen.**

Touie Jackson & Mary Frances Best **Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me**

Howard Thurman, Meditations of the Heart

Open unto me, light for my darkness, **Open unto me, courage for my fear**
Open unto me, hope for my despair, **Open unto me, peace for my turmoil**
Open unto me, joy for my sorrow, **Open unto me, strength for my weakness**
Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion, **Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins**
Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness, **Open unto me, love for my hates**
Open unto me, Thy Self for myself, **Lord, Lord, open unto me!**

Elizabeth Klisiewicz A Prayer in Time of Transition

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and for our ministries. Open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined, through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

James Jones A Prayer for Facing the Coronavirus

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of over 500,000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Millie Williams A Prayer To End Hunger

Education for Justice

Sharing the loaves and fishes, You gave us an image of solidarity with the hungry, O Lord.
Sharing yourself in the bread and wine, You called everyone to the table, O Lord.
Give us the hunger to be a part of the feeding and the healing of this world.
Nourish us with your Grace, so we may work with joy to serve your children.
Open our eyes and hearts to recognize those who are hungry and forgive our forgetfulness and willful ignorance, so we may all break bread together.
In your name we pray for the end of hunger. **Amen.**

Touie Jackson A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Mother Judith Blessing

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Mother Judith Dismissal

Go now to follow the way of Jesus: see others as he did; dare to give freely as he did; to resist temptation as he did; and to love unconditionally as he did. **Thanks be to God.**