

Morning Prayer

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

As a Lenten practice for us as a congregation, we would like to keep a period of five minutes silence before the Prelude begins. Zoom participants will be muted at 9:55 a.m. We are taking on this practice as an opportunity for all worshippers to gather their thoughts, spend a brief time in prayer, and prepare their hearts for worship.

Prelude

Announcements

The Penitential Order

Opening Hymn

LEVAS 111

Come, thou fount of every blessing

1. Come, Thou fount of ever-y bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing thy
2. Here I find my great-est trea-sure, Hith-er by thy help I'm
3. O, to grace how great a debt- or Dai-ly I'm con-strained to

1. grace; Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est
 2. come; And I hope, by thy good pleas - ure, Sure - ly to ar - rive at
 3. be; Let that grace, Lord, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan - d'ring heart to

1. praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a -
 2. home. Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wan - d'ring from the fold of
 3. Thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel — it, Prone to leave the God I

1. bove. Praise the mount, O fix me on it. Mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 2. God. He, to save my soul from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
 3. love. Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, Seal it from thy courts a - bove.

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

The Decalogue

Hear the commandments of God to God's people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

The Presider then says

Hear these words of scripture:

If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth. If we confess our sins, God is just, and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

Confession of Sin

The Presider then says

Gentle Father, show us our sins as they really are, so that we may truly renounce them and know the depth and richness of your mercy.

Silence is kept for a time.

The Presider begins

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.**

A Priest then says

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.**

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Presider Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them,
**For the One who loves them will lead them and guide them beside the
springs of water.**

Deus, Deus meus: Psalm 63:1-8

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

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

- ¹Give 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.
³He 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.
¹⁸They 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.
²⁰He 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.
²²Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them,
For the One who loves them will lead them, guide them, and refresh them
beside the springs of water.

The Lessons

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

A Reading from the book of Numbers.

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The 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.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The 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. ⁸And 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.” ⁹So 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.**

Canticle 14: A Song of Penitence

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:

**You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.**

All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.

**But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.**

O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

**You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.**

In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.

**And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.**

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.



Therefore I make this prayer to you: *

Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.

Do not let me perish in my sin, *

nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.

For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *

and in me you will show forth your goodness.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me,

in accordance with your great mercy, *

and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.

For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *

and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, 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, following the desires 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—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Hymnal 467

Sing, my soul, his wondrous love

1 Sing, my soul, his won-drous love, who, from yon bright throne a - bove,
 2 Heaven and earth by him were made; all is by his scep - ter swayed;
 3 God, the mer - ci - ful and good, bought us with the Sa - vior's blood,
 4 Sing, my soul, a - dore his Name! Let his glo - ry be thy theme:

ev - er watch-ful o'er our race, still to us ex - tends his grace.
 what are we that he should show so much love to us be - low?
 and, to make sal - va - tion sure, guides us by his Spi - rit pure.
 praise him till he calls thee home; trust his love for all to come.

Third Reading

John 3:14-21

A Reading from John.

[Jesus said,] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that 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. ¹⁸Those 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. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But 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.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

The Presider begins

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.

The Prayers

Presider Hear our cry, O God.

People **And listen to our prayer.**

Presider Let us pray.

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven;
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the people of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test; strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

V. Make you ways known upon earth, O God,
R. Your saving power among all peoples.
V. Renew your Church in holiness,
R. And help us to serve you with joy.
V. Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
R. That justice may prevail throughout the world
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten,
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Make us instruments of your peace,
R. And let your glory be over all the earth.

The Collect of the Day

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.**

Holy One, you see how your children hunger for food, and fellowship, and faith. Help us to keep community, and to meet one another's needs of body, mind, and spirit, in the love of Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

O God, giver of life and health, your Son Jesus Christ has called us to hunger and thirst to see right prevail; refresh us with your grace, that we may not be weary of well-doing; for the sake of him who meets all our needs, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Intercessions and thanksgivings

Presider When our faith is weak and our hopes seem empty, come to us, Spirit, and fill us again. You are rich in mercy, and our need is deep. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Intercessor Lead us to let go of the burdens we carry: the guilt, the shame, the unrealistic expectations. Lead us to depend on you. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

Guide each of us in the decision making of our common life: in our family relationships, our churches, and our communities. We pray today for our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig. We pray for all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our brothers and sisters worshipping at Christ Church, Dearborn, St John's, Plymouth; and St Gabriel's, Consuelo, in the Dominican Republic. Set their hearts on you alone. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

Push us into the world to be the advocates for your expansive love among all the creatures you have created. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

We rejoice in your life-giving love, and in the blessings you give us. We give you thanks today [especially for _____].

Silence is kept.

Pull us closer to your compassionate heart. We pray for those in pain, for those who worry, for those whose livelihood is fragile, for those who grieve. We pray for [_____]. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

Receive [_____ and] all who have died, into the arms of your abundant mercy. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

Presider God of the hungry, make us hunger and thirst for the right, until our thirst for justice has been satisfied and hunger has gone from the earth. **Amen**

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. **Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

The Presider then says

My brothers and sisters, I invite you- wherever you are- to take into your hands the gifts you offer today. Gifts of food, gifts of money, gifts of whatever form, and join me as we offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good our vows to the Most High.

Let us pray.

Loving God and merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: we come to you with thanksgiving and praise. We offer to you this day our gifts of time, talent, and possessions, knowing that all we are, and all we have, is a gift from you. **Please accept these gifts, and help us to reach out to others as you, our God, have reached out to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

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.**

Closing Hymn

Amazing grace

Hymnal 671

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 *5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Dismissal and Blessing

A Priest says

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy, for the love of him who laid down his life for us. **Amen.**

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all + evermore. **Amen.** 2 Corinthians 13:14

Postlude

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REGARDING OFFERINGS TO ST. BARNABAS CHURCH

To make an offering to St Barnabas, please mail your check to the church: 20500 W Old US-12, Chelsea MI 48118-1309. Mail is being collected daily.

**CONTINUING OUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND FUNDS
TO FAITH IN ACTION**

Faith in Action is continuing to provide leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They will be in need of our continuing help in the weeks of winter still to come.

Needed right now: *boxed/shelf-stable milk, cooking oil, salt/pepper, spices, coffee, tea bags, sugar, flour, canned tuna, crackers, cake mix, canned frosting, dish soap, women’s hygiene products.* You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to ***Faith in Action***. The **next Food Drive at the church** will be **March 21**, the date of the next BC meeting. The building will be open for you to leave your donations.

Financial donations to help us combat the continuing effects of the pandemic can be made by PayPal at www.faithinaction1.org, by Facebook, or by mailing a check to *Faith in Action, 603 S. Main Street, Chelsea MI 48118*. **If you need help, please call FIA at (734) 475-3305**

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Why do we include congregations in the Dominican Republic in our prayers each week?

The Diocese of Michigan and the Diocese of the Dominican Republic are bound together in what is called a “Companion Diocese” relationship. Here is some information on that topic, from <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/companion-diocese/> “Companion diocese relationships are formally recognized by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church at the request of the dioceses involved, on the basis of a resolution by both partners proposing the

companion relationship. The companion dioceses usually commit to the relationship for a fixed period of years, but this commitment is renewable. A companion relationship may be shared as long as the dioceses wish to continue the relationship.

A diocese of the Episcopal Church may enter into a companion relationship with an overseas diocese of the Anglican Communion. The mission of the dioceses in the companion relationship includes mutual encouragement and prayer, intensified understanding and concern, and the exchange of both spiritual and material resources. Companion relationships are to strengthen the Anglican Communion through the direct experience of interdependence across cultural and geographical boundaries. Each partner in the companion relationship is to be both a giver and a receiver.”

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Upcoming Commemorations

- March 17 Patrick of Ireland, Bishop and Missionary, 461
- 18 Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Theologian, 386
- 19 Joseph, Husband of Mary the Virgin
- 20 Cuthbert, Bishop, 687; and, Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1711

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March 14, 2021 – Lent 4B

Numbers 21:4-9

The wilderness accounts of the Exodus are filled with honest narratives of the Israelites complaining to Moses because they are wandering around, discontent, scared, or even worried they have made the wrong decision. In this story, it seems the Israelites are a bit hangry! Despite being saved from a life in captivity, they are unhappy with the quantity and quality of their food and want to make sure not only Moses, but God knows this as well. God’s response may seem unlikely—God sends snakes that kill—but the response reminds the Israelites that God has not abandoned them. Instead, they must trust in God to ensure they live. The Israelites realize their error and God reverses the punishment by using the same animal, now as a statue, to bring life out of death for the Israelites.

- As humans, we may become restless and even become complainers or blamers. Have you ever complained to or blamed God? How did it feel?
- Where is your wilderness?

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Like the complainers in the reading from Numbers, the “fools” of Psalm 107 are also redeemed by God. The Psalm and reading illustrate the love and desire God has for a relationship with God’s people. Spanning all directions of the land, the Psalmist illustrates the reality that no complaining, rebellion, or wandering can separate the people from God’s desire for them. God’s mercy and love even saved the people from death. The Psalm varies from the Numbers reading and the Gospel because it begins and concludes with the responsibility of the redeemed children not only to offer their appreciation of God’s mercy but also to share God’s wondrous acts with the rest of the world.

- How do you respond to God’s mercy in your life?

Ephesians 2:1-10

We have been given a gift, and while we may think about this more in Advent and Christmastide, the reality is we live with and benefit from this gift every second of our lives. God’s gift of love in the Incarnation and Resurrection brought us out of our sins and into the new redeemed life. And as the letter to the Ephesians says, Jesus’ divinity and joining with humanity allows us, as children of God, to share in his divinity and have an eternal place with God. The letter further emphasizes the power in God for the redemption of creation. God has created us, called us good, and, through Christ, has allowed us to live into our new redeemed life. For the Ephesians, the beauty of this reality is in the union of community it suggests—we are “alive together” in Christ.

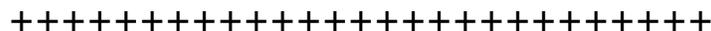
- What does it mean to share in the divinity of Christ?
- What gift is God giving you today?

John 3:14-21

The Gospel reading shares the last part of a conversation with a Pharisee, Nicodemus. Just a few verses earlier, Nicodemus arrived in the darkness of the night to question the divinity of Jesus and to understand Jesus’ relationship to God. Through his monologue, Jesus is bringing Nicodemus out of his confusion and darkness into the light that is seeing God in Christ. We don’t hear about Nicodemus in our reading because Christ’s light has overtaken the scene, and just like the serpent in the allusion to the Numbers reading, the light of Christ brings new life through death. A death, because God’s love and desire for the world is so immense, that God joined humanity by sending the Son so that the world might come to know God through Christ. We have been redeemed and given a new life in Christ and through this our lives have been forever enlightened. This is the crux of our Christian identity.

- John 3:16 has become almost the slogan of the Christian faith, but what does it mean to you? How do you understand eternal life in Christ?
- Where is the light of Christ shining in your life?

This study written by Ansley Walker.

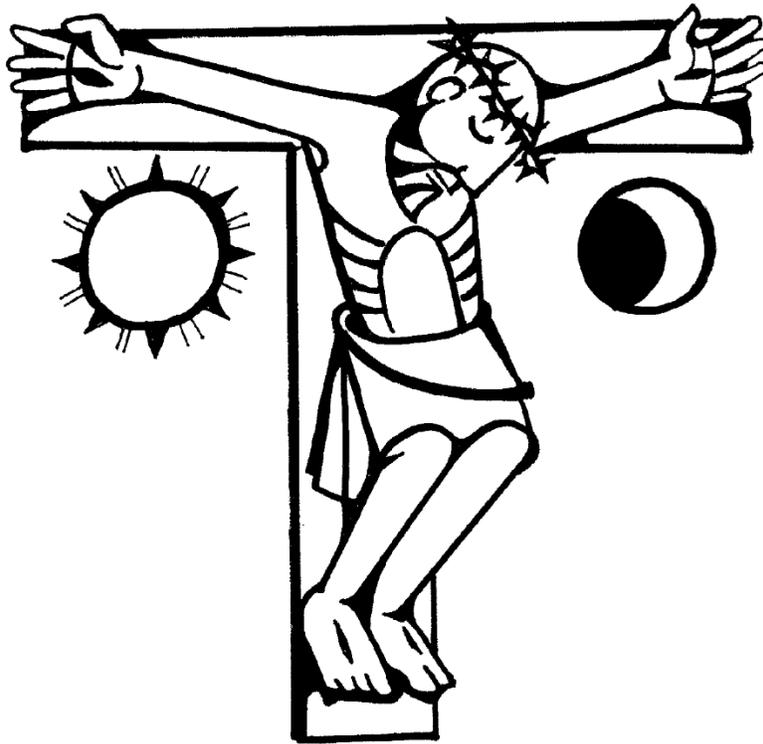


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Confession of Sin sentences and Absolution from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997, pp.594 & 38.

Invitatory sentences from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997, p.595
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Tune in the public domain.
Lord's Prayer from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997, p.181.
Suffrages and Collects from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997, pp.50, 596.
Dismissal prayer from *Saintly Scorecard* 2021. Cincinnati: Forward Movement, 2021, p.25

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



St Barnabas Episcopal Church

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