

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

**MORNING PRAYER**

Service for the Second Sunday of Lent – February 25, 2024

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

I do not glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. *Galatians 6.14*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**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 neighbours 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.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening All-Ages Song: *Jesus Saviour*

**MORNING PRAYER**

Cast your burden upon the Lord,

**And he will sustain you.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**And renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence

**And take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again

**And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Blessed be the Lord day by day,

**The God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.**

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.**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: **O come, let us worship.**

**Invitatory** *- Psalm 63:1-8*

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.**

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*

**that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*

**my lips shall give you praise.**

So will I bless you as long as I live \*

**and lift up my hands in your name.**

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*

**and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,**

When I remember you upon my bed, \*

**and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper, \*

**and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.**

My soul clings to you; \*

**your right hand holds me fast.**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

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.”

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:23–31

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; \*

**stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;**

**all you of Jacob’s line, give glory.**

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.**

My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

**I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*

**“May your heart live for ever!”**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*

**and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**

For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*

**he rules over the nations.**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*

**all who go down to the dust fall before him.**

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \*

**they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.**

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

**the saving deeds that he has done.**

Glory be 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.**

A reading from the letter to the 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: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *All To Jesus I Surrender* (MP #25)

Canticle 17: **The Beatitudes** - *Matthew 5.3–12*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, \*

**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn, \*

**for they shall be comforted.**

Blessed are the gentle, \*

**for they shall inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right, \*

**for they shall be satisfied.**

Blessed are the merciful, \*

**for mercy shall be shown to them.**

Blessed are the pure in heart, \*

**for they shall see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers, \*

**for they shall be called children of God.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right, \*

**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you \*

**and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake.**

Rejoice and be glad, \*

**for your reward is great in heaven.**

Glory be 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.**

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark (8:31–38). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then he began to teach them 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 Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

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.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those preparing for baptism and for their teachers and sponsors, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; [***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and intercessions, for yourself and for others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***] that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks

for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and all whom you have made.

**We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;**

**but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,**

**that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,**

**not only with our lips, but in our lives,**

**by giving up ourselves to your service,**

**and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Collect

*Almighty God,*

*whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross,*

*give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus* (MP #272)

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**