

**St. Gregory's Episcopal Church**  
**The Second Sunday in Lent**  
*February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

**PRELUDE**.....Ann Klein, Music Director

**THE ANGELUS**

*The Angelus is a traditional Christian devotion offered before Holy Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer in honor of the Incarnation. It is usually accompanied by the ringing of the church bell (in three sets of three for each versicle, response, and Hail Mary, followed by one set of nine for the concluding prayer). You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.*

*The first three bells*



V. The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary,  
R. *And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death.

*The second three bells*

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. *Be it unto me according to your word.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

*The third three bells*

V. And the Word was made flesh.  
R. *And dwelled among us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

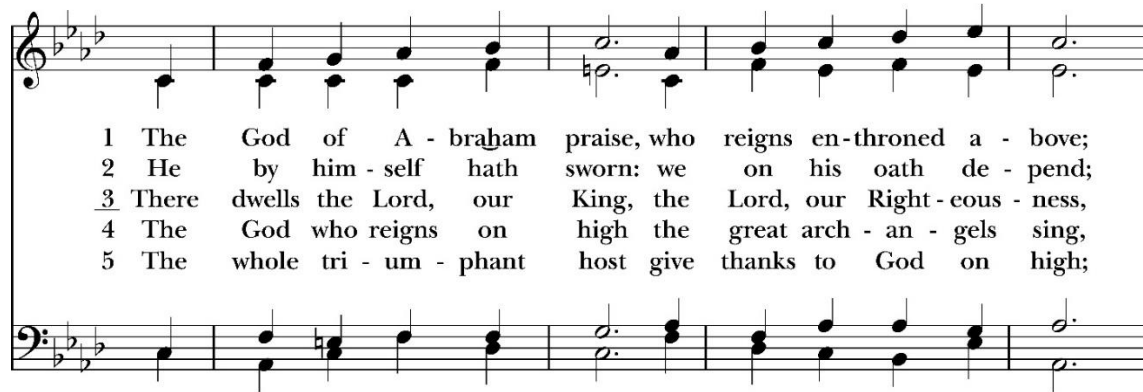
*The nine bells*



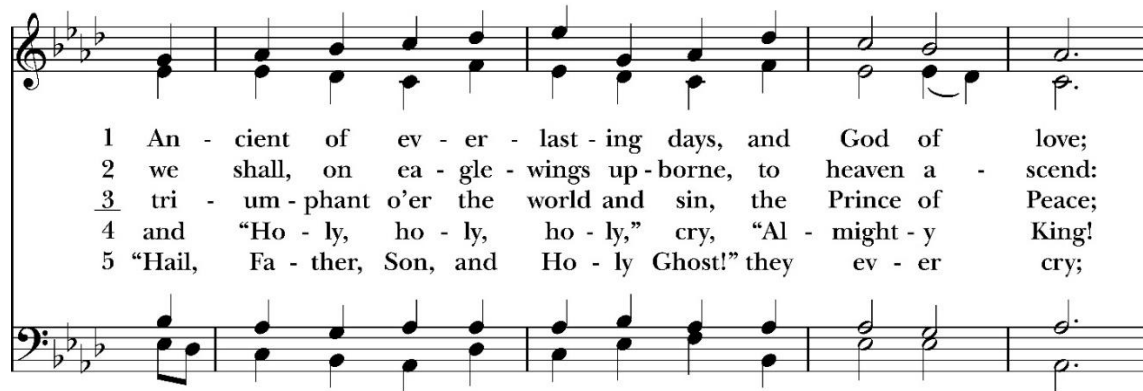
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,  
R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

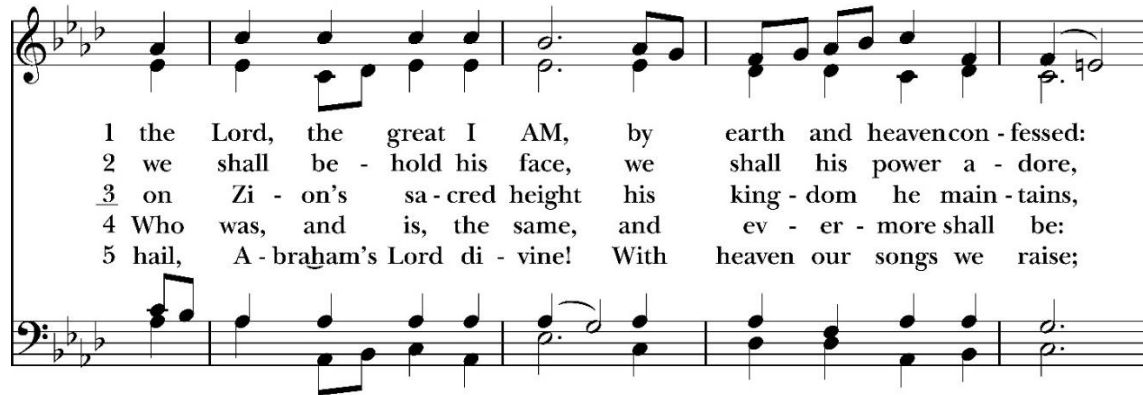
PROCESSIONAL HYMN



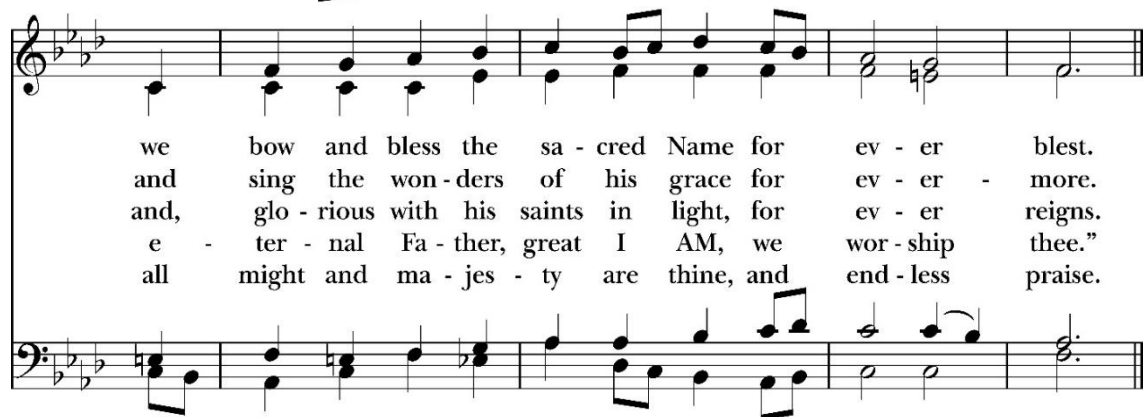
1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;  
 2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;  
 3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - eous - ness,  
 4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,  
 5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;



1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;  
 2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend:  
 3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;  
 4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!  
 5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry;



1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:  
 2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,  
 3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,  
 4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:  
 5 hail, A - braham's Lord di - vine! With heaven our songs we raise;



we bow and bless the sa - cred Name for ev - er blest.  
 and sing the won - ders of his grace for ev - er - more.  
 and, glo - rious with his saints in light, for ev - er reigns.  
 e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."  
 all might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION AND CONFESSION

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People* **God's mercy endures for ever.**

*Celebrant* Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A brief silence is kept.*

*Minister and People*

**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 Priest 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.*

## KYRIE ELEISON

*Cantor or Choir*                      *All*                      *Cantor or Choir*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

*All*                      *Cantor or Choir*                      *All*

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.  
*People*         **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*     Let us pray.

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.*

## THE FIRST READING

*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."

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

## THE RESPONSE

*Psalms 22:22-30*

- 22 Praise the Lord, you that fear | **God**; \*  
stand in awe, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give | **glory**.
- 23 For you, O Lord, do not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither do you hide your | **face from them**; \*  
but when they cry to you, you | **hear them**.
- 24 My praise is of you in the great as|**sembly**; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship | **God**.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall give | **praise**: \*  
"May your heart live for | **ever**!"

- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the | **Lord**, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow be|fore you.
- 27 For sovereignty belongs to the | **Lord**; \*  
you rule over the | **nations**.
- 28 To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in | **worship**; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall be|fore you.
- 29 My soul shall live for you;  
my descendants shall | **serve you**; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for | **ever**.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet un|born \*  
the saving deeds that you have | **done**.

#### THE EPISTLE

*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.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Words: Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott  
Music: William Bradley Roberts

O come to my heart, Lord Je - sus! There is  
room in my heart for thee. O thee.

**THE GOSPEL**

*Mark: 1:9-15*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**THE SERMON**.....The Rev. Susan Auchincloss

**THE 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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man.  
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**

*Following each petition, the Leader says and the People respond*

*Leader*        Lord, in your mercy  
*People*        **Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant*    The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*        **And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Parish announcements may be made.*

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *(sung by choir)*

**DOXOLOGY** (*sung in unison*)

Praise God throughout these forty days  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

**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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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 we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*



**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.*

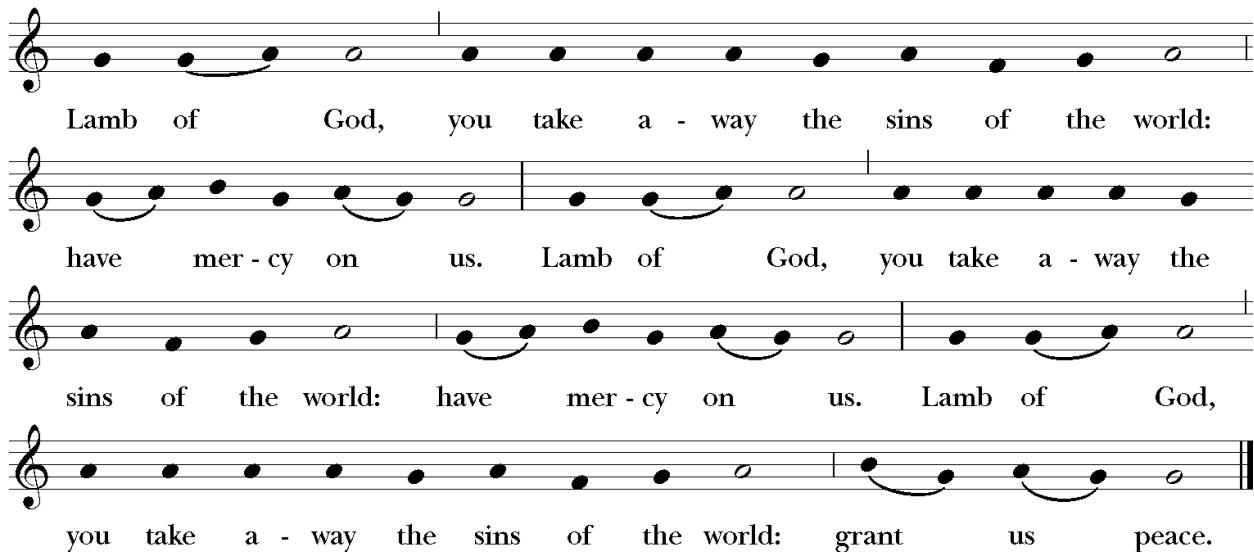
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A brief silence follows. All then joining in singing*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

## **Prayer of Humble Access**

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*If you are unable to physically participate in Communion, you may offer a Prayer of Spiritual Communion during this time.*

## **A Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## **THE BLESSING**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** (*see following page*)



1 Take up your cross, the Sa - vior said, if  
 2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill  
 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and  
 4 Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and  
 5 Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, nor



1 you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with  
 2 your weak spi - rit with a - larm; his strength shall bear your  
 3 let your fool - ish heart be still; the Lord for you ac -  
 4 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -  
 5 think till death to lay it down; for on - ly those who



1 will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.  
 2 spi - rit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.  
 3 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.  
 4 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.  
 5 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. John Leon Hooker (b. 1944).

## THE DISMISSAL

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