# Holy Eucharist and Agape in Lent





#### Introduction to the Season

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts until Easter Day. These forty days echo the time of testing that Jesus experienced in the wilderness following baptism. It is a time when we are invited to examine ourselves before God; repent of sin and failure; and strengthened by God amend our lives. Traditionally, Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and study of scripture.

In the liturgy of Ash Wednesday, the Book of Common Prayer states: "The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. The season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those, who because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer."

The Book of Common Prayer, pp. 264-5.

#### Prelude

#### **Opening Hymn**

Kind maker of the world

H.152



Words: St. Gregory the Great (540-604); ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *A la venue de Noël*, melody from *Fleurs des noëls*, 1535.

The congregations joins in praying all texts printed in bold.

Presider Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People God's mercy endures for ever.

#### **Confession of Sin**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our. sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. — 1 John 1: 8,9

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves,
and in the world you have created.
We denounce the evil that enslaves us,
repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, 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.

### Kyrie Eleison

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #89



Music: James McGregor (b. 1930), after  $Verbum\ caro\ factum\ est$ , Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612). Copyright © 1976 James McGregor.

#### The Presider prays the Collect of the Day

#### The 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.** 

Sunday-school children and leaders are invited to come forward for a blessing before leaving for class.

#### The First Reading

From the Hebrew Scriptures

#### Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

After the reading

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### The Psalm

#### Psalm 27

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? \*
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \* it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me, \* yet my heart shall not be afraid;

4 And though war should rise up against me, \* yet will I put my trust in him.

5 One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; \*

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;

6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord \* and to seek him in his temple.

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*

he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head \* above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; \*

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; \* have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \* Your face, Lord, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, \* nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; \*
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, \* the Lord will sustain me.

15 Show me your way, O Lord; \* lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \* for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord \* in the land of the living!

18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;

be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*

wait patiently for the Lord.

#### The Second Reading

From a New Testament Epistle

#### **Philippians 3:17-4:1**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

After the reading

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

O love of God

H.455

(We sing verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel and verses 3 & 4 after)

#### The Gospel

#### Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

After the reading

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon Rev. Michael Rusk

A time of Silence is kept

#### 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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit

and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who 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 Peace

Once we were far off, but now, in union with Christ Jesus, we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for He is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.



#### The Holy Communion

#### **Offertory Sentence**

Presider Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving

and make good your vows to the Most High. —Psalm 50:14

Offertory Anthem

Here 0 my Goд

H.318

A period of silence is kept.

#### The Agape Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine and bring forth food from the earth; bless this wine, bread, and fruit that we now share in our homes, and gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

#### The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

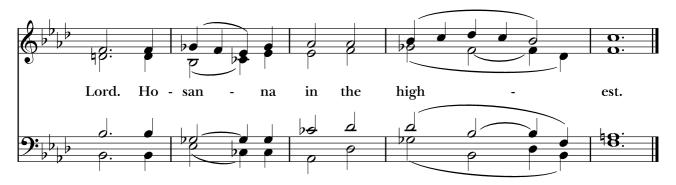
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Psachal Feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:





Music: James McGregor (b. 1930), after *Verbum caro factum est*, Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612). Copyright © 1976 James McGregor.

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."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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 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.** 

Silence

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

#### The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Choir sings an Agnus Dei - Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us (Levas 270)

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

#### **Communion Music**

During the administration of Holy Communion music will be played. Please follow the directions of the ushers: as regards the wine, there are 3 options: 1) to receive the Chalice from the Eucharistic Minister; 2) to take a small glass which contains red alcoholic wine; 3) to take a small glass which contains white non-alcoholic wine. Please return the glass to the empty receptacle on the credence table on the pulpit side of the church. Thank you.

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

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.

Recessional Hymn The God of Abraham praise H.401 verses 1-3

#### **Dismissal**

Presider Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

#### Postlude

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